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Town of Northumberland
Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes - Draft
Date: Monday, November 17, 2025
Place: Town Meeting Room – 10 Station Square
Time: 6:00 P.M.

Board members present: Al Rossetto, Robin Irving, Jim Weagle
Others present: Leo Frizzell, Pete Marshall, Norm Cotter, Bob Roby, C. R. Wheeler, Judy Fox, Sheila Smith, Jim Gibson, Andrew Hatch-CPCNH, David Auger, Bonnie Auger, Deb Miles, Melissa Dano, Adrianna Dano, Joseph Kennett, Debbie Montgomery, Wayne Montgomery, Kathy Wiles, Kathy Frechette, Andre Brasseur, Chris Roberge, Michelle Randall, Dean Wiles, Anna Belanger, 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 3, 2025

   Motion to approve the Nov 3, 2025 minutes as written by: R. Irving
   2nd by: J. Weagle, 2 in Favor - 1 abstained

4. **Department Head Business:** Ambulance/Fire Department

   Ambulance – EMS Chief's Report – Jim Gibson

   1. 2025 as of this printing at noon today, we have had 383 calls for service to date.
   2. 2024 on this date we were at 463 calls for service.
   3. Comstar report as of 11/17/2025, $225,558.51. This does not include payments made directly to the office or 2025 contract fees.
   4. Both ambulances are at par, A2 goes in for an oil change and a software update on Friday at 10:00 am.
   5. I have 2 students that should be wrapping up their AEMT course this Friday and then move on to clinicals and State testing. We also have 1 student taking an EMT class through the Community College in Littleton that will be finishing up soon.

   R. Irving asked if the DOL is still paying for the EMT classes? Jim said that's the one through the Community College, you pay a fee upfront, complete the course and then get reimbursed. So yes they are still doing it.

   Fire Dept – Andre Brasseur

- Since we last met on October 20th, we've had 9 calls for service - 71 calls for the year, which is 4 less than last year at this time. The calls were – fire alarms, MV crash, went to Stratford to help them with a fire and smoking mitigation of a vehicle versus a moose.
- The Association held our annual breakfast Sunday 11/16, to raise money towards the hayride, which was successful.
- The Hayride is on Saturday, December 13th.
- A few weeks ago, our compressor at the fire station quit working and the horn stopped for a few nights. The compressor has been changed out with the new one and it's back up and running.

5. Requested Agenda Matters:

a. American Legion – Leo Frizzell, Commander VFW, Groveton. They want to put a plaque on the backside of the monuments for veterans of Afghanistan, Desert Storm, and Operation Freedom. J. Weagle asked if the Legion is paying for the plaque? Leo said we got a price and will be getting together on it. The estimated amount is $25,000. He asked if the Town pays for any of the monuments? Jim said we paid for the initial concrete, beyond that the Legion pays. K. Wiles asked where he got the price, she suggested also checking with Bailey's.

Motion to approve the American Legion/VFW to attach a plaque on the monuments by: A. Rossetto 2nd by: R. Irving, All in Favor 3-0

b. Energy Committee – D. Auger asked the Board for approval to add Wayne Montgomery to the Energy Committee. J. Weagle said K. Wiles will make up a nomination form.

**Motion to approve adding Wayne Montgomery to the Energy Committee by: A. Rossetto 2nd by: R. Irving

Robin asked if he has been approved by the committee? Dave said he will be at their next meeting by the end of the month. Robin suggested the committee have their meeting, approve the applicant, and then do the nomination to the Select Board. The appointment will be finished at the next Select Board meeting.

**Motion above retracted.

D. Auger introduced Andrew Hatch, he is the outreach coordinator from CPCNH. He is helping us finish our steps to get on deck for potential rate opportunities with CPCNH in the future. At the last Town meeting, we had a successful warrant article re: Community Power.

Andrew gave the Board a copies of the slide deck, it's a short reference to make sure the Board understands how the coalition operates in terms of its policies and how those policies interact with the contract that the Board will consider adopting tonight.

