Town of
Northumberland
Office of Selectmen
19 Main St
Groveton NH 03582
Phone (603) 636-1450
Fax (603) 636-6098

www.northumberlandnh.gov

Town of Northumberland
Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes - Draft
Date: Monday, February 2, 2026
Place: Town Meeting Room – 10 Station Square

Board members present: Jim Weagle, Al Rossetto
Others present: Michelle Randall, Glenn Cassady, Jim Gibson, Terri & Reggie Charron, Paul Raffenello, Debbie Montgomery, Wayne Montgomery, Kathy Wiles, Rob Roby, Pete Marshall, Norm Cotter, Deb Miles, Melissa Dano, Doug Dano, Sheila Smith, Andre Brasseur, Rebecca St. Cyr – Minute Taker

5:00pm Budget Work Session –

1. **Chaiman Opens the Meeting -** J. Weagle opened the workshop at 5:00 pm.
2. **Budget Work Session –**

Health Insurance – M. Randall reviewed, it's increasing approx. 37.8%. Will need to go out to bid next year. She would like to look into the Insurance Marketplace for a plan that's at the same level. Currently we pay 100% for the employee and 50% spouse. She will look into it further to see if it's even possible. Discussion continued re: health insurance and other possible options, we need to further research.

Wages – Proposing a 4% COLA. Al further discussed. Reggie noted the Board needs to stand up and take care of the people. Al feels we need to take care of the Town's employee's. J. Weagle commented about taking $40,000 off the PD budget. Reggie and Glenn talked about the employee's, being long term, etc.

Police Department – A. Rossetto read the line amounts he would like to keep in the PD budget – crossing guards wages, fuel oil, service contracts, PD electricity, W/S, Rent – total approx. - $96,000. He wants to reduce the PD budget to $96,000.

Al read a warrant article he proposed, it drops the bottom line by $530,888. J. Weagle commented that we already have the PD in the budget; this is to establish a PD. Al wants the Town to vote on whether we have a PD or not. Discussion ensued regarding the proposal, Al wants us to get out of this building due to the cost. Jim said the PD still gets used by State Police.

Glenn noted it sounds like what you're asking is the Board doesn't recommend having a PD. You are better off to let the citizens do it. J. Weagle was concerned about removing it completely and further discussed. Glenn – the Board should be supportive of a PD, he suggested letting the people bring a warrant article forward.

J. Gibson – the Fire Dept is not a place to have a bunk room. If we lose this building he could lose 4 people. Terri – if you get rid of the building you're going to lose ambulance attendants, we won't have a place for the elections. Discussed using or not being able to use school gym. Reggie – he agrees with Jim and Terri. In theory, you should let it go to the people and let them decide. As a businessperson, he would like to see a PD in some form. The Board needs to be unified on the decisions that are made. A petitioned warrant article would be best. Further discussed the PD budget and making some cuts. Michelle will review and reduce by approx. $100,000, she briefly reviewed lines that could be cut.

The Budget Hearing is scheduled for February 10th, which is the same night as the School's Budget Hearing. Al suggested changing it to the snow day on February 12th. He feels it's important that people have the option of attending both.

K. Wiles asked about the internet talked about earlier, Michelle said it's for this building, not the office building.

Town Clerk/Tax Collector –
Computer expense – Software - $3,917.00; to move to the cloud - $500.00 server work, data base work - $200.00; plus $100.00 per station (6) - Total $1,300.00. The MRI software support is $3,900 – taxes; $2,400 for utilities – Total increase $14,467. Bottom Line changes to $100,066.

Reviewed Financial Admin – Assessing services - $270.00 increase for Summit software. $16,595. Bottom line - $248,055.

Ambulance - phones, cellphones, hot spots – approx. $250.00/month. Michelle further discussed the costs.

Rec Center – There was discussion about a substantial increase for the employee's due to losing people to other places.

Administration and Direct Assistance – Michelle reviewed the Charitable Org. the current bottom number is $39,002 for those that we've heard from; still waiting on some, they have until the 10th. The Groveton Garden Group, Michelle said it will be put forward (by the SB) as a warrant article. Al thought it was going to be a budget line item and not a warrant article for $1,500. D. Montgomery understood that it was going to be a budget line item as well. Talked about the issue further, Michelle will further review. J. Weagle noted it will be added to the budget.

