Town of
Northumberland
Office of Selectmen
19 Main St
Groveton NH 03582
Phone (603) 636-1450
Fax (603) 636-6098
www.northumberlandnh.org

Town of Northumberland
Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes - Draft
Date: Monday, April 21, 2025
Place: Town Meeting Room – 10 Station Square

Time: 6:00 P.M.

Board Members present: Jim Weagle, Keith Bronson, Al Rossetto
Others present: Tammy Letson, Doug & Melissa Dano, John Richard, Judy Fox, Pete Marshall, Norm Cotter, Sheila Smith, Ryan Shannon, Anna Belanger, Andre Brasseur, Kathy Wiles, Deb Miles, Peter Pelletier, Bill Daisey, Dustin Supernois, Charles Boisclair, Owen & Muriel Leighton, John Privitera, Rebecca St. Cyr – Minute Taker

1. **Chairman Opens the Meeting:** J. Weagle opened the meeting at 6:00 pm

2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** All

3. **Acceptance of Minutes:** 04/07/2025

   Motion to accept the 04/07/2025 minutes by: K. Bronson
   2nd by: A. Rossetto, All in Favor 3-0

4. **Department Head Business:** AMB/PD/FD

Ambulance – Jim Gibson, Chiefs Report

1. 2025 as of this printing, we have had 128 calls to date.
2. 2024 as of this date we were at 141 calls.
3. Comstar report, as of 4/11/25 – Net commitments for 2025 - $55,993.17. This does not include payments made directly to the office, 2025 contract fees or payments.
4. Both ambulances are up to date on maintenance and fully operational.
5. There are some bills currently in the House and Senate that pertain to ambulance billing and reimbursement. I have been attending meetings with the NH Region 5 Council as the head of District A-3, which is Coos County. These bills are crucial to the longevity of small ambulance services. HB316 would essentially lower reimbursement rates, and force unnecessary changes to how ambulances bill patients. While SB245 would increase reimbursement rates and go along with the study that was done by Medicare over the last 4 years.

   This is something that we've been working hard on and have been sending letters and stuff. Essentially HB316 would like to do an itemized bill and cut reimbursement, which would shut down a lot of small places (like us) and put everything on the taxpayer. HB214 would

increase the reimbursement by 200% or more, which would definitely help with running ambulances.

6. I am working with Weeks Hospital on updating our MRH (Medical Resource Hospital) agreement. As well as our contract for Northwoods Center for Education to maintain our training and hours for attendance to retain their licensing.

   Al Rossetto asked Jim if it would be helpful to have a letter written by the Select Board in support of your concerns to send to our Representatives. Jim said Bureau of EMS has and our region has, he has a meeting and will inquire about it. It's the small towns like ours that will be affected. Tammy said anybody that's willing to help with this can get in touch with the State Reps, Jim Tierney & Sean Durkin, and Senator Dave Rochefort. Jim thinks the bills are all in the Senate now; SB245 – Jim Tierney and Sean Durkin would need to know about; HB 316 – Dave Rochefort would need to know about. Their email is on the State website. The more people that weigh in on this, the more the Reps should be willing to follow what their constituents want. K. Bronson commented the more we contact the State Reps. the better.

Fire Department – Chief Andre Brasseur

- YTD – 31 calls
- 10 calls since last time we met.
- All 3 trucks had the pumps tested and passed. There were some minor things, a few gauges to replace.
- Re: the tanker that's not up to US spec; the company decided it's beyond their capabilities. They referred us to a fire truck mfg. in Cornish, NH. Possibly they can re-engineer / redesign the stand-pipe and nozzle. He has reached out to get a quote and will get back to the Board.
- Fire Danger is moderate in this area. He encouraged everyone to be careful. We are not issuing any permits at this time.

Police Department – Chief Peter Pelletier
296 calls for service, plus additional 33 for NHSP

MV Stops – 73
Tickets – 7

Arrests – 11 / 15 criminal charges
DWI – 0
Drugs – 1 arrest

Crashes – 4
New Investigations - 15

5. Requested Agenda Matters: None

6. Town Administrator Business:

a. Griffin Donald Kenison Memorial Co-Ed Softball Tournament – J. Weagle read the letter submitted from Michael and Kristy Kenison requesting permission to use the big ball field Aug 9th, 10th & 11th for the 13th Annual Tournament. They also asked if the Town will sponsor the event so they are covered for liability insurance.

