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Town of Northumberland
Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes – Draft
Date: Monday, December 1, 2025
Place: Town Meeting Room – 10 Station Square
Time: 6:00 P.M.

Board Members present: Jim Weagle, Al Rossetto, Robin Irving
Others present: Deb Miles, Ron Kleiner-NHDOT, John Stockton-NHDOT, Gail Rossetto, C. R Wheeler, Kathy Frechette, Pete Marshall, Norm Cotter, Bob Roby, Sheila Smith, Doug Dano, Melissa Dano, Adriana Dano, ??, Judy Fox, Reggie Charron, Terri Charron, Anna Belanger, James Gibson, Glenn Cassady, Andre Brasseur, Debbie Montgomery, Wayne Montgomery, Christopher Roberge, N. Canavan, Sean Durkin, 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: Monday, November 17, 2025**

   Motion to approve the Nov 17, 2025 minutes by: A. Rossetto
   2nd by: R. Irving, All in Favor 3-0

4. **Department Head Business:** Highway/Water-Sewer

   Highway – Glenn Cassady, Town Road Agent
   - After Veterans Day we changed the banners and put up the holiday ones.
   - Worked with Central Paving on paving projects, we extended Maple St., and by the trestle on the backside. They backfilled everything for us, which was appreciated.
   - The guys worked on Christmas lighting and turned on the bridge and the tree.
   - We had a few breakdowns and repairs on one sander – it's been taken care of.
   - Fixed the paving by the bank / laundromat for the State.
   - We went out about 7 times to salt / sand with the freezing rain that we've had.
   - Purchased 2 more loads of salt, hoping it will get us through this month. He wants to talk to the Board about purchasing more during the budget workshop.
   - Cleaning up garage, washing windows, on warmer days we can find things to do.
   - Working on budget #'s, getting numbers for a new bobcat.
   - We got some asphalt down on Grand View to fill potholes.

   R. Irving asked about the salt / purchasing with surplus balance. Are we spending based on the Selectmen's authority to spend or does it have to be a warrant article? J. Weagle said if it's excess in his budget, he can purchase. Glenn said he has approx. 1 ½ loads, there is surplus $S in other lines on the budget.

   Al – how many loads does the salt shed hold? Glenn said approx. 8-9. And do you start the season with a full shed? Glenn said last season we did due to a mild winter the previous year. It comes in from Canada and has gone up with the tariffs.

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Water-Sewer – Reggie Charron, Superintendent

- The hill project is done for the winter. Cumberland, Maple, High and Pinette are all done. Fisk, Crow Hill, and Grand View will be done spring/summer will be done in 2026. We've only spent half of the budget. The biggest savings was due to the ledge, the numbers were inflated not knowing what we would run into. We may even get through to First St.
- The new pump station has been moved out until January, depending on the winter we could get by until spring. Reggie further discussed. He will be having another meeting soon.
- We finished last month with the lowest pumped amount of water – 155,000 gal/day. 100,000+ gallons less than last year at this time.
- All the paving was done up there, the drainage is done and working great.
- He made the mandate for the EPA letters, out of 800 he got it down to 230 this year. People have been calling since the letters went out.

Sewer –

- The lagoon profiling, in 12 years (since 2013) both primaries have come up #2 - 6" in sludge, #4 – 4"; secondary's stayed the same. We haven't cleaned the lagoons 18 years. The primaries are 4' deep and the secondary is 3.5' deep. We are averaging 7"-8" in the secondaries and primaries – 13"-14". He anticipates we could probably go another 10 years. The grinder is helping, the dam permit went up, they are charging an extra $50.00. Reggie highly recommends that we start putting money away for the sludge removal.
- Working on the budget numbers.

R. Irving asked about completing the hill project on budget, does that include the contingency? Reggie wasn't sure, but it wasn't including it at the time. Robin said there was an announcement today re: EPA approving another $3 Billion in lead service line grant money. Is Northumberland putting in a warrant article for the lead service lines? No, he has a 60,000 grant now, and Reggie doesn't think we have any lead, we can't go to the taxpayers and ask for more money, he further discussed. It's something that we can look at.

