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
Special Town Meeting and
Regular Meeting Minutes - Draft
Date: Monday, April 20, 2026
Place: Town Meeting Room – 10 Station Square
Time: 6:00 P.M.

Board members present: Jim Tierney, Al Rossetto, Wayne Montgomery
Others present: Davin Lyon, Jennifer Lyon, Deb Miles, Tracey Morrill, George Kenison, Dan Ayer, Judy Fox, Debbie Montgomery, Kathy Wiles, Patricia Akesson, Robert Akesson, Kathy Frechette, Mark DeGennaro, Starlyn Dupont, Reginald Charron, Andre Brasseur, Ren Pluta, Ruth Lupine McDonough, Grace Phillips, Kerri Normand, Jamie Normand, Dean A. Wiles, Rena Kirk, Rose & Doug Menzies, Raymond & Joanne Benoit, Kyler Kenison, Terri Charron, Rebecca St. Cyr - Minute Taker/Transcriber

6:00pm - Special Town Meeting - Kathy Wiles is taking the notes for the Special Town Meeting.

1. **Moderator Opened the Special Town Meeting -** K. Young opened the Special Town Meeting at 6:00 pm
2. **Article 1: Special Warran Article**

   Shall the Town vote to ratify the results of the March 14, 2026 annual meeting, even though the posting requirements were not met? (majority vote required)

3. **Adjournment of Special Town Meeting -** 6:03 pm

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

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Chairman Opens the Selectboard Meeting - J. Tierney opened the regular meeting at 6:03 pm

1. **Pledge of Allegiance -** All

2. **Acceptance of Minutes: April 14, 2026**
   Motion to accept the April 14, 2026 minutes by: W. Montgomery
   2nd by: A. Rossetto, All in Favor 3-0

3. **Department Head Business: Ambulance/Fire Dept -**
   Fire Department - Andre Brasseur
   Since last report
   6 calls for service
   28 calls YTD, 3 less than this time last year
   The 6 calls were as follows:
   1 - pellet stone malfunction
   1- pellet stove smoke issue
   1 - TT rollover
   1 - call at the Elem School - CO alarm - faulty detector head
   1 - Melcher Court - medical alarm
   1 - Lancaster to the hospital - it was taken care of quickly and didn't go anywhere.

   Andre wants to sell the 2015 Ford and will post an ad. There is some equipment that's still in it, radio, siren, and light control unit. There is a member of the Department that's interested in it. Andre would like to leave the equipment in it and give to buyer. J. Tierney said we would need to check with Chief Kenison on that.

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It's not in great shape, the check engine light is on that's why it was retired as a police cruiser. Andre further discussed, it will be sold as is.

He hasn't heard anything yet from the grant that was applied for. J. Tierney hasn't heard anything either.

Ambulance - EMS Chiefs Report - J. Tierney read the EMS Chiefs Report - 04/20/2026

1. 2026 as of this printing at noon today, we have had 127 calls for service to date.
2. 2025 on this date we were at 127 calls for service.
3. Comstar report as of 04/13/2026, $70,265.79. This does not include payments made directly to the office or 2026 contract fees.
4. A1 has a fuel leak that has developed. Trying to book an appointment ASAP as the fuel is not cheap. A2 is at par with no issues to report.

Police Department - Chief Kenison
99 calls for service over the last 2 weeks, he took care of 76 and the State Police responded to the remainder. New officer, Kevin Deluca, will be starting Wednesday, 04/23/26. Hope to have him on his own over the weekend.

We would like to attend community events, let us know if/when there is an event scheduled.

Al asked how is he doing with the new cruiser. Chief Kenison is waiting for M. Randall to get back, we need to go over the funding. The Town's portion was $77,000. The cruiser cost $54,000 if it's more he has funds in the Revolving Fund. We have some of the equipment on hand and the rest will be ordered.

4. Requested Agenda Matters:

a. John Normand - Kerri Normand (representing John), they would like to know what's being done about the Jason Hopps property. J. Tierney said a letter has been sent to him back in October and his Attorney has responded, he has a year to get it taken care of. She asked if the Board has been up to look at the mess. Tierney said no he hasn't been up there. Kerri asked how he can be living in a camper since August 7th without running water or sewer. A. Rossetto said he was involved with getting the process started, it will take a long time. Al noted the State laws, Tierney said it's in our Zoning and Planning ordinances. Jamie said it's a health hazard with a homeless person living there, and he can't sell his house with Hopps still there. Al commented that we don't have a health officer right now. Jamie said you can hire one from another town/city and he will pay for it. Al said the Town Administrator will be back next week and he will work on it and get back to Jamie by the end of next week.