Motion to allow the G D K Memorial Co-Ed Softball Tournament to use the big ball field on Aug 9th, 10th and 11th and be Town sponsored by: K. Bronson
2nd by: A. Rossetto, All in Favor 3-0

b. ADU Letter – Al Rossetto said the Planning Board has talked about ways to increase the residential / affordable housing in Town. Currently the Town has an ordinance for improvements to commercial property which will abate 50% of the increase in value for 5 years. The Planning Board would like to extend this to residential as well. The threshold is $50,000; he has since learned that in NH unless the law allows for it, we can't do it. Al read a letter drafted to Governor Ayotte in regards to this to encourage this type of development. This would require legislation. The Board further reviewed the letter.
Motion to sign the letter by: A. Rossetto
2nd by: J. Weagle, 2 in Favor, 1 – Against

K. Bronson would not sign it, he commented that it needs to go to a lawyer and needs to be a warrant article.

c. Red Cross Parking Agreement – This is a standard agreement to allow the Red Cross to leave a vehicle in our parking lot.
Motion to let the Red Cross park a vehicle in our parking lot by: K. Bronson
2nd by: A. Rossetto, All in Favor 3-0

d. Appointments - Winston Hawes replied and would like to continue to be on the Conservation Commission.
Motion to appoint Winston Hawes to the Conservation Commission by: K. Bronson,
2nd by: A. Rossetto, All in Favor 3-0

At the last meeting there was discussion about Glenn Cassady not being appointed as Road Agent.
Motion to appoint Glenn Cassady as Town Road Agent by: K. Bronson
2nd by: A. Rossetto, All in Favor 3-0

e. Cass/Clough Lot Line Adjustment – At Town meeting in 2023, there was a petitioned warrant article for a lot line adjustment from a corner of Town property at the highway garage / transfer station / old landfill was on. It was to sell a portion of that to the abutters (Cass/Clough family). They recently sent an email to us, saying they've had a hard time with surveyors and personal issues. They haven't got everything together, which pushes them outside of the amendment made at Town Meeting, which was for everything to be done by April 2025 (including the Planning Board process). They are asking for an extension, but it wouldn't be ready until the June meeting.

J. Weagle suggested Tammy contact free legal first, if they can't answer then we would need to get an answer from the lawyer re: if we can do it. When voted by the Towns people, normally we can't change it, the Board may not have the authority to do this.
Motion to not accept an extension it needs to go back
to the people by: K. Bronson, 2nd by: A. Rossetto, All in Favor 3-0

f. Police Cruiser – The Police Dept. has asked about purchasing a new cruiser. They got the following quotes; 1) McMulkin (they have the State cruiser contract) – $54,956 for another

Chevy Tahoe; and a quote from Nevo – to outfit the cruiser (lights, sirens, internal equipment, and the cage) - $24,125. There is another quote for a local north country person to do the detailing - $528.20 – Total – $79,609.20.

The CRF has gained interest since the first of the year, at the end of the year the balance was - $73,629.08 which is shy by $5,980.12. The balance could come from someone's budget or from the Police Special Detail Fund. As of the end of the year that fund balance was - $8,387.61, it would leave a balance of approx. $2,400 in the Special Detail Fund. Al asked if the $2,400 enough to meet whatever it's for? Tammy said its a revolving fund and is to meant to deposit profits from details that require an officer present. Example: domestic standby, racetrack requests, etc. It's money for extracurricular activities. Any expenses that go with the details come out of the fund as well. The money can only be used for something that supports Police Special Details.

R. Shannon asked how many cruisers we have. J. Weagle said 2, the Ford we will get rid of. W. Daisey noted that delivery wouldn't be until late July or August. T. Letson suggested having a public hearing so it's advertised and more public opinion can weigh in on it. It's not required and there is a cost for the advertising.

N. Cotter asked what year the cruiser is and what's the mileage. Chief Pelletier said it's a 2018, and has more than 110,000 miles. He thinks it's probably reached the end of its service life. A. Rossette asked if there is an idle time meter in it; Pelletier said not in that one.

J. Weagle suggested having the Public Hearing at the first Select Board meeting in May.

g. Backpack program sent a very nice thank you letter; it will be posted on the web-site.

h. Recording meetings – Tammy heard back from Dustin Supernois, she suggested he come to the meeting tonight but he had a prior commitment at 4:30. When Dustin got to the meeting he discussed his recommendation.

His solution would be through Ring Central; he discussed the system and how it works. It can be utilized for a webinar or a class as well. A. Rossetto said looking at the needs, we need to get the public and what the public is saying. Dustin said there are 4 microphones; you can put a link on the website to watch the meetings real time or people can watch when convenient. Al asked if it can skip to a section that you're interested in – yes it can. Dustin said you need a computer, which Tammy could use hers. J. Weagle asked if it can pan on someone, Dustin further explained. K. Bronson asked about the price; Dustin said including taxes, approx. $420.00 / year; which is reduced from $1,300 / year due to using his free demo. The cameras are approx. $1,800.00 (for 2). He said it will summarize topics, and can put voice to text. The cameras are Wi-Fi, the speakers are built in, it can be utilized in many ways. He will submit a proposal to Tammy.

i. Hill Project – Tammy gave an update: we have a trailer out in the parking lot now. The contractor hopes to begin construction in May and will let her know what the time frame is so notices can be sent out. There is a company going around (a sub-contractor), Capitol Drilling and Blasting, they are supposed to have credentials on them and are supposed to show them to you. They will ask for access into your house to look at foundations, etc. in case there is any damage when blasting. R. Shannon asked about blasting last year, no – they only did

borings. If someone comes to your door, ask for their credentials. We still have a company coming to do lining of the pipes, but we're waiting for permission from the railroad. That will not stop the main dig in the ground construction. Al asked about them finding a material yard; Tammy said they are working with a couple of people in Town; the last she spoke with Steve he didn't have a final agreement yet. DES has to approve the location for where the debris that comes out of the holes can go. If we don't find a free place that DES approves; then the Town will be paying (through the contract) for a DES approved place.

