

**Town of Northumberland
Board of Selectmen
Meeting Notice and Proposed Agenda**

Date: Monday, February 3, 2020

Place: Town Meeting Room – 10 Station Square

Time: 6:00 P.M.

Selectmen present: Chris Wheelock, Jim Weagle, Michael Phillips

Others present: Al Rossetto, Glenn Cassady, Reggie Charron,

1. Chairman opens the meeting:

- 2. Acceptance of Minutes:** Correction of 1/6/20 minutes and vote to accept as written and 1/22/2020 minutes – Jim makes motion to accept 1/6/2020 minutes with date changes, Michael seconds, all in favor, 3-0. Jim makes motion to accept 1/22/2020 minutes, Michael seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

3. Selectmen Business:

a. Dept. Head Business - Highway and Water/Sewer

Highway – Glenn Cassady. Busy January. The use of salt and sand is slowing down. Got a ½ ton of cold patch and working on pot holes. Surprised at how much the ground is moving. Cleaning up snow piles and have removed the tin and windows from the first trailer, still have siding to remove.

New truck came in and the old truck is out back. Should it be put out to bid now or wait until Spring? Chris, Jim and Michael would like it to go to bid now. Glenn says it has a fair market value of \$17,500, but feels that is too low. Michael suggests \$25,000 to start. Chris asks Glenn to work with Becky on the wording. Whatever the bid, if unacceptable, the Select Board can refuse. Jim makes motion to put old highway truck and sander out to bid. Michael seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

Water/Sewer – Reggie Charron. Water use is down, not sure why. This summer we will be monitoring the cemetery for its use of water. New work schedule/time off with Reggie and Keith swapping weekend days. Working on mandatory EPA paperwork and stuff like that, getting ready for Spring.

Chris asks if Fanton's water is turned on. Reggie says no, there is a freezing concern and the wood stove is a hazard.

Al Rossetto mentions there is a flushable toilet in the building. The wood stove is not in use and is a fire hazard. He has tried to get in contact with occupants for entrance to do a check but no one is there. He has tried at 9am and 3pm and does not feel comfortable entering the premises with no one home.

Reggie has talked to Charlie to explain that they cannot deny water to the premise but they have to have a plumber hook it up. No money from occupants, Charlie not happy does not want to pay for it.

Chris asks if the health officer should check if the toilet is functioning.

Al adds that the wood stove is off to the right in a cubby and that the bathroom may freeze because it is too far from the wood stove. There are 3 occupants.

Al and Reggie express concern over the wood stove, that it is a real hazard and should be disconnected.

Chris is going to contact Fanton regarding concerns over the wood stove.

Glenn brings up the email from DOT regarding Winter St. Robin has spoken to someone at DOT. The condition of the road will be checked in the Spring.

Chris says the condition of the road to fall back on us, but then fall back on the contractor.

Glenn: The State was paid to tell us how to build it.

Side note from Reggie: Robin relays that the work at the water plant, the equipment is covered but not the man hours. Equipment may be covered under short term asset, but not the man hours.

b. Discussion/decision of establishing water/sewer short term asset CRF:

Chris in discussion of establishing a short-term asset cash reserve fund. In 2019 the was \$76,120 in short term assets, if another \$25,545 is added in 2020 there will be over \$100,000. The CRF would turn account tracking on paper to actual cash. The CRF would be funded by water/sewer user fees.

Chris mentions that this has to be decided on and voted on tonight and must be unanimous. Jim makes motion to establish a short-term asset cash reserve fund. Michael seconds, all in favor, 3-0. Created fund so that not so many federal loans will be taken out.

c. Discussion/decision of Annual Meeting date/time by Board

Annual Meeting will be Saturday, March 14th at 10am. Motion by Jim to set date, second by Michael, all in favor, 3-0.

d. Discussion/decision of follow up of proposed agreement sent by Riverside Rescue

In the proposed agreement from Riverside Rescue, it states that anyone could bring in a stray dog from Groveton. Wording to be changed and presented to Brad Eaton, that only town officials or police officers can bring a stray dog to Riverside Rescue. Want an authorized person to do this, not just anyone. Jim makes motion to change wording and sign, Michael seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

e. Discussion/decision of invoice received by MH Park Association

A bill for lot rent in the amount of \$435 for 18 Marietta Lane. Select Board would like to ask for a waiver of lot rent for a month, with the explanation that the demolition is in the works. As it works, when the Town takes a mobile home for taxes, it has 6 months to sell it. If it cannot be sold in 6 months then it has to be demolished as the Town will become responsible for the lot rent.

f. Discussion/decision of various committee/commission appointments

Chris reads a letter of interest from Ed Mellet?? For a 3 year term on the Conservation Commission. Jim makes motion to approve Ed Mellet??? For 3 year term, Michael seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

Another 3 year interest from Lawrence Benoit. Jim makes motion to approve Lawrence Benoit to 3 year term on Conservation Commission, Michael seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

g. Discussion/decision of contract with assessing firm

This is to approve 2020 contract with the data verification firm. Jim makes motion to continue contracting with this firm, Michael seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

h. Discussion on protocol for handling the news media.

