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Town of Northumberland
Board of Selectmen
Public Hearing and Meeting Minutes
Date: Monday, May 19, 2025
Place: Town Meeting Room – 10 Station Square
Time: 6:00 P.M.

Board members present: Jim Weagle, Keith Bronson, Al Rossetto
Others present: Pete Marshall, Norm Cotter, Deb Miles, Tim Emperor, Andre Brasseur, James Gibson, C. R. Wheeler, Adriana Dano, Braedon Greene, Melissa Dano, Britannia Jurentkuff, Jim Walsh, Reggie & Terri Charron, Judy Fox, Kathy Frechette, Kathy Wiles Ryan Shannon, Anna Belanger, Natalie Marquis, Rebecca St. Cyr – Minute Taker

1. **Chairman Opens the Public Hearing:** J. Weagle opened the Public Hearing at 6:00 pm

2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** All

3. **Discussion of Police Cruiser –**
   J. Weagle discussed:
   The cost of the new cruiser is: $79,609.20
   $74,379.08 will come out of the Cruiser CRF

   We are short $5,230.12, which will come out of the Police Special Detail account. The current balance in that account is $8,387.20. There will be a remaining balance of $3,157.08

   The taxpayers vote at Town Meeting to set aside that money for the purchase of cruisers. We don't have enough to purchase a cruiser. Why are we living above my means? We're not. Yes, we are. That money is set aside.

   Questions from the Public:
   J. Monahan - how much do we put into the Cruiser CRF yearly. J. Weagle said between $10,000 – $20,000, which is to specifically purchase a cruiser. A. Rossetto said last year was $10,000.

   J. Monahan - The taxpayers vote at Town Meeting to set aside money for the purchase of cruisers. He said, we don't have enough to purchase a cruiser, so why are we living above my means? J. Weagle said we are not, we have $8,387.20 in the PD Special Detail account, which can be used for anything the PD needs. Thats where the extra $5,230.12 is coming from. Monahan asked why don't we wait until there is enough in the CRF. K. Bronson commented we have money now and there will be $3,157 remaining in the PD Special Detail account. J. Weagle said the money is set aside for this reason, we are not taking anything out of the PD budget. This is all designed to be able to do that.

R. Shannon – how long have we been having issues with the older Ford cruiser. Pelletier said it's not in great shape. The dashboard lights up, it's hard to keep a front end in it, it has 105,000 miles and it's 7 years old. It's not something you want to be using for emergencies.

R. Shannon - Why didn't the PD ask for a new cruiser at Town Meeting. Chief Pelletier explained we had plenty of money in the CRF, what was lacking – we have the revolving fund. We knew we didn't need to take more money from the taxpayers this year. J. Weagle said we were hoping to get a grant, but it didn't go through. Ryan talked about transparency and how the public is looking at it. J. Weagle said we are being transparent by having a public hearing on this and this is why the CRF's are set up so that we can purchase from them.

R. Shannon – How many officers do we have? – Pelletier – 3 full time (authorized for 4) – one trainee got done last week and then there is the Chief. Shannon asked how many are on per day. Pelletier said we don't 24 hour coverage, sometimes there are 3-4 of us on duty at once. We have 7 day (or portion of) coverage.

R. Shannon – Is there a law or RSA saying we need a 2 cruisers? Pelletier said no, but if you care about the safety of the officers and the safety of the public you are going to want the best equipment. It's part of the recruitment as well, if they look at the equipment and it's all junk would you want to work with junk?

C. Wheeler – Did a request for quote for a new cruiser go out to bid? J. Weagle said yes, we received 2 responses. P. Pelletier explained some of the Ford and Chevy dealerships have a contract with the State for cruisers. They will have the same options, pricing. The Fords are $10,000 more and tiny on the inside. The Chevy is twice the vehicle.

N. Cotter – Commented he feels this is the wrong time to be doing this, it should be done at Town Meeting. J. Weagle said when it's taken to Town Meeting, it's an outright purchase. He noted this Public Hearing was advertised on the web-site and posted, plus it went out on the email tree.

J. Monahan – Where did we get the money for the last cruiser. It was a grant and was a lease / purchase. It was a warrant article. There was not enough money in the CRF at that time.

K. Wiles asked if any money will remain in the Cruiser CRF? J. Weagle said it will be drained, but the CRF stays open. Kathy said she used to be a Trustee and believes there needs to be something in it to keep it open. A. Rossetto further discussed.

N. Cotter – Is the Special Duty account the same as the Cruiser CRF? No - J. Weagle explained it's a separate account. All the money gets transferred into the General Fund and it's paid out from there. We drain the CRF down, then we build it back up.

