Town of
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Town of Northumberland
Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes - Draft
Date: Monday, May 18, 2026
Place: Town Meeting Room – 10 Station Square
Time: 6:00 P.M.

Board members present: Jim Tierney, Al Rossetto, Wayne Montgomery
Others present: C. R. Wheeler, Bob Roby, Judy Fox, Mike Fox, Kathy Frechette, Deb Miles, Amber Rock, George Kenison, Bart & Niki Merriam, Bill Baxley, Nancy Merrow, Doug Dano, Melissa Dano, Adriana Dano, ??. Pete Marshall, Norm Cotter, Debbie Montgomery, Kathy Wiles, Lupin McDonough, James Gibson, Clint Bramlett, Kyler Kenison, Rebecca St. Cyr - Minute Taker/Transcriber

1. **Chairman Opens the Meeting -** J. Tierney opened the meeting at 6:00 pm

2. **Pledge of Allegiance -** All

3. **Acceptance of Minutes: May 4, 2026; May 11, 2026**

   Motion to accept the minutes of the May 4, 2026 & May 11, 2026 meetings by: A. Rossetto
   2nd by: W. Montgomery, All in Favor 3-0

   There were no questions or comments.

4. **Department Head Business: Ambulance/Fire Dept/PD**

   Ambulance - Jim Gibson, EMS Chief

   1. 2026 as of this printing at noon today, we have had 144 calls for service to date.
   2. 2025 on this date we were at 157 calls for service.
   3. Comstar report as of 05/15/2026, $93,100.70. This does not include payments made directly to the office or 2026 contract fees. Almost all the contract fees have been paid except one.
   4. A-1 is still hemorrhaging fuel, waiting for an opening to get it looked at. Garage said it may have to go back to the ambulance company in Rumford, Maine to be addressed.
   5. Coverage is thin; I am back to being on 24/7. This time of year, until fall we see people drop off. If you know anybody that's interested in helping their community and neighbors, please send them my way.
   6. Today is the start of EMS week, it goes from the 18th to the 23rd. We will be out doing CPR classes for a couple of businesses in town as well as visiting participating schools this week. If you see a provider out and about, please thank them for their service.

   Jim asked for thoughts and prayers for the Searsmont, ME volunteer fire department for their recent loss experienced due to a large fire..

   Fire Dept - Andre Brasseur
   No report, Andre wasn't available to attend the meeting.

Police Dept - Kyler Kenison, Chief
This report is based on 2 weeks since the last report.
130 calls for service - including 911 calls, traffic stops, arrests, suspicious activity, burglaries, noise complaints, neighbor complaints, etc.
We had 4 calls for service on Saturday. He's been hearing comments on the street that the police really patrol this road or street.
When people see us out at ball games, at the park, etc. We are visible.
The new cruiser is getting detailed, won't be ready for a couple more weeks. We are changing the lettering to more of a pop.
Things are going in the right direction, we are making arrests, we're effective and we are spending the money wisely.

C. Wheeler asked how many officers do you have; Chief Kenison said it's him and 1 other. He's fielding more applicants now. He is offering a ride along service. He has an oral board set up for applicants to go through. We are providing 80 hours of coverage; a year and a half ago it was 90 hours with almost double the staff and budget. Chris asked how many do you plan on having, Kenison would like to see 4 officers and himself, plus the Admin. Asst.

E. Brown knows that DHHS offers money to Police Departments to enforce immigration law. Is the PD or the Selectmen looking into this? Chief Kenison said if we do that, we will get a lot of 91a's,which takes time and effort to fill. Kenison further discussed. Eric added that the Administrative Assistant could probably help out with the 91A's, which would benefit the Town. Kyler isn't going to do it without asking about it, he is looking at it and it would help with the budget. Jim said it wouldn't be the Boards decision, Kenison would have to tell us that he wants to and will do it. Chief Kenison said he works for all the people in Town and however they want us to be effective is how we will be. J. Tierney announced the new Administrative Asst for the PD is Niki Merriam.

C. Wheeler asked if the contract with the State Police has been cancelled. Kyler said it's still in effect, they might come in to work a random day. J. Tierney added that Chief Kenison doesn't want to be an in office chief.