   Kerri read the ordinance - she wants to know why this hasn't been addressed. Jamie noted that Hopps hasn't started to build anything, doesn't intend to build anything, and he hasn't fully cleaned up the mess. Al said he doesn't have a home there, he's living in a camper with no power, no W/S. Al will review with the new Town Administrator and get back to him.

   Kerri commented that it looks like a junk yard. If there are 2 unregistered vehicles on the property a junk yard permit is required. Has anyone followed up on that? Jamie said that includes the neighbor across the street, this is the reason why we can't get anyone to come to this town and the reason he is losing thousands of dollars every week, because he can't sell his house. 5 houses have sold since his has been for sale. The neighborhood doesn't care, it's a disgrace. It looks like Beirut!! J. Tierney added that whenever we have gone to court, we've lost. Kerri said to her knowledge the PD can't enforce anything until the Select Board

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and/or the Town does something. Jamie said it's unacceptable, ultimately you have to have a plan. You can't live on property in a camper. Kerri added there were 2 BMW's on the property that were not registered and she's not sure about his truck. K. Wiles you can't ask her or the DMV, you can ask him, if you ask the Chief he can't tell you either. E. Brown - if the Chief checked into it and found they were unregistered, he could issue a ticket.

D. Lyon said if it's on his private property the Chief can't charge him with having an unregistered vehicle unless it's on a public way.

J. Tierney will check with Lancaster to see if their health officer will come up to inspect. Jamie further discussed his property and other properties that have sold. Kerri and Jamie want to be kept in the loop with what's going on.

5. Town Business:

a. Ambulance - Maidstone Contract - $10,275
Motion to sign the Ambulance Agreement with Maidstone by: W. Montgomery
2nd by: A. Rossetto, All in Favor 3-0

6. Applications/Permits and Warrants:

a. Zoning Permits - Map/Lots -

1. #104-140-00-00 - Michael and Brenda Fatula - add a storage shed in back yard, wooden fence approx. 6' from Property line. Al discussed zoning permits and building permits and why we changed from building to zoning.
Motion to sign by: A. Rossetto, 2nd by: W. Montgomery, All in Favor 3-0

2. #246-030-00-00 - Tracey Morrill - Rebuild porches, repair/replace window and door and finish siding on drive side of house, relocate a bathroom from the north wing to the back porch. Start demo of north wing if time allows.
Motion to sign by: A. Rossetto, 2nd by: W. Montgomery, All in Favor 3-0

b. Non Resident Transfer Station - Map/Lot -

1) #104-096-00-00 - renewal, fee has been paid.
Motion to sign by: A. Rossetto, 2nd by: W. Montgomery, All in Favor 3-0

7. **Public Comment:

- S. Dupont - on behalf of Diane Daley asked for approval of a raffle permit for Caron's Gateway/EXP - Pedal Palooza ride for a Cause. They are raffling a Northeast custom E Bike. Tickets are: 1/$15.00 - 4/$50.00. Please confirm the date of the event with the Town Office.
Motion to authorize the Chair to sign by: A. Rossetto, 2nd by: W. Montgomery, All in Favor 3-0

- D. Lyons presented a letter w/attachments to the Select Board in regards to a Planning Board member that is also on the Select Board. J. Tierney asked Lyon why he feels Rossetto should disqualify himself. D. Lyon noted he is a business partner with Verizon Wireless in CT. A. Rossetto said he has no contract with Verizon Wireless, the lease holder for the cell tower on his property in CT has the contract. The ground lease has Verizon on it, but it means nothing to him.

D. Lyon commented that during the April Planning Board meeting Mr. Rossetto indicated that he is in favor of the cell tower because he has no service going back and forth to his residence. Al commented about the tower on Morse Mtn benefiting everyone in Town. D. Lyon is only referring to Rossetto and not everyone in Town, the statute clearly defines it - when there is any personal interest.

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D. Ayer asked about a bill in the State now, has it pasted yet? J. Tierney said he hasn't seen anything come back yet.

J. Tierney will need to check with the NHMA lawyer on this. Where he has a tower, does it automatically disqualify him. D. Lyon - personal interest should cover it. Tierney said he should have an answer at the May 4th meeting.

A. Rossetto - despite the animosity, he is hoping to get the information for the next Planning Board meeting, he will pass it on to the public. He queried the applicant and was told it would be after May 4th. J. Tierney - recusal is about discussion and voting on it.

- E Brown asked about the Covered Bridge, it was talked about when Tammy was here, she was going to find funding for it. It looks horrible and has for years. Tierney said the grant was for 5mil, the lead paint and broken wood could be remediated with a composite product. Brown asked if the new Town Administrator could look into it, Tierney said yes and reviewed her schedule.

- D. Ayer noted that any discussion on the cell tower should be in a public forum. The Board agreed.