A. Rossetto asked if we have a decade before the lagoons need to be pumped. It's hard to forecast, but we could be looking at $10,000,000. Reggie agreed, if not more. We have $50,000 - $70,000 in the CRF for sludge removal. To bring it up, in excess of $500,000 - $1,000,000 would have to go into the CRF yearly. The W/S users are going to be facing increases. A CRF - everybody pays into, the Board further discussed. This is an expense that's coming at us. Reggie commented that lagoon systems are a dying dinosaur, if EPA and DES has their way, we could be looking at something more than that. Lancaster, Colebrook, and us are the last of the lagoon systems, activated sludge plants are going for $20 - $30 million To put in a 1.1 million gallon primary clarifier, he would hate to see the cost. If we have to go to a new system it could be $10 – $20 million. Discussion continued regarding the government mandating a new system, the cost, money, PFA's etc.

5. Requested Agenda Matters:

a. **NH DOT – RT 3 Bridge Preservation Project** – John Stockton, Ron Kleiner from NH DOT. Ron presented information on the Route 3 bridge, over the Ammonoosuc River.

Bridge Details:
Built in 1995
235' long IBC
57'6" total width
5,400 vehicles pass over it per day, 7% are trucks
Condition: Deck = 7, Superstructure = 7, Substructure = 7

Purpose and Need:
Perform Bridge preservation activities
Delay regression to lower condition state
No preservation work has been done since 1995 construction

Ron reviewed the **Environmental Statements:**
As part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other state and federal regulations, the NHDOT must investigate the potential impacts that our projects will have on the surrounding natural, cultural, and social environment. Identifying key resources early in the project development process enables the Department to avoid or minimize impacts as design proceeds. Part of the environmental review involves identifying historic resources.

In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Department reviewed the project area to determine if there are historic resources within the vicinity that would be impacted by the construction of this project. Historic properties can include buildings and structures fifty year old or older, as well as archaeological sites. It must also determine if a structure maintains enough integrity to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. It was determined that the proposed action would not have an effect on historic properties and is consistent with the condition so the programmatic agreement between the Department, the NH Division of the Federal Highway Admin, and the NH Div. of Historic Resources.

The bridge was constructed in 1995 and is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, it's not over 50 years old. Re: Natural Resources – the proposed project is not anticipated to have effects on any conservation lands, protected wetlands or shorelands, air quality, water quality, protected species or habitats, or invasive species.

Section 106 of the NHPA offers those with a direct interest in historical resources, including town officials and Historical Societies, an opportunity to become more involved in an advisor role during project development as "Consulting Parties". Those interested need to indicate in writing to the Federal Highway Admin. If anyone has concerns they can bring them to our attentions tonight or contact us after this meeting.

Proposed Work:
Remove and replace bridge pavement and membrane
Partial and full dept deck repair
Install 6" crack seal at north abutment
Install strip seal expansion joint at south abutment
Sidewalk repairs

Anticipated Maintenance of Traffic:
Phase 1:
To do the work, traffic control of the contractor -
one lane on the right –
Phase 2:
Split the traffic to each side to work on the middle.
Phase 3:
Shift to the left side listen.
Phase 4:
There could be other options with traffic signals, etc.

Additional Information:
No ROW impacts
No Utility impacts
No Impacts to wetlands, historic resources, endangered species

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Schedule:
Ad dated – July/2026
Construction - Spring-Summer 2027
Completion – October 2027
Estimated cost - $1,100.000

Questions:
R. Irving asked why is there nothing related to the abutments? Ron said there wasn't anything that needed to be addressed under the bridge. Robin – how long do you see that being extended w/o doing any work on it now. Ron – we generally have a schedule for maintenance – 20 years – patching; 40 years – replace the deck, after that it could be work on the abutments. We are replacing the joints that does involve the concrete immediately touching it, but they are not expecting to get under the bridge.

G. Cassady asked if the bridge has roller bearings on the end? He spoke about the bridge in Guildhall and the bridge seems to be raised on the ends, it effects the plows. He thinks it due to what they put back in for material and when the frost hits it swells.

J. Weagle asked how the traffic control would be after hours if you don't put lights in. Ron said it would be one lane each way.