E. Brown commented that Niki did an excellent job with 91A's when she was in the Town Office.

5. Requested Agenda Matters:

a. **Memorial Day Tribute** - Requested by the American Legion, the Board has approved it so they can have a ceremony at the monuments. The road will be closed. It will be May 25th at 10:00 am.

b. **North Country ATV Club** - Amber Rock - NCATV - NCATV has taken over the Northern Gateway system. The Northern Gateway club has dissolved and it**'s** going back to NCATV. The landowner permission that we had stated it was Northern Gateway, so it needs to be signed off that it's back to NCATV. They are not asking for any additional roads, everything remains the same.

J. Tierney advised that we don't have anything to do with the private property. Amber is just looking for the streets that are opened. Jim said for citizens of Town, it's from your home to the nearest trailhead. It's not going out to dinner or grocery shopping. Visitors that are in a motel can drive to the restaurant. It's Riverside Drive, Route 3 can't be used over the Route 3 bridge the State won't allow it. You can go from Riverside, through Batch's and cross over the Covered bridge. You can go down Main and State St. to the funeral home. Then you would need permission from MOM's to connect there.

Amber has taken care of all the landowners and they have signed off. Jim T. noted on Melcher St. the entrance to Hobo jungle is closed, the owner closed it. Amber has the info for him and he has signed off. She understands it's Melcher, Main, State. The covered bridge has picnic tables that are in the way. Jim said they can be moved, there are jersey barriers that they should be able to get around. J. Tierney - the State will not allow them to go over the new Route 3 bridge. They are saying it's a

dangerous corner because of the turn and Route 110 coming into it. We've tried, but they have said no. Amber said Jim Walsh has been helping with all this as well. Tierney said Lost Nation is not open, the State closed it when Page Hill was closed. He added that we do this yearly for the Town.

Motion to sign and approve it based on the information given about the streets and roads that are needed by: W. Montgomery
2nd by: A. Rossetto, All in Favor 3-0

6. Town Business:

a. Brookview Project - M. Randal said Andrea has asked to have it set up so she MR) can sign the paperwork.
Motion to allow the Town Administrator to sign the paperwork for the 2nd half of the Brookview project by: A. Rossetto, 2nd by: W. Montgomery, All in Favor 3-0

b. Health Officer - J. Tierney said we had somebody apply, he is the Health Officer in another community and is a former police officer in Groveton. Mario Audit, lives in Stratford and is the current HO there. HO's don't have to live in the town they are servicing. He is certified with the State
Motion to approve Mario Audit as the Health Officer by: A. Rossetto
2nd by: W. Montgomery

There is a yearly stipend of $750.00/year.

D. Montgomery asked what his responsibilities are. He will address issues with rats, bed bugs, etc. He can issue fines and can say clean up your yard. He can look at a problem that was recently complained about and there is another current issue he will be looking too. E. Brown asked if they had contacted Lancaster about coming up to look at an issue on the hill. Terney said we did contact their HO and he said yes, but that they were looking at it. Since we now have a volunteer, we are going with that.

C. Wheeler asked if this will include the issue in Northumberland Village. Jim said it would, but he was taken to court by the State and the State lost. He didn't have a lawyer and beat the State lawyers. Someone would need to come to the Board with a very good case, going to court would be expensive. Mario will go see him to see about getting it cleaned up. Mario was on the Board when the State took him to court.

All in Favor 3-0

Mario will need to go in to see Kathy Wiles to be sworn in.

c. Approval of Planning Board applicants - Clint Bramlet and Erike Lehtinen.
Clint is still on the Zoning Board, M. Randall said we can have one person on both the Planning and Zoning boards. The Planning Board meets monthly and Zoning only as needed. Rob Roby had submitted his named for the Planning Boad also.

Motion to appoint Clint Bramlet, Erike Lehtinen, and Rob Roby to the Planning Board by: A. Rossetto, 2nd by: W. Montgomery, All in Favor 3-0

M. Randall added per Romy, Clint is the only one named as a Zoning Board member. Romy is also an alternate on the Planning Board.

d. Text My Gov - M. Randall said there is an invoice in the packet from Text My Gov., she doesn't know when it started and she's not sure if it's being used. If we are not going to use it, she would rather not spend the money. K. Wiles said to her knowledge it hasn't been used since Tammy left. Jim said to talk to Glenn and Reggie, if they aren't getting enough calls then it's reasonable to drop it. If they say they are getting pictures of water leaks, potholes, etc. then we can keep it going. If it's only 1-2 since it started, then we don't want to pay $3,000. If the people don't want to use it, don't spent the money.

Ruth noticed it's much more prominent on the phone than on the web-site. When she signed up, it said it would give her notice of meetings and Town announcements. Maybe we should see how many signed up for it. Michelle will look into it.