7. Applications/Permits and Warrants:

a. Building Permits (1): Map/Lot 256-001-05 – Gary & Lisa Lebrun, 26 Rae Rd. Putting up a Hartland 10' x 12' storage shed., fee is paid.
Motion to approve by: K. Bronson, 2nd by: A. Rossetto, All in Favor 3-0

b. Transfer Station Permits (1): Map/Lot 104-088 – Non-Resident renewal - Mario Audit, 23 Hillside Ave, renewal. He has a garage / barn on the lot.
Motion to renew by: K. Bronson, 2nd by: A. Rossetto, All in Favor 3-0

c. W/S Abatement (1): Map/Lot 236-008 – Charles Boisclair, 637 Lancaster Rd – demand fee, he originally had 2 meters, one was removed, this is a wrong billing. Tammy said there is one service line, but there was a T on the line, which had a meter on each side. Now, all the water is going through one meter. This is for the 1st quarter demand fee, the demand fee should have been taken off but the Town office didn't receive notice that he had removed one of the meters. Commercial is $100.00 for water and $100.00 sewer.
Motion to abate the 1st quarter demand fee due to moving from 2 meters to 1 by: K. Bronson, 2nd by: A. Rossetto, All in Favor 3-0

d. Current Use Warrant (1): Map/Lot 253-014 - .70 on Rae Rd. Total land use change status is $3,670.00. Tammy said this property had an RV on it at the bottom edge. They are in the process of selling it and the new owners asked to have land (2 acres) taken out of Current Use. It can't just be taken out it taken out it's an agreement to have the land with no use on it. In conversation with the owner, realtor, and purchaser, it was found the current owner has moved the RV to the top of the hill, creating a driveway. The amount that is coming out is what he's cleared and put in a driveway. He probably should have had a permit but didn't. This is the penalty for taking the land out of current use from his building up the road and clearing at the top of the hill. K. Bronson further reviewed.

Motion to sign by: A. Rossetto, 2nd by: J. Weagle

K. Bronson wanted a chance to read this before making any motions.

Al Rossetto retracted the motion above

Motion to charge for the Land Use Tax for the driveway and .70 acres taken out of current use by: K. Bronson
2nd by: A. Rossetto, All in Favor 3-0

8. **Public Comment: None**

9. **Announcements:** The Tax Collector/Town Clerks office will be closed on Wednesday, April 23 for spring training, both Kathy and Romy will be attending. It is posted on the web-site.

10. **Next Board Meeting Date**: Monday, May 5, 2025 at 6:00 pm

11. **Non-Public Session: (Pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (b):**

Motion to go into Non-Public Session by: K. Bronson
2nd by: A. Rossetto, All in Favor 3-0
Roll Call: J. Weagle – yes; A. Rossetto – yes; K. Bronson - Yes

Into Non-Public Session at 7:02 pm

a. Resident Matter
b. Resident Matter
c. Resident Matter
d. Resident Matter
e. Resident Matter
f. Resident Matter
g. Resident Matter
h. Resident Matter
i. Resident Matter
j. Resident Matter
k. Resident Matter
l. Employee Matter
m. Employee Matter
n. Land (2)
o. Resident Matter
p. Employee Matter

Motion to come out of Non-Public Session by: K. Bronson
2nd by: A. Rossetto, All in Favor 3-0

Out of Non-Public Session at 9:13
Into Regular Session at 9:13

No further business was discussed.

12. **Adjournment:**

Motion to adjourn by: K. Bronson, 2nd by: A. Rossetto, All in Favor 3-0

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca St Cyr, Minute Taker

*****This Institution Is An Equal Opportunity Provider And Employer*****

*Agenda is subject to change

**Deadline for Agenda items is 12:00 noon on the Friday before scheduled business meeting (by vote of Board of Selectmen at 7/11/2005 meeting). This deadline may be amended by the Board of Selectmen at will (by vote of Board of Selectmen at 06/17/2024 meeting).

Minutes approved by Northumberland Select Board Members on_____

X_____
Jim Weagle
Northumberland Select Board Chair

X_____
Keith Bronson
Northumberland Select Board Member

X_____
Al Rossetto
Northumberland Select Board Member