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Town of Northumberland
Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes - Draft
Date: Tuesday January 20, 2026
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, Pete Marshall, Norm Cotter, Judy Fox, Kathy Wiles, Bill Baxley, Nancy Merrow, Sheila Smith, Debbie Montgomery, Wayne Montgomery, Andre Brasseur, Terri & Reggie Charron, 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: January 5, 2026**

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

4. **Department Head Business:**

Fire Dept – A. Brasseur – Chief

7 calls for service since the last report.

83 calls for service in 2025, 2024–81 calls, 2023–75 calls. It's slowly increased over the last few years. But compared to years past, it's kind of quite because of fire safety and fire prevention.

Of the 7 calls:
2 - Utilized the OHRV to help 1) Stratford on the Westside, Nash Stream, 2) In Odell at Forest home.
1 - Marshall Corner a MV crash.
2 - Commercial fire alarms at Mom's / Mom's Powersports building.
1 - We had a call to help the ambulance with lifting,
1 - Helped Stark with a MV crash.

We have our water running at the Fire Station to prevent the line freezing.

All the trucks are running well.

Looking forward to this coming budget year, we asked to increase our budget by $5,000 overall, $2,500 more in our equipment purchasing line, and $2,500 more in our vehicle maintenance line because of our aging fleets costing us more to maintain.

We way overspent that line last year, and then we overspent our equipment line purchasing line.

We do that every year just because we're constantly paying quite a catch up when it comes to replacing and purchasing.

P. Marshall commented that during the recent vehicle rollover by Marshall corner, the Fire Dept did an amazing job. Andre said it's a tough spot, and it was an ice storm, we spread out to give people enough warning.

Ambulance – EMS Chiefs Report - J. Weagle read the report.

1. We closed out 2025 with 464 calls of which 290 were transports.

2. 2026 as of the printing of this report we are at 24 calls for service.

3. 2025 at this time we had 22 calls.

4. Comstar report at of 01/05/2026, new payments of $273.815.82.

5. Contracts for next year's EMS coverage have been sent to all towns.

6. All ambulances are at par and in service.

7. Due to the recent changes with billing in New Hampshire as well as changes with Medicare and Medicaid. I, with the assistance of Michelle, have been renewing paperwork and contracts with insurances since the beginning of the new year. It has been a long laborious process and still on going.

Al – 2010 – 2015 – calls averaged over 550; 2017 was the highest at 650 calls, 2022 – 497, 2023, 467, 2024 – 538; 2025 - 464 calls. A very busy department, for a small crew, they do a great job.

5. Requested Agenda Matters:

a. Northumberland Energy Committee – working on a proposal to replace the high pressure sodium streetlights in town with LED's. Dave Auger is involved in this. The life expectancy is 20 years; savings to the Town over the 20 years is in the hundreds of thousands. Dave is working on it and hopes to have a report for the next meeting. Al further discussed the lights, it's a turnkey operation, the fixtures would be replaced by the company; the product has a 5 year warranty. Other towns have had good luck with them.

6. Town Business:

a. Potential New Planning Board Member – Mark DeGennaro – recently moved to Town, he is interested in joining the Planning Board and Energy Committee.
Motion to appoint Mark DeGennaro to both the Planning Board and the Energy Committee by: A. Rossetto, 2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 2-0

b. Kathy Wiles – Online Fees – If anyone orders a vital record online we mail it in a large envelope. It's costing the Town $1.32, we are charging $1.00. With postage continually rising, she would like to raise the online fee to $2.00 for vital records only.
Motion to approve the increase by: A. Rossetto, 2nd by: R. Irving, All in Favor 3-0

c. Water Emergency Plan Report – R. Charron said it's a mandated 5 year update for both water systems. With the help of Terri and the office, we found the format in PDF and transferred it to docs so it could just be updated. All three of the Board members need to sign. Terri said there is also a certification letter. He will be remailing them out asap, they are due March 31st.
Motion to sign the Lost Nation Water System Emergency Plan and the Groveton Water System Emergency Plan by: A. Rossetto, 2nd by: R. Irving, All in Favor 3-0

Reggie will be making approx. 5 copies that will be distributed to several departments in Town.

d. Inventory of Taxable Property – Stark – PA 28 form that's signed yearly.
Motion to sign the PA 28 form by: A. Rossetto, 2nd by: R. Irving, All in Favor 3-0

e. North Country Council – If we want to rejoin North Country Council, it's been 2-3 years since we were a member. The cost is $1,850, but if we need anything we pay over and above the membership fee. R. Irving discussed the benefits of being a member. She attends meetings and has knowledge beyond what you would get from emails. It's networking, the value of networking, economic development, and objectives that overlap. K. Wiles asked if it would benefit Michelle? Robin suggested she talk with their rep. to see if it would be beneficial to her. Robin further discussed NCC.

