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Town of Northumberland
Board of Selectmen
Budget Work Session - Minutes
Date: Thursday December 18, 2025
Place: Town Meeting Room – 10 Station Square
Time: 2:00 P.M.

Board members present: Jim Weagle, Robin Irving
Others present: Jodi Paradis, Debbie Montgomery, Reggie Charron, Jim Tierney, Bob Roby, Elaine Gray, Terri Charron, Kathy Wiles, Michelle Randall, Rebecca St Cyr – Minute Taker

1. **Chairman Opens the Meeting** – J. Weagle opened the meeting at 2:00 pm

1. **USDA – Baiting Feral Swine** – There has been at least one and could be up to 3 feral swine. They want to bait them. There will be info posted at the Town Office with additional information.
M. Randall noted they could have escaped from a farm in Canada, or a farm in VT, they have been seen somewhere along the CT river. The pictures presented looked like the location could be somewhere in No. Stratford. Michelle commented that they can determine which location they came from. And if not from the farms, someone is releasing them.

   Motion to allow the USDA to come in to do surveillance and bait the swine by: R. Irving
   2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 2-0

2. **Budget Work Session**

   a. **The Garden Group - can the flowers go into the budget?**
   M. Randall asked Tammy, who advised the only way to do it is submit a donation letter with your mission and what you are requesting. Jodi asked if the girls had gotten reimbursed yet? J. Weagle said he is working on it. Robin noted that we don't have the power of authority to compel. J. Tierney commented you can put in a petition for a warrant article for reimbursement of funds expended. You can either name the Beautification Com. or the individuals and state the amount to be reimbursed. You would need to get 25 people to sign it. J. Weagle further discussed the Beautification money and what it's been used for, they were up front with what it was going to be used for. Robin thinks it can be simplified by diversion of the 2 groups and what they want to focus on. Debbie noted there is no communication because she won't.

   Debbie had previously questioned Trunk or Treat and is that part of Beautification. Trunk or Treat should be its own thing unless the taxpayers support it. At Town Meeting, the Garden Group's request will be in with the charitable's, unless there are questions asked you won't have to say anything. Jodi asked if this will affect us getting money? Robin didn't think so, discussion continue re: Town Meeting.

   b. **Water/Sewer – Reggie Charron**
   Reggie discussed the Water/Sewer line items with the Board. Lines that didn't change are not listed below.

Water -

Training – keep the same, our renewals are in that amount as well.
Communications – extra $200.00 from last year. Michelle & Reggie discussed further.
Water Computer expense – decrease
Advertising – decreased
Professional Services – decreased
Certified License – decreased
Engineering – decreased – no need for engineering at this time.
Wages – Reggie and the Board discussed COLA, health insurance – not changing until July.
Part-time – did away with
Overtime – increased $5,000/dept – W/S
Mower – same
Other -
Fuel (gas) – decreased
Vehicle maintenance – Decreased to $5,000 (3 vehicles)
Paving – increased to $5,000 – pavement is expensive.
Water pump station maintenance expense – decreased to $2,000
GIS – decreased to $500.00

Conservation / Other – Water treatment
Electricity – increased to $37,000 – Reggie explained.
Water Chemicals – decreased to $4,000 – we are more efficient.

Michelle asked how old is the software that's used for the meter reading. Reggie said it was updated a couple years ago, he further discussed and talked about other software as well.

Sewer -

Wages – discussed above and talked about employee with an increase.
Overtime – increased to $5,000 – discussed above
Building Maintenance – same, includes Fire Hydrant inspections and calibrations for the State.
Equipment Hired and mower – decreased to $7,500 – a lot of the work was done last year.
Pump Stations – Add a line item for a new one on Cumberland St., will need a new line item. Put in $1,000 as an estimate. Talked about adding it on the electricity line.
Vehicle Maintenance – increased to $5,000.
Supplies – increased to $6,500 – Reggie explained.
Wastewater License – keep it open $1.00
Lab Tests – increased to $17,500.
Electricity – increased to $35,000
Chemicals – decrease to $15,000 – better efficiency
Advertising – decreased to $200.00
Office Supplies - $500.00
Postage - $1,200
Leach field project - $6,000 – increased
Dam Permit - increased
Engineering (for testing) – increased to $15,000

Reggie noted that the Water Dept was under budget last year. Sewer is an increase. Discussion ensued re: employee's nearing retirement.

J. Tierney talked about the tax rate and reducing it. The school needs to be looked at, people need to speak up at the school meetings. Discussed the SAU's. The school is losing funding, the budget will be up, population is down throughout the State. Most of the school budget is overall staffing due to mandates. Discussion continued regarding the school, population, positions, etc.

c. **Cemetery –** T. Charron – Terri and Board reviewed each line item.
Keep everything as is except for the mowing contract – increased to $27,000. It's a 3 year contract. Going up $500.00 /year to cover the cost of fuel.

Electricity – J. Weagle suggested going up to $400.00

d. **Elections** – Supervisors of the Checklist - T. Charron reviewed each line item. There are 3 elections this year. Mid-terms, State General and 1 more State election. Terri discussed the number of sessions, hours, hourly rate, and totals. She increased the wages to cover possibly for a new person to train.

Supervisor of the checklist ads - $45.00/ad in the Chronicle, and then on the Town website and Facebook.

Discussed the election workers and Moderator.

Postage – when it was done it was lump sum into the Pitney Bowes account for everything. MR is working on getting it updated to departments.

General Supplies - same

Election equipment – discussed the equipment for handicap, etc. Recommended leaving at $10,000.

Mileage - used for training in Concord.

e. **Town Clerk/Tax Collector** – Kathy Wiles – reviewed each line item with the Board.

TC/TX collector wages are put on a warrant article.

Computer Expense – M. Randall discussed equipment needs, the IT company, etc.

J. Tierney commented there should be a sizeable amount left in the budget for this year to be encumbered and used next year. He suggested putting in an amount for TAN note interest and further discussed. J. Weagle recommended that we put out a notice on the web-site regarding the tax bills.

K. Wiles would like to re-advertise for the Deputy. Discussed restructuring the position from full time to part time. J. Weagle suggested re-advertising for full or part time. Deputy Town Clerk per RSA has to live in Town.

f. **Other** – EMD – Michelle talked to Aaron, he will remain doing it in 2026, the budget is the same.

Briefly discussed the charitable's

R. Irving would like to see the numbers put in and then discuss the CPR #'s, etc.

When the tax rate comes in J. Weagle can take the warrant to Robin. J. Tierney said that 2 Board members need to be on the call from DRA.

Briefly talked about the CRF's – looking at new Fire truck; the sludge, paving, etc.

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

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

Into Non-Public session at 4:20 pm

This Institution Is An Equal Opportunity Provider And Employer

a. Resident Matter – "SEALED"

Motion to come out of Non-Public session by: R. Irving
2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 2—0

Out of Non-Public session at 4:28 pm.

Into Regular session at 4:28 pm.

Motion to seal section a of the Non-Public session by: R. Irving
2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 2-0
Roll call: R. Irving – Yes, J. Weagle - Yes

3. Adjournment:

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

Meeting adjourned at 4:31 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 Chairman

X_____
Robin Irving
Northumberland Select Board Vice Chairman

X_____
Alan Rossetto
Northumberland Select Board Member