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Town of Northumberland
Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes - Draft
Date: Monday, June 15, 2026
Place: Town Meeting Room – 10 Station Square
Time: 6:00 P.M.

Board members present: Jim Tierney, Al Rossetto, Wayne Montgomery
Others present: Michelle Randall, Kyler Kenison, Chris Wheeler, Deb Miles, George Kenison, Bill Baxley, Nancy Merrow, xxxx?, Daniel E. Ayer, Romy McMann, Judy Fox, James Gibson, Bob Roby, Norm Cotter, Eric Brown, Debbie Montgomery, Kathy Frechette, Andre Brasseur, Reggie & Terri Charron, Rebecca St. Cyr - Minute Taker/Transcriber

1. **Chairman Opens the Meeting -** J. Tierney opened the meeting at 6:03 pm.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance** - All

3. **Acceptance of Minutes: Monday, June 1, 2026**

   Motion to accept the June 1, 2026 minutes by: A. Rossetto
   2nd by: W. Montgomery, All in Favor 4-0

   No questions, comments, or corrections.

4. **Department Head Business: AMB/FD/PD**

   Fire Department - Andre Brasseur, Chief
   Since the last meeting he attended - April 21 -
   6 calls for service, 34 YTD - which is 2 less than last year at this time.
   June 26th - Bicycling Across New Hampshire will be using the fire station as a rest stop.
   June 27th - Northern NH Emergency Services Showcase - we will take equipment down to be on display at the Lancaster Fairgrounds. We haven't decided what we're bringing yet, plus we will have some giveaways.
   July 1st - 4th of July festivities.
   July 4th - parade in Lancaster, Andre said he needs to find out the details. J. Tierney said they usually line up behind Aubuchon Hardware.

   Ambulance - Jim Gibson, EMS Chief
   - 2026 - on this date 176 calls for service
   - 2025 - on this date we were at 196
   - Comstar - $90,158.71 not including payments made directly to the office or any 2026 contracts.
   - A2 went out for an oil change and also they went through it. They found out it needed the main battery replaced. Also, changed an air filter. A1 is still waiting to go in for the fuel leak and noise we're looking. getting it scheduled up there.
   - We will be at the Northern NH Emergency Services Showcase at the Lancaster Fairgrounds as well.

   Jim Gibson has been working on getting quotes for a new building and has received 3, plus there are 2 quotes for concrete, they run between $100,000 - $150,000. On the back is a rendering of what it possibly could be. This is all trying to fit into the $1.2 mil that we have. We are at about $520,000

Al had a question about the doors, Jim G. explained, the 2 top quotes are you order the building and they will deliver and unload, that's it. If you sign a contract - they send a crew, unload, assemble it and install all the doors and windows. $420,000 is for the whole building. There are 6 doors that are 12' wide x 14' high. Jim Gibson said this plan was put together by him, Kyler, Andre, and others. There is a meeting room space for up to 60 person capacity. The garage area will allow for 320 people. The Board further reviewed the quotes. This is for the shell for a Police and Ambulance building - 80' x 120'. Al asked about the level of insulation, Jim wasn't sure but will clarify, he was told it's the highest level. Al further discussed.

George Kenison asked if this is part of the grant money. M. Randall said yes, the grant money is still available. Now that we have this plan, if the Board wants to move forward with one of the companies, she can take it to USDA to show some movement or run the risk of it evaporating.

Dan Ayer asked where the building will be placed. J. Tierney said it will be out here in the parking area.

C. Wheeler asked how much grant money is there? $1.2 mil. $520,000 - which is for the concrete floor with radiant heat and the building 120' x 80' x 16'h. Jim G. talked about a possible discount if we have a decision by the end of July.

