Town of
Northumberland
Office of Selectmen
19 Main St
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www.northumberlandnh.gov

Town of Northumberland
Board of Selectmen
Budget Work Session - Minutes
Date: Thursday December 11, 2025
Place: Town Meeting Room – 10 Station Square
Time: 1:00 P.M.

Board members present: Jim Weagle, Al Rossetto, Robin Irving
Others present: Elaine Gray, Deb Montgomery, Sheila Smith, Nancy Merrow, Bill Baxley, Pat Akesson, Bonnie Auger, Michelle Randall, Andre Brasseur, Ben Hickey, Mike Simino, Rebecca St. Cyr – Minute Taker

1. **Chairman Opens the Meeting:** J. Weagle opened the meeting at 1:02 pm

2. **Pledge of Allegiance:**

3. **Budget Work Session**

   a. **Library** – N. Merrow - kept a flat budget, recommended 3% increase on the wages, plus a merit increase for one employee of $1.00/hour.

   b. **Town Office** – Reviewed the line items.

      M. Randall - will keep the budget as is, except for wages. J. Weagle asked about the postage and power. Postage for everyone is on the same line, it needs to be separated by department.

      Approached by Stark for Perambulation - $6,000, the cycle is 7 years. It hasn't been done since 2016 or 2017 Michelle will reach to the other 2 towns to see when they were last done. For the further, she hopes to rotate by the year.

      Briefly discussed bank service fees.

      Computer Tech – looking at switching the Library to the current IT company, so everyone has the same domain. Michelle will be looking to get a quote for that and for the Ambulance.

      Fuel Oil – suggested increasing to $3,500.

      Community Power – It won't be in effect until all the other communities are on board. Further discussed.

      Training - Michelle talked about training for Romy and her.

      Admin & Direct Assistance – reviewed the numbers. Tri County Cap has a 30 – 60 day turn around, we could see more applications for fuel assistance. Further discussed fuel assistance and emergency situations.

      Emergency Management -

      Meeting House – briefly discussed wages and why it was over this year.

      Water/Sewer is under General Government, the number is for all buildings.

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c. **Police** – Michelle mentioned a warrant article to see if the Town wants a PD. Michelle and the Board further discussed. Keep as is or have a warrant article for 6 months. The crossing guards have to stay in the budget, plus - rent, electric, water, other minimal fees. Jim recommended presenting as is. Briefly discussed wages.

Prosecutor – Jim will reach out to her.

OTHER:
Culture & Recreation – D. Montgomery spoke about Groveton Beautification. The group of volunteers that have been doing the flowers is asking to be included in this line (4589) as the Groveton Garden Group. Debbie talked about what the group spent in 2025 and an invoice submitted that hasn't been reimbursed yet.

A long discussion ensued regarding the ladies forming a new group for flowers, supplies, etc. to beautify the Town. Where they would like it in the budget instead of being paid as a lump sum with the Charitable Org. They don't want to have a bank account for it, they want to submit an invoice to the Town and get it paid. Talked about a separate warrant article for the group.

Robin commented Primex had an issue with the Town using volunteers due to liability and wouldn't cover them. Jim asked Michelle to check on this with Primex. Discussed other options. Michelle suggested putting it under General Government buildings, in the section with the flags. Further discussed where it could be listed.

N. Merrow commented about the Beautification Comm, can we get them to say they are no longer that committee. They don't need to have a 501c, they just need to make a request and it's put into the warrant article. Michelle gave an example. Other towns require a petition for each organization asking for money.

Debbie asked if Courtney asks for more money does it have to be a warrant article? No, it will go with the charitable's. Last year it was separate. Discussion continued regarding the charitable's. Jim gave an example for one of the charitable's. The Board can recommend or not recommend. If a Petitioned Warrant Article is submitted – we can't change it.

Bill asked if the money for the Beautification Comm is automatic or do they put in for it. Jim explained the process for charitable organizations requesting money. Since the Beautification Comm has been controversial, it will need to be a separate warrant article. If it's approved, we have to give them the money. Robin noted that Lancaster requires them to show up at the meeting.

Discussion continued, some of the charitable organizations don't give local #'s – they are national. Debbie reviewed the Charitable organization in the Town Report for last year. Each one needs to send a letter to request for the next year.

Jim commented that we will ask Primex before the next meeting. The Public Hearing has not been set yet. Michelle googled the question re: volunteers, with what NH Legal has – it should be fine.

Bill commented that this has been informative and he appreciates the Board taking the time to hear. this.

d. **Fire Dept** – Andre Brasseur - last year we budgeted for approx. $90,000. Hoping to increase to $95,000. Went through the line items. He recommended increasing the equipment purchases and

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vehicle repairs – further discussed repairs and what can be done. Andre hopes to ask the Town to purchase a new Fire truck in 2027. He discussed the CRF, using the balance and doing a lease

purchase. Further discussed the trucks, the cost, rotation, etc. There will be a CRF installment this year of approx. $50,000. The oldest truck is a 1990, the next oldest one is a 2002.

Further discussed the budget and the balance that hasn't been spent. Still don't have the new tax rate. Waiting on the State and no money coming in. Talked about what we could do with the old fire truck. Robin talked about AFG grants, SVCA packs, other gear, uniforms, disposing of old equipment. Staffing is short due to firefighters aging out or loss of interest.

The overhead doors where replaced last year. Briefly talked about having a municipal building which would include the Fire Department.

New computer – Andre would like to buy with this year's budget.

e. **Transfer Station** – Paul could not be present. Reviewed the line items. Discussed the wages that he requested. Brian not interested in working for the Highway Dept going forward. Jim isn't sure what is generated thru the sticker sales.

Containers – we bought one earlier this year.

Fees – Put on agenda for Monday's Select Board meeting, ask Paul about the Fees that we're currently paying / charging. Al – it's his understanding the district voted to put on now, he will check into it and report back.

Note – Al Rossetto left the meeting after the Transfer Station section.

f. Recreational – Ben Hickey, Mike Simino – reviewed the line items.
Inflation increases, wage increases. Lifeguards, WSI. Reviewed the WSI certification.
Talked about incentives for WSI, it's physical and intellectual. Doing things to grow the interest with the kids. 13 & 14 year olds - Reviewed other towns and business wages.

Motor on pump needs to be changed.

Reviewed the cost of the passes, covering costs, not pricing out families, general fund.
Based on 6 lifeguards, we pay for the training.

Electricity was up, it will be checked in the spring.

Get a quote for new pump – will contact Reggie for assistance.

Discussed the pool cover life / condition.

Phone – at the pool and the rec center. Insurance requires.

Chemicals the cost went up.

Insurance for the diving board. (Keith)

Rec building maintenance – we fixed a lot last year.

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Jim reviewed the propane tank.

Bus trips –

Entertainment and trips – over, but may not be totally accurate.

The Board will see what can be done on the wages.

Discussed the Flea Market held in the small ballfield – talked about other locations going forward. Issues with others using the field and not cleaning up. Talked about a line item for fees to others that want to hold events there.

Jim briefly noted an issue that will be on the agenda the SB meeting on 12/15.

4. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by: J. Weagle, 2nd by: R. Irving, All in Favor 2-0

Meeting adjourned at 4:57 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Rebeca 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).

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Minutes approved by Northumberland Select Board Members on_____

X _____
Jim Weagle
Northumberland Select Board Chairman

X_____
Robin Irving
Northumberland Select Board Vice Chairman

X_____
Alan Rossetto
Northumberland Select Board Member