On May 19, 2025, the PUC approved your plan. the electric aggregation plan that was adopted at Town meeting. The final step in terms of being ready to launch a community power program is to adopt 2 contracts that the coalition requires all of our members to adopt. It has to be (by definition) identical for all of our members, it's in two parts, and it refers back to our policies. The Community Power Coalition of NH (CPCNH) is a non-profit organization, we are also a government instrumentality and we are subject to right to know laws, 91A. All of our policies and contracts are available for public scrutiny on our website, **communitypowernh.gov.** Andrew had submitted a draft agreement for the Board to consider and has a copy of that here today.

Andrew reviewed the highlights of the policies. He will leave it to the Board to deliberate the timing of the next steps. If you were to agree to adopt this agreement, you in no way commit the Town of Northumberland to move forward with community power. It's conditional upon you taking another step

at a time in the future when the coalition is offering the opportunity for Northumberland to join a cohort of member communities looking to a launch potentially in 2026.

There are three policies that work hand in hand, the portfolio **Risk Management, Financial Reserves, and Retail Rates.** They all are underpinned by a Data Security and Privacy Policy. They are in place in order to meet our obligations to provide our member towns and cities with their electricity requirements, providing and procuring the best rates possible and maintaining the financial reserves of the coalition in order for us to ensure our long-term customer benefits.

Risk Management. Energy procurement is by nature a risky landscape. Power is procured on a global basis. The cost of power will change every 5 minutes. We manage a portfolio of power on behalf of our customers. This policy is how we manage risk and mitigate risk to avoid any of our members, towns, and cities from being exposed to that risk. We are very clear on the details of how we go about procuring power, how we work with counterparties, how we manage a portfolio, and how we manage that portfolio following industry best practices. We are required, and conduct audits to remain transparent and accountable to our members. We articulate clearly what the roles and responsibilities are of both our internal board, our staff members, and our service providers. We have procured over 2 terawatts of power, our anticipated revenues in 2026 will be over $160 million. So, this is a very serious endeavor and we take these policies seriously.

Our **Retail Rates** policy explains how we set rates and how our members can elect to participate in those rates. Community Power is a voluntary participation program, we do enroll people initially, but people can step in and out of a program depending on if our rates are competitive to any other suppliers they may choose to contract with. We set the rates with consultation with our third parties that provide us with advice. The intent of our rate setting is to make sure our revenues cover our costs. As a non-profit, we don't make profits per se, but we do have to maintain and grow our reserves to maintain our financial strength.

We have volunteer groups of our members who populate our boards and committees. We have a risk management committee, a finance committee, an executive committee, and a board. All of these groups have input and a responsibility to approve rates and pass on the most competitive rates to our participating members. When Northumberland Community Power is ready to launch, there will be choices made and decisions made by the Select Board on behalf of the Town in terms of what rates it adopts.

The retail rates policy shows our basic offerings that typically all of our members adopt. The Granite Basic has the same renewable portfolio standard content as all the other utilities. They have to provide, by State law, a number of higher level renewable or carbon free options that residents can opt up to. You will set a default, Andrew thought we already agreed on the Granite Basic, the least expensive option and then you will elect to have these other options for people to opt-up into.

Financial Services – When we set a rate, a large proportion of it is for the cost of procuring power on behalf of our members. A portion is for managing and meeting the needs of the coalition's operational costs. And then there is what we call headroom, which means the rest of it would be booked as financial reserves. The reserves are held in aggregate, the intent of the reserves is to avoid any unanticipated surprises in terms of rate shock. Andrew further explained what that means and how it allows CPCNH to pass on those savings to our members. He reviewed a chart that shows an objective of meeting 60 day and then 120 days of cash in reserves. 60 days is the target we've set in the near term. If we get to 120 days, that's the minimum amount of cash in reserve that we need by statute, to become a market participant at ISO New England's wholesale marketplace. That's when we can procure power directly, and cut out the middle parties and pass on savings to our members. We won't continue to accrue reserves. When we get to that point, we will put a hold on it and presumably will be able lower rates even further.

A. Rossetto asked how far away is the 120 day reserves? Andrew said it's probably in 4-5 years if our accrual continues. It's a longer term prospect. Andrew further discussed.

Privacy and security - the Town of Northumberland would not have access to individual customer/resident data. We don't use customer data for marketing, etc.