Water/Sewer – Reggie – the handheld equipment that Keith uses for Water, Microsoft is no longer supporting mobile. Michelle explained how the process currently works. The meter reader, purchased in 2018, we have no record of it being serviced. It will be sent out for service, it will work with a new tablet. Everything connects to a tablet, the cost is $4,400. To stay with the original software the cost is $6,600. The $4,200 will be covered under a current line item for support.

Highway – Salt – Glenn said nobody has any. The supply/stockpiles have been depleted due to all the storms. His supplier can't get us any until March. Glenn plans to stockpile it when he can get some. $57.000 was put into the budget as previously discussed.

February 12th is the Public Hearing. It's been posted as the 10th – so we still have to meet to re-schedule to the 12th.

Briefly discussed the minutes and posting on the internet. J. Weagle explained

3. **Adjournment –**

Motion to adjourn the budget workshop by: A. Rossetto, 2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 2-0

Budget Workshop adjourned at 6:10 pm

6:00pm Selectboard Meeting

1. **Chairman Opens the Meeting –** J. Weagle opened the Select Board meeting at 6:10 pm.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance -** All

3. **Acceptance of Minutes: January 20, 2026**

Motion to approve the January 20, 2026 minutes by: A. Rossetto, 2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 2-0

4. Department Head Business: Highway and Water Sewer

Highway – Glenn Cassady, Road Agent
Extremely busy with the storms, most weeks we had 3 storms to clean up in Dec and Jan. The last load of salt delivered was Dec 8th, it lasted about a week and a half. The sun is getting higher, the hills are melting today. We're using a lot of sand, and have gone 2/3's of it. We have cut back on treating the back roads, it's working with people being cautious. Glenn further discussed.

Salt - Glenn called the salt distributor who said we will be lucky to have some by March 1. There is a zoom meeting tomorrow to brainstorm on what people are doing to get by.

We've been using Brian Hurlbutt and Reggie's crew has been helping. The people have been patient and understandable. The big storm (8"-10" of snow) – Glenn went out just after midnight. It took him 4 1/2 hours and did the route 3 times to push back the snow. Last week we spent time on the side roads to open both sides of the road. He hopes the citizens are happy with what we have gotten cleaned up. In the spring there could be sand on lawns.

We've had a couple of breakdowns - a hydraulic hose, the other big plow truck hit a manhole, which bent the blade, took a chuck out of it, bent the board and part of the a-frame on the truck.. We filed a $10,000 claim with the insurance co. We fixed it the best we could – it was going to be 2-3 months for the repair.

Overtime – averaging 20 hrs. per week. Winter isn't over yet!!

D. Montgomery asked about the sidewalk on the State bridge. Glenn said they need to come in and clean it off.

Al commented the State had a grader on Lost Nation Rd. winging the snowbanks back, today they were doing it again. Our truck is working because the crew goes out of their way to fix things and keep us working. Thank you Glenn

Water/Sewer – Reggie Charron, Superintendent
Water – everything has been great.

We had a couple of calls where homes had frozen-up. He puts out a message on social media to keep the water trickling.

The 4th quarter water bills are out and the payments are coming in.

Bart has been cleaning out the hydrants and certain areas with gate valves. We have been trying to stay ahead of things.

LCRR Grant – we contracted with Weston & Samson Engineering. The $60,000 grant he got allowed him to do this. We still have 230 unknowns. Reggie discussed the contract, the Town will only use approx. $43,300 of the $66,000. They will handle the regulations, etc. Their cost is $16,700. If the Board will sign and Reggie will get it scanned and sent out tomorrow.

> Motion to have the Chairman sign the documents by: A. Rossetto
> 2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 2-0

Sewer:
The lagoons are freezing up, it took him all day to thaw things out and get things flowing. Reggie further discussed.

The crew has been good and working diligently. Trying to make deadlines and stay ahead of things.