N. Merrow asked about the bids, is there only one that you are looking at? J. Tierney said there are 3 bids, he reviewed each 1) $200,000 - with us putting it up and not insulated; 2) $265,000 - we need to put it up and it's not insulated 6-8 months lead time; 3) $295,000 - 12 week lead time, they put it up and includes the insulation (which we may not want). The concrete w/radiant heat ranges from $100,000 - $150,000. We could be at $570,000 and still have $630,000 to go. Reggie noted that you will need to have the infrastructure as well, it has to meet all the codes, it could be a lot of money. Al further discussed.
J. Tierney said we need all the numbers and if it crosses the $1.2 mil in grant money, then it goes to Town meeting for the voters to decide. Reggie added that it's worth the money to have someone else put it up. Jim Gibson added there is a 50 year warranty. D. Ayer didn't think the cost per sq. ft. wouldn't be too bad.

E. Brown asked when do we have to do the building for the grant money M. Randall said the drop dead date is 2030. It's a USDA grant and the Federal Government wants to see progress, Michelle further discussed. Yes they have the grant money but the cost could be more than what taxpayers can pay and we need to do things differently. With the USDA, we will have to have an engineer, the contractor, the architect. Michelle believes the one company that Jim G. spoke to provides the engineer and the architect. Reggie noted that we could be looking at more money with engineering.

D. Miles said the original grant also talked about a training center. J. Tierney said that was in the plan, for an Emergency Management Center. If we build this, the current building would no longer be used. Deb asked if there is a jail in the building. Yes there will be.

Reggie asked if there was any plan for a dispatch center to get it back up here. M. Randall commented you could possibly put one upstairs. Terri asked if it could go upstairs in the Town Office. Michelle said ideally you would want it with EMS and the PD. J. Tierney said it also has to do with ADA access.

A. Rossetto noted the numbers don't include a sprinkler system. Al further discussed radiant heat, air conditioning, etc.

<u>Police Department - Kyler Kenison, Chief</u>
Both of the cruisers have been lettered, now you can see them.
We are averaging 120 calls every 2 weeks. We're seeing a surge will calls for service now that summer is here. The kids are out later.
Reminder re: Hit and run - if someone hits you don't leave the scene.
Patrol Officer averaging approx. 55 hours/ week. Just keeping up with the calls, it doesn't include time needed for investigations that require a lot of time.
Kyler is working 55-60 hrs./ week. The phone doesn't stop.
We had a State audit for highway safety, it was pretty in-depth. We passed with flying colors.
We are stretched thin, and don't anticipate it getting any better.
He will be introducing another officer to the Board during Non-Public.
We are still on the road to recovery, but we are not losing effectiveness.

M. Randall said the Town Office received a request from the White Mtn Chapter of Widow's Sons Charity Ride. She believes they are doing a poker run from the Pavilion in Stratford at 11:00 am. They are requesting EMS or PD coverage for traffic control so the groups can stay together. They estimate coming through Groveton between 11:15 and 11:30. The ride is August 22nd. Kyler will call and get more information.

G. Kenison asked Kyler about the ATV signage on Page Hill, we are missing 2 signs. G. Kenison said he can't tell where the ATV's are coming from. One comes off Chelle Lane. The signs read: ATV's Prohibited. Michelle sent a message to Amber Rock with the ATV club, she will put up signs tomorrow.

K. Frechette asked for clarification about kids riding lawnmowers in the street. Chief Kenison said they are doing chores for neighbors. But they shouldn't be out at 9:00 pm. Kathy noted that some of the bikes don't have lights, reflectors would be nice. Kyler discussed further. Reggie said there are some that are going up the road, no helmet and going very fast on modified motorized scooters.

E. Brown asked Kyler about meeting with Stark. Kyler said he meet with the Town of Stark last week, they would like us to provide them with police coverage. Kyler added that we are not in a position to do that right now. Next year hopefully it will be better. They are dealing with residents complaining about different incidents. He can look at other towns (Berlin provides services for Milan) and see how they do it. J. Tierney suggested talking with Jim Gibson re: how the Ambulance services are calculated. It's got to cover your cost. Kyler doesn't want to burden the taxpayers, and he can get money from the State to help provide coverage.