A. Rossetto asked if 14' is enough for the trucks. Ron said it's 14' and should be enough for the trucks. P. Marshall agreed. John – the existing shoulder next to the sidewalk is 10', the traffic lanes in the phases are roughly 14' each, which is what the DOT plows want.

John talked about the municipal work Zone Agreement – the DOT understands the Town statutes often say that police presence is required during construction. The DOT understands the State statute allows the DOT and the contractor to control traffic. We give this agreement to all the Towns we work in so that the State and Town is on the same page with the traffic control.

John – Ron mentioned that the bridge conditions were all 7's, which is good. DOT has a maintenance cycle, which is roughly a 20 year cycle. The first thing we do is the expansion joints, leaking expansion joints generally cause deterioration to the rest of the bridge. We do the work to keep it from deteriorating any further, the bridge is still in good shape. The goal is to keep it in good shape. We might be back in 20 years to do this again; 60 years is when the bridge deck would need to be replaced. There could be more substructure work then. The bridge deck deteriorates the quickest with the road salt, scraped by the plows, etc.

C. Wheeler asked for clarification on the rating's; John - 9 is excellent; 8 – very good, 7 – good; 6 – satisfactory; 5 – fair; when is goes to 4 – it's poor, and is put on the State's red list, which falls into a higher priority to replace or repair.

Motion to allow the Chairman to sign the Municipal Work Zone Agreement
for State project #44561 by: A. Rossetto
2nd by: R. Irving, All in Favor 3-0

b. **Energy Committee** – this was for an appointment on the committee, they haven't met yet. Tabled.

6. Town Business:

a. Health Trust – no rate changes in 2026

Motion for the Chairman to sign the Health Trust Agreement by: A. Rossetto,
2nd by: R. Irving, All in Favor 3-0

7. **Applications/Permits and Warrants:**

a. Zoning Permit Map/Lot #246-014-00-00 – Lepine, Gerry & Mary – 8' x 12' shed prebuilt on skids.

Motion to sign by: A. Rossetto, 2nd by: R. Irving, All in Favor 3-0

b. Intent to Cut Map/Lot #220-004-00-00 – 57 Craggy Rd., Adjacent to the MOM's cut – J. Weagle reviewed the cut, contractor is Dowland. Jim reviewed the cut. Lot size 137 acres – cutting 8 acres.

Motion to sign by: A. Rossetto, 2nd by: R. Irving, All in Favor 3-0

8. ****Public Comment:**

- P. Marshall asked if there is anything new on the PD? J. Weagle said no, we are trying, there are no applicants.

- C. Wheeler asked why was the Building permit changed to a Zoning Permit. A. Rossetto addressed, we had a Building Inspector that wasn't licensed. The real intention is to notify the town of changes to the value of the property. With the appraisal being as close as possible to the current market value. We charge $100.00/permit, $80.00 goes to the assessors to do the pickup re: what changed. Frank at the State Fire Marshall office contacted us and since we were not doing inspections, with a licensed inspector, he recommended changing it. Frank brought it to our attention problems in southern NH with contractors and not being up to code. We came up with changing it to a Zoning Permit. We recommend on the permit that they hire third party inspectors to inspect and is built up to code.

  Chris – as a carpenter that goes out and builds a house, they don't need a license, but the electrician and the plumber needs to be licensed. S. Durkin commented the building code is the bare minimum. The Town would have to pay a licensed inspector. Robin – it shifts the liability from the Town to the property owner. Discussion continued regarding building permits, inspections, etc. Sean's concern is the buildings are not going to be up to code. To fix it the State needs to come up with regulations and requires each Town to have a building inspector, which would be expensive. Robin noted the building code is currently in revision with the Legislature.

- S. Durkin – PD – has there been any thought about talking to other local communities and having a shared PD. J. Weagle said we tried that years ago and it didn't go, Stratford knocked it down and Stark didn't get back to us. Sean suggested trying it again.

- A. Rossetto talked about the SAU's and combining them; he asked Sean if he could look into this for the PD – Sean feels that's up to the Towns to get together, he's not sure there are any RSA's regarding this, discussed continued regarding this issue.

- C. Wheeler – to Reggie – you said we are using 140,000 gal/day. Reggie said we are pumping less, the demand in Town is down. We were pumping more. Chris asked if the water that's being saved is it from the homeowners doing better or is it from leaks. Reggie feels it was from leaks; over the years we were 50 – 60% loss and now we are around 30%. We had a leak detection company come in over the summer and they didn't find any.