C. Wheeler asked how it works. J. Tierney explained you can probably upload a picture, for a water issue and it would go to Reggie, potholes, maintenance issues would go to Glenn.

G. Kenison said he gets updates on the meetings, will it continue to send updates if it's not used. M. Randall said we are only using the web-site and email for meeting notices, it could be connected to Textmygov. But she wasn't sure. Lupine signed up this week but hasn't gotten anything yet. She thinks it's worth looking at the connections. Michelle will look into it further. K. Wiles said it's $3,000, whose budget does this come out of. J. Tierney said it's in one area, the Town Office.

Motion to table until we get more information by: A. Rossetto

Al feels the program is for a much bigger municipality, the website it working reasonably now.

2nd by: W. Montgomery, All in Favor 3-0

e. Municipal Leasing - M. Randall received an email from the lawyer saying he couldn't provide the documents for tonight's meetings, so he can't provide an opinion on council yet.
Motion to table by: A. Rossetto, 2nd by: W. Montgomery, All in Favor 3-0

Wayne asked if he gave you an idea of when he would get back to you? Michelle told Tammy the next meeting is June 1st, then sent an email to the contact at the company, LC Robin. The bank was fine with a closing date of June 3rd.

f. Meeting House - Paul Rafenello & Rob Roby both worked there last year and both are willing to work again this year.

Motion to hire Rob Roby and Paul Raffenello for staffing the
Meeting House this summer by: A. Rossetto

Michelle said the previous Board budgeted $5,100 for wages. It's to be open from Memorial Day - Columbus Day, with 20 hours total/week. Rob talked with Paul today, Rob will work Thurs & Sat. Paul will work Friday & Sunday. On the holiday we won't be open.

2nd by: W. Montgomery

Clint asked if anyone can volunteer to help out. Rob said you would need to know about Groveton, which he can teach him on that. Al commented that Rob is a true asset, he does a lot of research on the Town.

All in Favor 3-0

7. Applications/Permits and Warrants:

a. Abatement Map/Lot:
1. #104-001-00-00 - Water abatement - John Nugent requested abatement of interest, didn't receive the bill due to an address change, which he neglected to let the Town Office know. K. Wiles had to track him down at his store.
Motion to deny the abatement by: A. Rossetto, 2nd by: W. Montgomery, All in Favor 3-0

2. #107-099-00-00 - Weeks Hospital Assoc. - $750.00 - commercial fire line charge was deleted in the wrong system.
Motion to approve by: A. Rossetto, 2nd by: W. Montgomery, All in Favor 3-0

3. #236-016-00-00 - Theresa Fortin - $22.00 - Bill paid online and not recorded same day, it should have been edited out of the lien list. Our error.
   Motion to approve by: A. Rossetto, 2nd by: W. Montgomery, All in Favor 3-0

4. #227-00-00-00 - Marlene Styles - $22.00 - Our error - same as above.
   Motion to approve by: A. Rossetto, 2nd by: W. Montgomery, All in Favor 3-0

b. Zoning Permits-Map/Lots:

1. #107-008-00 - Elizabeth McPhearson - new roof, standing seam metal roofing, Al stopped and talked to them, they were not aware a permit was needed. She came over and paid right away.
   Motion to approve by: A. Rossetto, 2nd by: W. Montgomery, All in Favor 3-0

2. #102-006-00-00 - Lori Leigh - to replace roof on trailer and upper shed. Fee is paid.
   Motion to approve by: A. Rossetto, 2nd by: W. Montgomery, All in Favor 3-0

3. #104-063-00-00 - Gerry Desautels, 16 State St., looking to make 3 apartments, and 2 office spaces, all within the existing footprint. It's a continuation of a previous permit. The fee is paid.
   Motion to approve by: A. Rossetto, 2nd by: W. Montgomery, All in Favor 3-0

4. #104-025-00-00 - Saxon Farms L&I, LLC, Pleasant St. (76 State St.) - 10' x 16' shed, double barn doors on 10' side & 2 windows & door on 16' side to be set 15' from adjacent property. Fee paid.
   Motion to approve by: A. Rossetto, 2nd by: W. Montgomery, All in Favor 3-0

5. #229-002 - Jude Gesel - 52 Main St., Lancaster. It was tabled due to the fee not paid. It was paid the paperwork was incorrect.
   Motion to approve by: A. Rossetto, 2nd by: W. Montgomery, All in Favor 3-0