Judy Fox asked about 4th of July, will we have the same situation with nuisance fireworks or is there anything we can do ahead of time. J. Tierney said we would need to look at the ordinances. Andre may have to speak with the resident there's not space to shoot them. Andre commented that the Town ordinance hasn't been changed since last year. There are no restrictions in Town, it outlines specific dates with no restrictions and no permit required. Judy said this is a high residential area and they shouldn't be doing it. They have been doing it for years, she is tired of it. K. Frechette added that it's not just at night and sometimes there are kids out. Kyler commented set some limits on the ordinance. J. Tierney - some have to go to Town Meeting for approval, we will need to find out what this falls under. Andre addressed the size of the fireworks and feels it needs to be addressed at Town Meeting. Al said if they are firing off stuff and the debris is falling on other people's property, regardless of what it is, it should be a violation of something. You can't do it. Jim added it could be a civil argument and not a criminal argument. Dan Ayer noted that he had a case down south and it was all civil.

Chief Kenison said it's disorderly conduct, so everybody would get written up. Kyler discussed further. Jim asked Michelle to talk with Primex to see if they could use the ballfield and be covered through the Town insurance. D. Montgomery said the Town used to have fireworks at the big ballfield. Reggie asked what if they cause a fire on someone's property? Kyler would call it reckless conduct.

E. Brown asked doesn't the Town already have a fireworks ordinance? J. Tierney said yes, 4th of July, New Years Eve and maybe a couple other dates. It's talking about sparklers and little things that go up 20'-30', not bigger stuff. K. Frechette added that she loves fireworks but not there. Andre said the ordinance does specify - Memorial Day, July 3-5, Labor Day, and New Years Eve are allowed without a permit. Any other time a permit is required. According to NH RSA - does specify if you do damage to your property or a neighbors - you are civilly liable. The permit brings attention to NH Law about doing damage, he read the NH RSA. J. Tierney thought it would be good if that information could get out. Kyler talked about the process of taking a civil matter to court.

5. Requested Agenda Matters:

a. **4th of July Parade -** this was done through an email to the Board, and we all said yes. There wanted to get it to DOT. July 1 at 4:30 with a rain date of July 2. Terri said that is also the day the Rec Center is having a pool party.

Motion to approve the parade on July 1st with a rain date of July 2 by: A. Rossetto
2nd by: W. Montgomery, All in Favor 3-0

b. **Road Toll – GHS -** Requested for the incoming Senior class - Labor Day weekend. J. Tierney said there will be a lot of traffic going north and south. Romy commented they want to do it on Friday. D. Ayer added that construction companies should not be on the road after noon on a major holiday. Jim doesn't agree with having it on the holiday weekend, he said they can pick another weekend.

Motion to Deny the request for Labor Day weekend,
but they can request another date. A. Rossetto
2nd by: W. Montgomery, All in Favor 3-0 - Denied

c. **Letter of Concern -** J. Tierney read a letter of concern from Dustin Supernois regarding the hill project. He is writing this as a Captain on the Fire Dept and an emergency responder that takes safety seriously.

> *I understand that normal travel routes may be affected at times during the project, resulting in occasional Rd. closures due to the work. Keep in mind, most of the streets on the hill have two entrances many times this year. I have witnessed both entrances being closed and eliminating any way in or out. I consider this unacceptable. Has at least a single lane in out should be maintained at one entry point. These closures and temporary detours should be relayed to the emergency departments and. The fire, EMS or PD needs to respond to a residence time is crucial in the event of an emergency and the backtracking to find a way in can be alleviated with communication. As a resident of Crow Hill Street, I have been affected by this and have often not known how to get to my residence or have had to wait 15 plus minutes to get off the road. When needing to leave, I am prioritizing the safety and response times of other residents by requesting that closures be communicated to us, and that at least one lane of traffic is maintained whenever possible.*

Jim T. said when the project was started people were told there would be times the road would be closed and they were told to park their car elsewhere. Police, Fire and EMS - They can go across the front lawns to get there. Andre commented if someone's house is on fire, there are some instances where you can't just drive across from lawn because it's geographically impossible to get across. If someone's house is on fire it will delay us from getting there because we can't get there.