5. Requested Agenda Matters:

a. Odir Silva – not here.

b. Paul Raffenello – He and Rob Roby have been running the Meeting House. He has been involved with the No. Stratford depot. The building is now on the registry of historic buildings. He went to the Town to ask about the Meeting House, and was told if he wants it open he would have to run it. Last year it was open 4 days / week.

He is trying to plan for the 2026 season, it's an incredible building. Recommended changing to the 1779 Meeting House and Museum. It's across the street from the historic Ft. Wentworth, Al noted when the owner bought the property they said it would be open to the public. Paul has been talking with the owner who is redoing the barn, there is a lot of interest of Ft. Wentworth.

There were a lot of people that visited the Meeting House last year. He asked the Board if they would like him to pursue getting it on the NH registry. J. Weagle said we tried 9-10 years ago but we were told no due to the ramp. Rob noted there is paperwork of when Buzzy worked on that.

Discussed the number of visitors, putting more signage up, people are donating artifacts. J. Weagle commented that after Town Meeting we will have a better idea. Further discussed the benefits of being on the registry. The Board agreed to allow Paul to pursue getting it on the State Historic Registry and further discussed.

Al asked if Paul has the technology to put a link on the Town website for the Meeting House page. Lets take this asset and market it. Rob said there is a NH Visitors Guide that we could possibly advertise it in. J. Weagle will contact a person in charge of it. Sheila thought an official driveway might be helpful.

c. Energy Committee – W. Montgomery said the energy committee is working on a couple of projects, not just the streetlights, but also doing an evaluation of energy savings on municipal buildings. Wayne said we are looking for a $5,000 CRF to promote needs and have a need we would have funds to cover. It would be included at Town Meeting as a warrant article. There is a proposal for replacing the lights with LED's that will save us approx. $21,000. Al said it would be a 5 year lease, then we own them. It will be a warrant article for Town Meeting. Reggie noted that we got a grant a few years ago and all his buildings have been done.

6. Town Business:

a. Town Report Printing Estimate - 1) Smith & Town Printing – 450 copies - $2,051; 2) Select Print Solutions - 500 copies - $2,765 – Select Print Solutions. D. Montgomery asked about Colebrook Copy Center. – M. Randall said they were not on her list so they were not sent a request.

Motion to approve Smith & Town Printing by: A. Rossetto, 2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 2-0

M. Randall talked about a picture for the cover. She asked about having a photo contest for next year for a cover picture. Maybe put something on the website asking people to submit pictures as part of a contest. Set up a committee to select the winner and do it yearly.

b. LCRR Water Grant – previously discussed

7. Applications/Permits and Warrants:

a. Zoning Permit Map/Lot 107-095-00-00 – Paul L., 18 Spring St. Residential re-roofing project.

Motion to approve by: A. Rossetto, 2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 2-0

8. **Public Comment:

- Paul Raffenello asked about the bid for painting the train. J. Weagle said we didn't receive any bids. Paul said he contact the company that paints the railcars for Conway Scenic but they didn't call him.

- Deb Miles – asked how many applicants are there for Selectmen and Town Clerk. K. Wiles announced.
  1 year – Chris Roberge, Jim Tierney, Kimberly Thurston, Gerry Crompton
  3 year – Wayne Montgomery, Jim Weagle

Supervisor of the Checklist – Jennifer Woburn
Town Clerk/Tax Collector – Kathy Wiles

9. Announcements:

10. Next Board Meeting Date:
Budget Hearing February 10, 2026, snow date – February 12th – 6:00 pm
Regular Selectmen Meeting Tuesday February 17, 2026
Planning Board Meeting – February 4, 2026 at 6:00 pm – Town Office Conf Rm.

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: J. Weagle, All in Favor 2-0
Roll Call: A. Rossetto – Yes, J. Weagle - Yes

Into Non-Public session at 6:55 pm

a. Public Matter - Reputational
b. Residential Matter - Reputation
c. Employee Matter -

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

Out of Non-Public session at 7:18 pm

Into Regular Session at 7:18 pm

Motion to hire Melody Barney as part-time Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector by: A. Rossetto 2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 2-0

12. Adjournment:

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca St. Cyr – Minute Taker/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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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