  Chris noted that some of the new shutoff's put in are above grade. Reggie said when they get the grades done, we will go in cut the tops off, rethread them and put the top on. Reggie further discussed, we are looking good to get the whole project done.

- C. Wheeler commented with all the money that wasn't paid out in PD costs, will that be back filled for next year? J. Weagle said when the tax rate comes out we are asked about the overlay, we determine an appropriate amount. We can use the overlay so the rate doesn't go up, we may be able to do a little bite of that this year. Chris – if we have the PD back in 6 months, do we keep the State Police? J. Weagle said we would do away with their coverage. Reggie asked about the budget for a PD, what do you do with that? J. Weagle said we will try to keep it where it is now. If we need to cut then we will, but we don't know what it's going to cost to bring it back. Robin – negotiations were for a potential Chief and get 2 officers on force within 6 months. So, 3 are anticipated. We do regular rotations on the cruisers. Discussion continue regarding the PD. Robin – as of Jan 1 there will be public hearings and at least 2 prior to the final budget and people can ask questions.

- N. Cotter asked what's happening with the PD money. J. Weagle explained we still have to pay the rent for this building, EMS is using the downstairs area temporarily. We have to pay the internet. State Police are using the facility. Any money that isn't used by December 31 goes into the Fund Balance. It can be used to offset taxes or help pay for an emergent repairs.

- D. Montgomery asked what are you doing differently trying to find a police chief, have you changed how you are trying to get an officer? J. Weagle said there has been an ad out there; the new Town Administrator will be working on this when she is on board full-time. The State Police and the Police Academy both know that we're actively looking. Robin noted there is a local government site that it's posted on as well.

- C. Roberge asked if there a place where the numbers are kept. Robin said he can ask for a budget sheet. He also asked about applying grants and the overlay. J. Weagle commented you can't use grants to lower the tax rate. And if we are lowering the fund balance we have to be careful. We are obligated and have to pay the State, the County, and the School. The County has to be paid first. Robin noted that Federal money can't be used for municipal operations. You can't use them for wages, etc. With exception of the DOJ COPs grant, which we were able to get 3 additional officers a few years ago. Federal money is going away. USDA is going from grants it will be more of a loan grant. Grants are not free there is usually a significant buy in in the form of a match. We don't have capacity for grant writing, depending on what you have for grants, administration could be a full time position. D. Montgomery asked if the new administrator has grant experience. Yes, she has done grants through the PD. Robin did the infrastructure grants.

- The new Town Administrator will officially start on December 3rd.

- S. Smith asked J. Weagle if Courtney has given him the money for the receipt for mums that was submitted for reimbursement, Jim has not heard from her. Sheila requested that he to speak with her about it asap on behalf of the Beautification Committee.

- T. Charron - Supervisors Of The Checklist Session to be held on: Saturday, Dec 6, 2025 from 8:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. 19 Main Street, (upstairs) Northumberland Town Office This Session is being held for additions and corrections to the checklist. Party registration changes may be accepted.

9. Announcements:

10. **Next Board Meeting Date**: Monday December 15, 2025
Budget work sessions will be held on: Dec. 4 at 1:00 pm, Dec. 11 at 1:00 pm, and Dec. 18 at 2:00 pm.

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

Motion to go into Non-Public session by: A. Rossetto, 2nd by: R. Irving, All in Favor 3-0
Roll Call: J. Weagle – Yes, R. Irving – Yes, A. Rossetto - Yes

Into Non-Public session at 7:17 pm.

a. Employee Matter -

b. Resident Matter -

Motion to come out of Non-Public session by: A. Rossetto
2nd by: R. Irving, All in Favor 3-0

Out of Non-Public session at 8:24 pm.

Into Regular session at 8:24 pm.

Motion to move Trevor Gibson to full-time EMS Deputy at his current rate, with him reporting to Town Administrator and/or the Select Board by: A. Rossetto, 2nd by: R. Irving, All in Favor 3-0

12. **Adjournment:**

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca St. Cyr – Minute Transcriber

*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).

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