There are 2 agreements, the Cost Sharing Agreement and the Member Services contract. There is no cost to the Town, which creates some confusion. Cost Sharing is about how we fairly apportion any costs to our member groups so no one community is burdened with the costs of others. It's about how we account for and manage the transactions. There are over 60 member towns. The majority of costs are the cost of managing the contracts for the Town, based on how many megawatt hours we procure. There are some costs, there is a metering cost that Andrew reviewed and there is a long term vision that he explained. It also talks about how we cover the costs and limit liability. No taxpayer funds are expended. All costs are recovered through the revenues of participating members. If anyone steps out of community power, they will not be financially affected.

Cost Reporting and records. The books and records of CPCNH shall be open to each member and it's representatives. We provide our members with a member representation and an alternate, a Town official (Principle Executive Officer). On a monthly basis we alter them to a status report, so you can know exactly where you stand.

Implementation cost – We've been doing this since April 2023, when we started the first 5 years we said the cost to start the coalition would be amortized across participating members who join in the first 5 years period. Andrew further discussed.

When you join the coalition there is a Joint Powers Agreement. The Member Services Contract written by lawyers, it's all about the Town of Northumberland authorizing the CP Coalition to procure power on your behalf. It explains how it's procurement is done, the billing, customer service, and how we manage a transparent public organization. It reiterates the member liability. It authorizes the coalition to procure power on your behalf. It explains that we do rely on staff and third parties. And the Electric Aggregation Plan – the plan that's adopted by the Town, if anything in that plan now or in the future (if amended) is counter to how we operate, we will take that into account. It's your document and yours to manage as you see fit.

Article 7 & 8 - a member may terminate with immediate effect via written notice, providing CPCNH as not authorized power transactions on behalf of the member CPA. You are being asked to appoint an authorized officer so that we have a point of contact to say OK or no go. When we push the button, power is procured for the Town of Northumberland and then contracts exist. Andrew discussed what they would do if a Town wanted to terminate. A contract is generally for 2-3 years, it rolls on unless we call and terminate. We set the horizon for 36 months, it means that you would never be responsible for any contracts purchased longer than 36 months. We would calculate where you are at, how much power is being procured, what we could do with it. We would work out the termination which could be a few months. It has never happened, but it's a provision and it ties in the concept of the joint reserves, Andrew further explained.

An Authorized Officer needs to be appointed but they don't have to have any unilateral authority. You can give the authorized officer authority to do any one of the 3 authorizations in Article VIII. Andrew brought a possible resolution, which doesn't need to be done tonight. We do encourage you to seek legal advice in necessary. The documents cannot be redlined or changed, because they have been adopted by 60 communities and need to be all the same.

A. Rossetto asked - the costs of start-up are amortized costs over 5 years. If they don't come on until the 6th year they don't pay for the amortized cost? Andrew commented that's how the original rules were. It's a fraction of a percent, it's not a huge consideration.

C. Wheeler – before any community members can join, the Town has to approve. It was approved at the last Town meeting. Wheeler asked what the current rate per kwh? Andrew – the residential rate is approx. .13.4, commercial - .12.8. Eversource is currently - .11.2. You can't launch a program until the rates are less than the Eversource rate. Andrew reviewed the PUC, Eversource, the market and rates and how they are set. Northumberland hasn't launched CP yet and are not affected by the rates at this time.

R. Irving - with the broker system, electricity prices followed the Natural Gas trending. By putting it on the market does it make it more independent from Natural Gas? Andrew said not really, the distribution utilities are not in the business of buying and selling power, they are not generating power due to de-regulation. The only responsibility Eversource has is proving a backstop, he further discussed. The 3rd party market has been legal but questionable for consumers. The relationship with Natural Gas in 2022 when the rates were set for 2023, now it is still exposed to that marketplace, they are not setting a rate but they are setting a proxy rate.

A. Rossetto – the .11.4 that Eversource is currently charging, is that difference showing up on our bills? Is it the stranding? Discussion ensued re: the utilities and PUC. Al asked about Solar panels and net metering need to opt out. Andrew – you would not be enrolled and they depend on Eversource to notify us of those customers.