J. Monahan – We put $10,000 - $20,000 into the CRF yearly, that would give us enough money to make the purchase with stealing from the other account. K. Bronson said we are not stealing any money. J. Weagle further discussed.

K. Wiles explained all the CRF's are set up as warrant articles and funded at Town Meeting. This is so we don't get strapped with buying a cruiser, ambulance, or fire truck in the same year. She said the other account does belong to the PD; if we don't use some from that account, what is it used for? K. Wiles noted that we are not stealing any money from another account, we are using that to make up the difference that we don't have in the CRF. J. Weagle said the account has to be

used for the PD only. A. Rossetto said the second fund does not come from taxes. It comes from outside duties where the Town is paid for police services. It goes into that Special Detail fund for the PD to use for its needs. W. Daisey noted that we also get money from the State from violations written (except speeding tickets). Al – this money was not raised and appropriated.

R. Shannon – Are there any other big purchases that the PD needs? P. Pelletier said there isn't anything right now, in the future we might need computers. The Special Detail fund is constantly reloading itself, we get a check from the court periodically, we work at the racetrack and do other special details. We charge above and beyond so the Town makes money, which goes into the account. He noted that any large purchases from that account need to be approved by the Board.

R. Shannon asked for an estimate on the amount of the check that comes in from the court. P. Pelletier said it doesn't come in monthly (several times a year maybe). It comes from the State and has been as much as approx. $4,146.

J. Monahan – Why has he seen the cruiser in Milan? J. Weagle and P. Pelletier addressed.

4. Adjournment of Public Hearing:

The Public Hearing adjourned at 6:25 pm

5. Chairman Opens the Meeting:

J. Weagle opened the regular meeting at 6:25 pm

Motion to use the money for the new cruiser out of the Cruiser CRF and the PD Special Detail fund by: K. Bronson, 2nd by: Al Rossetto, All in Favor 3-0

Discussion continued regarding the cruiser. Al explained the Board are agents to expend, we've proven that it's coming from the CRF and the additional non-taxed revenue source that covers the cost of the cruiser. J. Monahan commented he's not heard not one pro but multiple cons and you are still going to purchase the cruiser. J. Weagle said we did what we feel is best for the Town. J. Kennett asked how many spoke for it. K. Wiles noted if there was going to be a hand vote, it should have been done prior to making the motion to buy the cruiser.

6. Acceptance of Minutes: 05/05/2025

Motion to approve the 05/05/2025 minutes by: K. Bronson
2nd by: A. Rossetto, All in Favor 3-0

7. Department Head Business:

<u>Fire Department, Andre Brasseur – Chief</u>
Since last meeting – 3 calls, 1 brush fire and 2 MV crashes – 34 calls YTD, which is down 5 compared to this time last year.

He met with Horizon and DeFelice and looked at the temporary water services and hydrants. We determined that we need to buy some appliances for the engines to adapt from the temp lines to the trucks. One for each engine and they will provide us with the handles to turn them on.

June 20 is the Trans NH Bike Ride; the fire house will be a stop for hydrating, etc.

This is EMS week, the Fire Dept thanks the Groveton EMS for what they do. They had a tough call yesterday and handled it very well, we appreciate them. J. Weagle and the Board thanked the EMS crews for all they do.

Ambulance – Jim Gibson – EMS Chief

1. 2025 as of this printing, we have had 157 calls to date.
2. 2024 on this date we were at 181 calls. Jim noted that 12 of the calls from last year were from the eclipse.
3. Comstar report as of 04/11/2025, net commitments for 2025, $84,183.24. This does not include payments made directly to the office, 2025 contract fees or payments.
4. EMS week has kicked off; it is from May 18th to the 24th. We will be out at schools doing presentations and handing out stuff. Jim - I would like to thank all of our EMS responders for their time and dedication to the community, proving quality and passionate care to all.
5. The House and Senate bills that were discussed on our last visit have all been sent to committees for further review.
6. Jim – I would like to thank all the agencies that were involved with handling the accident that occurred Sunday. Northumberland PD, NH State Police, NH Fish & Game as well as Groveton Fire and Stratford Fire. A big shout out to Milan Dummer ambulance and Lancaster EMS for giving us a hand with transporting and taking care of patients. And also, thanks to the bystanders that gave a helping hand.

Police Department – Chief, Peter Pelletier

266 calls for service, plus an additional l34 for NHSP

MV Stops – 45
Tickets – 6

Arrests – 10 / 12 criminal charges
DWI – 1
Drugs – 1

Crashes – 6
New Investigations – 22

On 5/18 – MV crash Stratford Road. Extrication needed. Multiple people transported to Weeks Medical Center. Route 3 temporarily shut down. Multiple wreckers were required to clear the roadway. Thank you to all agencies involved: Northumberland PD, Groveton EMS, Groveton Fire Dept., Milan Ambulance, NH State Police, NH Fish & Game, Stratford Fire Dept., Lancaster EMS.