Zoning/Timber Management issues have made it to the Democrat. The Editor of the Democrat sent a text to Chris and before Chris could respond he was told that the article had already gone to print. Chris asked the Editor of the Democrat to check with Robin on Town information, it will be emailed to the Editor from Town officials. Recommended that any discussions with the news media be directed to the Select Board Office. Gloria has sent a letter via email to Chris on where things stand for now. Democrat to hold tight and wait instead of publishing more. Chris will email all Town employees on this procedure. Al Rossetto suggests the Select Board make this an official policy. Jim motions to accept procedure, Michael seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

More discussion by audience member on why zoning issue did not get corrected. If the vote on the change in zoning does not pass, there will be 50+ public hearings with a cost to the Town and the property owners. Chris mentions that this will be a financial burden and an unneeded use of time. The Town wanted to just Grandfather but was told they could not.

Al feels the Select Board should send a letter to the Democrat explaining and clarifying all of this before the vote.

- i. Letter of support for a Sansoucy request that the utility be required to report if they make any changes to assets. Jim motions to have letter signed by Chairman, Michael seconds, all in favor, 3-0.
- j. Michael brings up a couple of budget items to cover. We are within \$500 of the budget from last year, after the warrants are passed. It is a totally flat budget. This includes \$10,000 for Police, \$100,000 for Highway and \$10,000 toward municipal buildings. If the administrative health reimbursement plan for employee deductible budget could be increased from \$12,000 to \$14,000 then that would cover everyone and if there was any spare it could be put into next year to get a head start. If the stormwater charge to the town which is \$72,000 we don't have to do that or could be partially paid. Reggie explains water use, can be high with microbursts. Government building fund, maybe EMS building fund could have more money, the sludge removal fund could be added to if we did not have the stormwater charge. Michael would at least like to increase the health fund amount, Chris and Jim in agreement. An email to Becky to be sent regarding these proposed changes.

4. Applications/Permits and Warrants:

5. Public Matters To Be Addressed By The Board:

- a. Discussion of Bridge Market - Julie Boisselle - August 23 from 9am to 2pm
Chris has no issue with it. All ok with it.
- b. Holiday Announcement - Monday, February 17th is Presidents Day and the Town office and Selectmen's office will be closed. So the next scheduled Select Board meeting will be Tuesday, February 18th.

Glenn brings up that 2 residents from Riverside Drive complained that the

snowmobile groomer was on the road. There was no snow on the road so the road got scarred up. Chris knows the trail boss and will ask him to stay off.

c. Next Business Meeting Date announcement

d. Reminder of Public Hearing date for 2020 Budget/Warrant
Wednesday February 12th at 6pm.

e. Planning Board Meeting on February 5th at 7pm.

f. Election on February 11th. Only 1 Selectman has to be present, and Jim volunteers for election hours of 8am to 7pm.

Motion to go into non-public session at 7:02pm made by Michael, seconded by Jim, all in favor, 3-0.

6. Non-Public Session: (Pursuant to RSA'S 91-A:3,II (d):

a. Legal Matters – motion to come out of non-public session at 7:07pm by Jim, seconded by Michael, all in favor, 3-0.

Public session resumed: Jim makes motion to accept offer from realtor for 5 acre parcel on Lost Nation Rd for \$15,913.61 from Doug and Jane Lyons which covers costs and back taxes. Seconded by Michael, all in favor, 3-0.

7. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn at 7:10pm made by Jim, seconded by Michael, all in favor, 3-0.

Next meeting, Tuesday, February 18, 2020

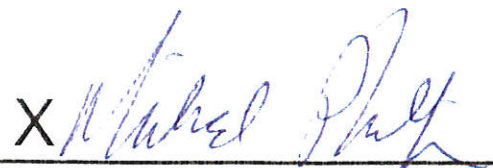
Respectfully submitted,

Pam Kathan
Select Board Minute Taker


Minutes approved by Select Board Members on 2/18/20

X 

Jim Weagle
Northumberland Select Board Member

X 

Michael Phillips
Northumberland Select Board Member

X 

Chris Wheelock
Northumberland Select Board Chairman