Motion moved by: Al Rossetto, that the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Northumberland hereby authorizes the Town Administration/or Chairman of the Select Board to enter into the Cost Sharing Agreement and Member Services Contract for the Complete Service Bundle with the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire (CPCNH). The Town Administrator /or Chairman of the Select Board are the Authorized Officers and with elections in Exhibit C Article VIII Section 2 of the Agreement being a) "NO", b) "NO", and c) "NO"; and

BE IT FURTHER MOVED, that the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Northumberland hereby approves CPCNH's Data Security and Privacy, Energy Portfolio Risk Management, Rates, and Financial Reserves Policies.

Motion 2nd by: Robin Irving, All in Favor 3-0 – Motion Passed

6. Town Business:

a. Parking Ordinance – J. Weagle - we looked to see what we could do as far as winter parking. We checked with legal and this was the response: A Select Board votes to delegate enforcement authority to regulate parking on town roads and issues parking tickets and/or has vehicles towed when violating a parking ban and it comes out in the two RSAs. This means the Select Board is the ultimate enforcement authority, but they have ability to delegate enforcement of their parking regulations to other officials or departments if they want to. Since we don't have a PD, the Select Board will be the enforcing department. J. Weagle volunteered to step forward in that position to enforce the overnight parking ban. He will give the warnings and/or parking tickets or have vehicles towed if necessary.

Motion to delegate authority to Jim Weagle to enforce the Parking Ordinance by: R. Irving
2nd by: A. Rossetto, 2 in Favor, 1 Abstained.

7. Applications/Permits and Warrants:

a. Abatement Map/Lot (2)

1) 104-287-00-00 - $65.60 – Northumberland Library had a leak in the furnace line, the water didn't go through the sewer.

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

2) 104-112-00-00 - $95.00 – 60 Hillside. The final water and sewer bills was paid by the closing company then the owner got billed too. The amount is $49.

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

b. Zoning Permit Map/Lot 104-112-00-00 – Kyle & Jenna McGee, 60 Hillside Ave. Convert shed/garage area into a mudroom, livable space, closing three existing cement interior, back and sides, pouring a frost wall up in the front, 8' inward from the existing wall, build new front entryway. Add a small pitch in the doorway, vinyl siding, metal roof, front porch will be extended approx. 8' by 6', and replacing existing other three walls with proper material. Robin asked if this is basically an ADU? No, they are making the garage into a laundry room

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

c. Zoning Permit Map/Lot 256-002-00-00 – Patrice McDonough, 158 Lost Nation Rd., Roof mounted solar array, approx. cost - $19,000, they will have 22 panels.

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

8. ****Public Comment:**

- Pete Marshall asked where does the PD stand? J. Weagle said we had a potential candidate, the background check didn't work out. It will be re-advertised. D. Montgomery commented if you have a candidate interested, can you keep the search open until one is found. J. Weagle said we kept the search open, but we only have that one applicant.

- K. Frechette asked about the parking, will you be towing? J. Weagle said yes, 1)warning, 2) a ticket, 3) Towed.

- Chris Roberge asked if the minutes are available online. J. Weagle said we aren't doing it at this time because we couldn't do it consistently, which is a requirement. Could the meetings be recorded? J. Weagle said we have looked into it. Al said he looked into it and feels we should pursue it.

9. **Announcements:** The Town Office will be closed on November 27 & 28, 2025 for the Thanksgiving holiday.

10. **Next Board Meeting Date**: Monday December 1, 2025, at 6:00 pm – NHDOT will be at the meeting for a presentation regarding repairs on the Route 3 bridge.

Energy Comm meeting – November 30th at 6:00 pm. It will be at the Library.

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, A. Rossetto – Yes, R. Irving – Yes

Into Non-Public session at 7:06 pm

a. Employee Matter(s) -

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

Out of Non-Public session at 7:26 pm
Into Regular session at 7:26 pm

The Board agreed on the following dates for Budget workshops - Dec 4, 11, 18.

A. Rossetto said the Planning Board worked on the Master Plan approx. a year ago, but it can't be found. M. Randall said she and Romy will see if they can find it. Briefly discussed missing files.

Briefly discussed the mis-trial case

12. Adjournment:

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:34 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca St. Cyr, Minutes 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).