Al Rossetto asked Chief Pelletier about 45 MV stops and only 6 tickets, is there a policy? 90% are given a warning. Pelletier said warnings are free!! We are very lenient, the idea is to correct driving behavior rather than give out tickets. If it's an egregious violation; with the economy we will let people now that their equipment is off. Al agreed that's how we need to be.

8. Requested Agenda Matters:

a. ATV Club – Tim Emperor asked for approval of the yearly permission slips so we can put some signs up and apply for grants. Bag Hill, Melcher, Main & State. Reggie reminded them of the above ground temporary main water line on Melcher St.

Motion to give the ATV Club the yearly permission to use the Town roads (Bag Hill, Melcher, Main & State St.) by: K. Bronson, 2nd by: A. Rossetto, All in Favor 3-0

9. Town Office Matters:

a. Pedalpalooza – Northern Gateway Chamber of Commerce is asking for permission to use the park by the covered bridge. There will be no vendors on Town property. It's electric bikes that ride from Lancaster to Groveton through Lost Nation Rd. The date is August 16.

Motion to allow Pedalpalooza end the race at the park by the covered bridge by: K. Bronson, 2nd by: A. Rossetto, All in Favor 3-0

b. NHSP J-ONE Grant - $8,439 – For the laptops in the cruisers. the State pays –$7,389.00 we pay $1,050 which is in the PD budget. P. Pelletier said it pays for the laptop and mount in the cruiser. It allows us to write tickets, it has mapping, send messages, assists with the log, reports, etc. Bill and Tammy are good at getting these grants from the State. W. Daisey said they are in both cruisers; the one in the Ford we will keep, and the one that was given to us can go into the Tahoe or the new one. W. Daisey wrote a second grant but the funding ran out; when the funding re-ups in July they will give us another grant.

C. Wheeler asked when changing cruisers (going from one to the other); one won't have one? Pelletier said each cruiser has one, Daisey discussed the laptops and where they will be utilized. He noted the grant is 100%, the only thing the Town pays for is the installation. Wheeler asked what the new cruiser will have? Pelletier said it doesn't come with that, it can go into the new cruiser and when the other grant comes up we will get another one.

N. Cotter asked what gives a police officer the right to use this going down the road? P. Pelletier said it would be foolish to do that going down the road and he doesn't approve of that. There is an exception in the MV statute; there are a lot of distractions in the cruisers. K. Frechette – so it's mainly used when you stop someone. Pelletier noted it has a lot of uses, but that probably gets used the most.

Motion to have the Chairman sign the grant by: K. Bronson
2nd by: A. Rossetto, All in Favor 3-0

c. Thank You Note – Lancaster Food Pantry – We received a note for the generous donation of $5,000 from the Lancaster Food Pantry – it will be posted on the web-site.

d. Horizon Engineering – Ground Water Discharge Permit, Horizon does the engineering for it.

Motion to sign the Horizon agreement by: K. Bronson
2nd by: A. Rossetto, All in Favor 3-0

10. Applications/Permits and Warrants:

a. Building Permits (4):
Map/Lot 103-008 – Roger Chauvette, redoing existing cinder block, siding, and new windows.
Motion to approve by: K. Bronson, 2nd by: A. Rossetto, All in Favor 3-0

Map/Lot 101-051 – Grootenboer, Mary – 24 Pinette St., Solar system
Motion to approve by: K. Bronson, 2nd by: A. Rossetto, All in Favor 3-0

Map/Lot 214-010 – Cass, Pamela & Michael - Solar system
Motion to approve by: K. Bronson, 2nd by: A. Rossetto, All in Favor 3-0

Map/Lot - Dean Book Dr – Emily Watson – 20' x 40' building on a cement pad. A. Rossetto said they are buying a premade shell. It's basically a tiny house. They have an electrician and plumber.

Motion to approve by: K. Bronson, 2nd by: A. Rossetto

K. Frechette asked if there is a cement slab already there. Yes it's in the trailer park. Al said Glenn checked with Dean Brook Trailer Park and they have signed off on it.