- K. Wiles - we applied for a 1mil grant, we made it to stage 2 and were beat out. She didn't apply for the 5mil due to resigning. AHEAD is planning to do some work on the train but not the bridge.

- M. DeGennaro said any proposal for the cell tower needs to be a new application and not a continuation of the current application. A. Rossetto said we recessed the Public Hearing, he researched the State law and found that for the Planning Board to turn it down, there has be to significant defect. The Public Hearing was recessed and the applicant was going back to see what they could do. We are planning to reopen the Public Hearing on May 13th. Tierney commented that significant defect is a question for the lawyer.

  M. DeGennaro noted that if the first application is deemed defective or otherwise is one issue. If the developer comes back and wants to relocate the tower, if there is any change a new application is required and everything starts over. A. Rossetto agreed with Mark. Mark said the applicant will need to rescind the current application. Al thinks the Planning Board will need to deny it. We might need to have the Town Atty here as well.

  R. McDonough asked if there is a public record of the process that's happened with Verizon since the April 1st meeting. She wasn't aware they were revising their application before the May 13th meeting. The purpose was so we could gather information and consult with experts based on their application. If it changes then the work we're doing to consult with experts, lawyers, the time, and work might not be what the application that we are responding to. A. Rossetto reached out to Will, he didn't have an answer yet, but would have it sometime after May 4th. Al further discussed.

  The Public Hearing is scheduled for May 13th . D. Lyon said one of the other Select Board members can fill in for Al if he does recuse. Ms. McDonough understands there is a shot clock (legally) that begins when the application has been accepted as complete. Al said yes, it's 65 days. If the Planning Board hasn't made a decision, you are required to accept the application. At the March 4th meeting, the abutters had not been alerted, and the application was accepted as complete. The 65 days comes before the May 13th meeting, if they change the application we are in a bit of a spiral, she wants to be sure we don't get stuck in the rules.
  Al said he understands the clock started when we held the Public Hearing, when the Planning Board accepted their application. T. Morrill said it was in the March 4th minutes where the Planning Board

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approved the application as complete. D. Lyon said the attorneys are going to say because you accepted as complete on March 4th, that's 5 days before May 13th.

Ms. McDonough noted there is another Federal shot clock that's 150 days. Al feels the Town Atty needs to review this whole matter, and further discussed. J. Tierney suggested that Al call the Town Atty. Al said he's not trying to hide anything. D. Lyons doesn't want a cell tower 500' from his house.

- K. Frechette - on one of the zoning permits, are they aware they can renew? She also discussed a grate across from the tracks, Reggie said it's a storm drain, he will have it taken care.

- T. Morrill - it's his understanding there is another application for a cell tower; Reggie commented there was talk of another one. Al noted that when they looked for sites they looked at the property near the water tower, but there is a conservation easement and it's not allowed. J. Tierney asked if the water tower was there before or after the easement. If it was after the easement, it can be broken. Reggie said it was only discussion, there was not an application. W. Montgomery noted there is a forestry easement on the property.

- McDonough asked about the definition of significant defect. Does that come from either the laws and our Town ordinances or only the legal grounds. Those 2 things are not the same and she is wondering if that's an automatic answer from the Town. Al went back and researched case law, according to what he could find, most of the time when a Town denied a cell tower because of opposition - the cell tower went in. When they came up with professional studies in the area, and environmental damage there was success in stopping the tower. The neighborhood complaints where discarded by the Court. J. Tierney said it's the language of the RSA's, we make suggestions but the lawyers write the laws.

- K. Wiles - We received a thank Food Pantry - J. Tierney read.
  Town of Northumberland, thank you so very much for supporting our efforts to provide for the members of our communities. This $5,000 check will allow us to make sure our neighbors have food this coming year.

8. Announcements:

9. Next Board Meeting Date: May 4, 2026, 6:00 pm

10. 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: W. Montgomery, All in Favor 3-0
Roll Call - J. Tierney - Yes, A. Rossetto - Yes, W. Montgomery - Yes

Into Non-Public session at 7:08 pm

a. Tax Collector

Motion to come out of Non-Public Session by: A. Rossetto
2nd by: W. Montgomery, All in Favor 3-0

Out of Non-Public Session at 7:54 pm

Into Regular Session at 7:54 pm

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Motion to SEAL the minutes of the Non-Public Session - section a. by: A. Rossetto
2nd by: W. Montgomery, All in Favor 3-0
Roll call: J. Tierney - Yes, A. Rossetto - Yes, W. Montgomery - Yes

11. Adjournment:

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 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 _____
James Tierney
Northumberland Select Board Chairman

X_____
Alan Rossetto
Northumberland Select Board Vice Chairman

X_____
Wayne Montgomery
Northumberland Select Board Member