8. **Public Comment:

- E. Brown said at the last meeting there was a lot of controversy about the Beautification Committee with Jim Weagle and Courtney Perkins. I reached out to them and was told that no one has ever reached out to them and asked them how much was in the accounts. Since I reached out, I have the amount that's in their account. Also, they've paid over $2,000 in storage fees since the town's previous Town Administrator asked them to remove stuff they had stored in the town hall because they were no longer an official part of the Town government. They still have stuff on the baseball field (GDK field) that they volunteered and put up. They didn't participate in the Trunk or Treat last year. In in the past, they had spent money on it. We all know they bought the benches at the Gazebo and they are still maintaining the dog stations throughout town.

  Deb Montgomery said that is not a true statement.

  Eric said I didn't say Courtney gave me that statement, I didn't say who I talked to. So, you're making an assumption, right? That's what was done last week when nobody knew what was really going on and nobody had asked. Eric figured he could find out what's going on because neither Jim nor Courtney are not very hard to find.

  Deb Montgomery said we approached Jim Weaglee numerous times when he was on the Select Board. He kept saying, I will try to get payment, it went on and on and on, and anyone who attended the meetings will vouch for that. We reached out to Courtney numerous times to pay what had already been spent out of our pockets, she would not respond. After a couple months, she did pay Elaine Gray $400+. Eric said before you spend somebody else's money, shouldn't you request the authority to spend and not just expect it? You should approach people, discuss what you want to do, and then get it approved, not the other way around. You would go to the Town to ask for approval, just like you should have gone to the Beautification Comm. and ask them.

  Deb Montgomery said in the past, I've been involved for years working on flowers. I never was involved with asking for the money. Elaine Gray, who worked for this Town for years, did go to

Courtney and she was reimbursed. Last year was the first year there was an issue, to my knowledge, about being reimbursed. But Courtney was unreachable and Jim Weagle would not take responsibility. He did get some anonymous donor to pay a portion of it. They've been paid but not all out of Courtney's fund. Deb feels that Courtney didn't do what was right by the Town either.

Deb Miles said Courtney and Ryan were here at a selectman's meeting last year, she didn't know the date or if it's in the minutes. When they asked Courtney about the money, she said, (and I'm paraphrasing) something to the effect of that, I don't have to tell you anything. She (Courtney) made it very clear that she was not going to tell us anything about the money. And when we asked Jim Weagle about it, he tried to pass it off like she was a non-profit, then we found out she wasn't a non-profit, it just escalated. Courtney never gave an answer when she was asked.

Deb Montgomery said Courtney made it very clear that she was done taking care of dogsxxx in Town, and we ladies, could take care of that. She was tired of stepping in it, and went on and on. To set the record straight, I believe Dano's is taking care of the three dog stations in Town now.

K. Wiles said the last statement is correct, Dano's is taking care of it. Kathy said Courtney was asked at the Town Meeting to produce some type of record because everybody in the Town Report that had been approved for Town money had submitted some type of a report, she was asked and it never came forward. She said at the Town Meeting she would gladly submit, but it never came.

N. Merrow said a previous select person sat right where you're sitting, Jim T., and said, I can't do anything, I wash my hands of it, period.

Jim T. asked Eric about the stuff being stored. Is it the Town's or is it the Beautification Committees? Eric said from what he understands, Tammy told them that it wasn't the Town's property and they needed to remove it. The Beautification Committee couldn't store their stuff at Town Hall like they had previously been doing, so they had to get storage space for it. Jim T. said if it's stuff they want to donate to the Town, they can see Michelle and she'll say yes or no. Jim added if you're contacting them again, would you ask the question for us, please.

Michelle asked Deb Montgomery if it's stuff that's usable for the Garden Group are you willing to take possession of it to be used with what you're currently doing. Deb said can discuss it. Discussion continued regarding the cost of storage, items in storage, etc.

- G. Kenison there was talk about a public safety building and there was a grant for $1.2 - J. Tierney said it's still there, but it expires the end of this year. It's being looked at to see if we can do something, but it won't be of the same scale as the original plan. We are working with a company on a metal building for an Ambulance and Police facility, it will cover their needs only. J. Tierney further discussed if we can get it for $1.2 we have the grants to cover the cost. The original plan was for Police and EMS, with heated garages for the ambulances and one of the grants was strictly for an emergency operations center.