All in Favor 3-0

b. Transfer Station Permits (2):
Map/Lot 236-034 – Renewal – Ernest Roy, 125 Old Village Rd.,
Motion to approve by: K. Bronson, 2nd by: A. Rossetto, All in Favor 3-0

Map/Lot 104-193 - New - Jennifer Morse, 10 Fiske St., she lives in NY.
Motion to approve by: K. Bronson, 2nd by: A. Rossetto, All in Favor 3-0

c. Abatement (1) –
Map/Lot 236-009 – Privitera, John, 649 Lancaster Rd. The software support for the 2020 interest was manually added to the bill, adding more than $20,000. The abatement amount is $20,853.95, which was due to a software issue. J. Weagle read the information from BMSI; it's a housekeeping abatement only. K. Wiles said it was added in error and was found when we did the final pay off for him. To take care of it, Kathy has to do an abatement and because it was added in error it never went onto the Town revenues and it wasn't included in budget items, etc.
Motion to approve the abatement for John Privitera by: K. Bronson,
2nd by: A. Rossetto, All in Favor 3-0

d. Meeting Room Application (1) – Primex – September 15, 2025 -11:00 am–11:30 am.

Motion to allow Primex to use the meeting room on September 15, 2025 by: K. Bronson
2nd by: A. Rossetto, All in Favor 3-0

11. **Public Comment:

- J. Kennett – Asked if we did an audit when the Town Administrator got done? J. Weagle – no not at this time. There are still things that need to be finished, which she has agreed to finish. Kennett asked how long before an audit will be done? J. Weagle said it's up to the auditing company if we do one, they will be here in June. R. Shannon asked if that's common

practice? Usually, an audit is common practice for someone in that position. J. Weagle said she isn't done yet, but has agreed to stay on to finish financial reports that need to be done.

- C. Wheeler – He asked about putting curtains up in the meeting room windows. He believes it was approved in last year's budget; several remembered it being discussed. J. Weagle will review and report back.

- J. Monahan – The fact that 2 months after Town Meeting a cruiser purchase was brought up and it was hidden from the taxpayers at Town Meeting. In his opinion, it speaks volumes about the kind of representatives the 3 selectmen are. He feels it's very shady with what the Board is doing.

- R. Shannon – Food Pantry – last year he asked and was told that the red church doesn't do it anymore. Then Dennis Charron stood up at Town Meeting and talked about it, Ryan didn't think we had a food pantry. K. Bronson said the Catholic Church has one, they never stopped. Ryan asked why we are paying $5,000 to another town. J. Weagle said Lancaster provided us with the number of residents that uses their pantry from Groveton. As long as the people meet the guidelines they can go to any food pantry. K. Wiles commented it may be open more and it's easier access for a lot of residents. Ryan said we need to start clamping down on our spending.

- K Frechette asked about an update on the hill. J. Weagle said we will be giving an update at the next meeting. The pipe running on the ground is the bypass.

- B. Jurentkuff – complaint re: female crossing guard (not Judy), her daughter is being harassed daily. She received an email from the school on Friday letting her know what happened on school property with this women who has continued to harass her 7 year old. Why is she allowed to be around children? She's been told there have been 15 – 20 others complain in the last month. Jurentkuff continued to discuss; she has multiple things of evidence on this. J. Weagle said she needs to file an official complaint at the Town Office. She asked if it will be heard and seen? J. Weagle said it will be seen. She said it was brought up at a previous meeting, and she heard it was a laughing matter. There are multiple parents at the school that won't speak up because they don't want it to continue. She has talked with other officers about it and nothing gets done. J. Weagle reiterated to file the complaint at the Town office.

- P. Marshall – On Old Village Rd. there was a 1 ton truck sitting right in the street; yesterday and today. J. Weagle we did take care of some of the situation; Pete said it's happening again.

- R. Shannon asked how come you can talk to the Chief, but this lady can't? Someone can't just walk up to a kid and start harassing them, it's against the law. J. Weagle said the complaint needs to be in writing and go through the Town Office. Ryan asked how many investigations are on the PD right now. Ryan said this is a serious matter. B. Jurentkuff said she wrote a statement and spoke with Chief Pelletier about it, she was told it would be taken care of. Three days later, the same crossing guard is still there. Her daughter loves school, but cries every morning. The school can't do anything about it and it's gotten worse. She had to try to get a protection order against this person. J. Weagle again said to file the complaint and we will go from there.

12. Announcements: The Town Offices will be closed on Monday, May 26, 2025 in observance of Memorial Day.

K. Wiles added that the property tax bills will be mailed on Thursday, May 22, 2025.

13. Next Board Meeting Date: Monday, June 2, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

14. Non-Public Session: (Pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a):

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

Into Non-Public Sessin at 7:18 pm

a. Employee Matter

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

Out of Non-Public session at 7:45 pm

Into Regular session at 7:45 pm

15. Adjournment:

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:46 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca St. Cyr – Minute Taker

*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