Motion to table until Michelle talks with NCC by: A. Rossetto
2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 3-0

f. Infinity streetlight - tabled for Dave's report.

g. Veteran's Credit – approved is 2023 – wasn't applied, candidate filled out a new form.
Motion to approve the Veteran's Credit by: A. Rossetto
2nd by: R. Irving, All in Favor 3-0

5. Applications/Permits and Warrants: None

6. ***Public Comment:

- J. Kennett asked does the previous Town Administrator still work for the Town. She is a consultant and is providing training for Michelle and Romy on Fridays. R. Irving said she does statewide training for every office, some of this is through her job at NHMA and some is bridging us. We have yet to post a position for the Financial Director, until that happens she is still assisting.

  Reggie noted that we are in a critical time with Town Meeting soon. We have Town Reports that need to go out. Who is doing all that information? J. Weagle said it's Michelle and Romy that are putting it together. Jim said we are working on it. Robin discussed the Financial position and getting it done asap.

- K. Wiles noted the amount collected in taxes to date is - $563,486.00.

- D. Montgomery asked why the position hasn't been posted? J. Weagle said we have been working on it. Robin further discussed, she doesn't know why. There has been an expectation that the Town Administrator does the finances. It was beneficial to have someone with that criteria, but it's supposed to be separated for checks and balances between each of the departments. Michelle is really responsible for the oversight, it's broader that just doing the data entry and manipulation. We will get there!

- W. Montgomery asked when was the Town aware that this position needs to be filled. Robin said it was from the beginning when we hired Michelle. J. Weagle said there has been a lot going on, but Wayne noted that doesn't answer the question. R. Irving said the office is understaffed without this person, they are doing well with the resources they have, but the Financial Director is a key position. Wayne asked how we will be ready, Robin said Tammy has been helping. There are 2 reports that the accountant did – expenditures and revenues. The other departments do their own reports.

Reggie, on behalf of the Departments, when we code bills we've noticed discrepancies. He has a concern on some of the numbers / line items. Robin further discussed, it's a lot of work. Romy does very well but if we get into a crunch she is willing to help.

- N. Cotter asked when are we supposed to receive our tax bills. K. Wiles said they are supposed to be out in November and due in December. She didn't get the warrant, when she got the warrant they were done and mailed the same day. Norm hasn't received his bill yet, Kathy will mail him another one.

- J. Fox asked how are we coming with getting a Police Chief? There have been no applications. Judy said the parking at both schools is getting out of hand. At the HS, they pull up on the sidewalk, they are blocking Eames St., parking out front w/o going onto the snowbank. She noted the Ambulance had to go out and if it had been 5 minutes earlier there would be no place to park. Discussion continued regarding the parking issues. Those turning onto Eames St. are not watching out, she's afraid someone is going to get hurt.

  R. Irving – we are talking and trying to come up with a solution. The position has been reposted. The Town suffers from negative stigma, until that changes and we support the staff we have it will continue.

  S. Smith asked if we contracted out for police help. J. Weagle commented that the State Police come in when they are available, it's random. Lancaster has been helping by responding when the State Police are not available. R. Irving noted there is a grant for overtime, Lancaster has that grant. She doesn't have any answers right now, but it could be another bridge.

  S. Smith asked if the crosswalk people can do anything? Judy said we remind them. State Police does emergency only. J. Weagle said we tried to have him issuing tickets, but he doesn't have access to DMV. He can have them towed, but usually the cars are only there a short time.

  Al asked why the School Board isn't being more pro-active on this since it's children's safety. Jim said we can't enforce what isn't on our property. Al commented can't we put something on the windshield of cars as a warning. Al feels we need to do something, it's better than nothing. Discussion continued re: the parking, pick-ups, drops off, putting cones out. J Weagle said we will work on it.

- N. Cotter would like to know where the cruiser is right now. J. Weagle said it's secured but we can't say where it is. It's being stored for our benefit, we are not paying rent.

- R. Irving needs the dates for when the Budget and Warrant Public Hearings will be. The Board further discussed.

- N. Cotter asked when the tax bill will be due. K. Wiles explained it was post marked 1/6/26 and it's due 2/6/26. She will send a copy, it will still be due on 02/06. Reggie understands that all the mail is going to Concord to be counted. J. Weagle said the PO is trying to get it so that it's not post marked until they send it out. K. Wiles said she post marks them in the office with a machine.

  J. Kennett asked why were the tax bills not sent when they should have been. J. Weagle explained – we had some forms that weren't done, we also had some info that we were waiting on, which didn't get done on time. When everything was done, it took time to get through DRA. Robin said DRA was backed up as well, we were told in September that we wouldn't see the rate(s) until Jan or Feb.

7. **Announcements:** Energy Committee meeting on 1/30, 10:00 am at the Town office. It will be posted.

8. **Next Board Meeting Date**: February 2, 2026

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

Motion to go into Non-Public 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 6:50 pm.

a. Employee matter -

Motion to come out of 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

Out of Non-Public session at 7:31 pm.

Into Regular session at 7:31 pm.

10. 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
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).

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