  Eric asked if you are able to get that building, would you close this one? J. Tierney said it would depend on where this could go, we wouldn't want to pay rent just for a meeting room. Michelle said the building that was proposed and the one they are currently working on has space for a Town meeting room.

  A. Rossetto said the Board asked him to look into this for Police, Ambulance, vehicle storage, and a meeting room. He's met with the departments, Michelle is going to be researching the requirements of the 2 grants. It's for needs only, but we need heated ambulance storage (55-60 degrees) and space for the 2 departments, plus a meeting room. We've been able to distill the size down to a 5,000 sq ft building. Al further discussed the specs, talked with the budget people and USDA. He feels we might be able to put it up by the end of the year. It's approx. $250.00 per sq foot. He's been in touch with a contractor from Lancaster. He, Michelle, and a USDA rep will be meeting soon. If we can get a 6

month extension. It has a reasonable chance of being done for that number. He's done some research in NH and these type of buildings are $350 - $900 per sq ft.
Al said we are trying to do it with what the government has given us. Then we can go to the voters if we need more to finish the interior to fully fit the needs. Until we have more info from the USDA, he can't get into it further. He talked with Reggie today about the site here, there are no red flags with W/S. Al's hoping that he'll have more info by the next meeting. Eric asked if the building is something that Public Works could assemble themselves. AL said no and further discussed.

N. Merrow asked if you are including the Ambulance and PD, they are the ones that need to use it. J. Tierney said Al is working with them for their needs. Al said he's not looking to put his name on it, but helping the Town because he has time to make calls, etc.

- G. Kenison - on the website he noticed there is a noticed about the assessors. K. Wiles said they are not here every day, it's a work in progress. G. Kenison asked if they will be done before the tax bills. Kathy said she can't guarantee that. Jim T. said not the next one, but there might be new numbers for the December bill. Kathy said they had to do more than the normal 20% plus the abatement requests. It will take them a while to catch up. 2028 will be a reval year. They do 20% / year and in the 5th year the numbers come together.

- K. Wiles - she is in the Legion Auxiliary, with Jeremy Brann and a small group; we are going to try to reinstate a 4th of July parade, but not on the 4th. We've decided on July 3rd with the parade ending at the small (GDK) ballfield since July 3rd is the Rec's summer kick off day. If any suggestions, let her or Jeremy know.

  C. Wheeler said Jeremy Brann is the new Legion Post #17 commander, he's done a lot already.

- K. Frechette asked if are we doing anything for the country's 250th? J. Tierney said we have a celebration fund Michelle said there is roughly $3,100 in it. Becky Craggy is on the committee for the Towns 250th. If anyone has ideas for either celebration you can get them to Becky.

- A. Rock - NCATV is posting for a 4th of July celebration, they are working with Butch Ladd. Colebrook's parade is at 11:00 am, Stratford's is at 2:00 pm, Lancaster has theirs at 10:00 am; They are having a chicken barbeque, cotton candy, etc.

- D. Miles added the benches at the Gazebo were donated to the Town. Jim T. commented that's in the past, the Beautification Comm no long exists. Let's just let it go.

- E. Brown asked about grants for the bridge. M. Randall addressed, she met with someone about the train today. She has reached out to Paul Rafenello and asked him to come meet with her. She also reached out some other train people. Since the ATV club can use the covered bridge, there are a lot of avenues that Michelle is getting info from.

9. Announcements:

10. Next Board Meeting Date: Monday June 1, 2026 at 6:00 pm.

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

Motion to go into Non-Public session by: W. Montgomery
2nd by: A. Rossetto, All in Favor 3-0
Roll Call - J. Tierney - Yes, A. Rossetto - Yes, W. Montgomery - Yes

Into Non-Public session at 7:37 pm.

a. Real Estate - SEALED
b. Legal - SEALED

c. Real Estate - SEALED

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

Out of Non-Public session at 8:26 pm.
Into Regular session at 8:26 pm.

Motion to seal Items a, b & c of the Non-Public minutes by: W. Montgomery
2nd by: A. Rossetto, All in Favor 3-0
Roll Call - J. Tierney - Yes, W. Montgomery - Yes, A. Rossetto - Yes

No further business was discussed.

12. Adjournment:

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:28 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).

Minutes approved by Northumberland Select Board Members on_____

X_____
James Tierney
Northumberland Select Board Chair

X_____
Alan Rossetto
Northumberland Select Board Member

X_____
Wayne Montgomery
Northumberland Select Board Member