Reggie said we have steel plates that can be put down. Andre wouldn't want to drive across a steel plate. Reggie thought this was done improperly by waiting until Andre was gone. Andre asked how many times have the streets been closed. He's only been notified once. Reggie further discussed the issue.

Kyler had a question for the Water Department, he had someone come in and say they were blasting up there, which he wasn't aware of. Reggie noted that it was posted. Romy said when Kevin comes in and lets us know there is a road closure, she posts it on the website. Jim T. asked Reggie to ask Kevin to keep in touch with Andre.

Bill Baxley commented if your mother was on a street and had a heart attack would you want them to not be able to get in? Reggie said they will get in. Jim T said everyone was warned, it would get through and he further discussed. The service departments. will get in. Bill added in a case like that seconds count. Jim Gibson said we did have an incident happen on Pike St., protocol is to go up Prospect to Pike. We had to go around another way.

6. Town Business:

a. Town Emails - the proposal is that all emails for Town employees will not include a name, it will be for their job/position. It will be similar Kathy's - tctx@northumberlandnh.gov. Michelle said for the PD, it has to be their name because they receive and send email to a portal. The judge goes into the portal's to look at it. Michelle further discussed. Whoever holds a position will use it if they leave it stays with the Town. Dan Ayer asked if there is a time limit when a email is sent for a response. Dan said the Highway Dept needs to respond within 72 hours per RSA. He didn't have the RSA number.

Romy said the emails are used as sign in's for some entities. J. Tierney added that it will solve some of the problems that have occurred. Discussion continued regarding emails. Terri asked if you can have everyone sign a waiver so that when they leave they have no ownership.

G. Kenison commented that when he goes to email one of the Board members there is no link on the website that allows him to send a message directly to one of them. Michelle said we can look into a hyperlink, however we have a lot going on right now. D. Ayer said if he emails all of them that is an

illegal meeting; Jim said no, you would get a separate email response from each of us, so that's not an illegal meeting.

b. Heating Fuel Bids - M. Randall said there isn't a bid, she's been in touch with Patty Brown at the SAU about the Town and School working together on fuel, etc. Patty calls 5-6 different distributors daily to find out what their cost is. She is looking for permission from the Board to accept a bid if/when she is speaking with distributors instead of waiting for approval at the next meeting. It would be for heating fuel and propane. N. Merrow asked if it goes against the bidding policy. Jim T. said it would be against with that policy. We have the Town government, we use more and have more buildings. Michelle said Patty is buying for the entire SAU, when she's making a call, we should be tied into it. In the past it's been the School and Town separately going out for bidding. Michelle wants to get back to where we're working together. She want's to look at insurance with the SAU as well. J. Tierney said we can do that for the fuel, electricity, etc. Jim discussed the insurance, they give you Jan - Dec; the School goes July - June. He's not positive the insurance would work. Jim T. suggested calling Lancaster, Colebrook, Gorham to discuss insurance.

c. Town Truck CDL Testing - J. Tierney said the sanitation dept asked if an employee could use the Town truck to get his CDL. The person doesn't require a CDL for his job, but could fill in as needed. It was brought to the Board and they questioned if they have to be on the clock. Jim noted it's in the personnel policy they can borrow town equipment on their own time. So, they should not be on the clock when borrowing equipment. Michelle said maybe their own insurance would cover it. Further discussed the issue of insurance.

Jim T. - Either it's not a good idea and we say no or it is and we approve. Wayne asked what the amount of time is they would need to use it. The test is done in Twin Mountain (Carroll). It's maybe 4 hours total. Wayne said it's customary (in the business world) to let someone use a vehicle to take a test. If it's only 3-4 hours it's probably not a big deal. J. Tierney added the job description does not require a CDL. Michelle said it was brought to the previous Board and was denied because they were taking it to Concord for the test, which the Dept Heads didn't know. The Dept Heads again didn't know this request had been made either. Since we don't know where we stand, Wayne suggested tabling. A motion to table was not noted in the recording.

Dan Ayer - if you let a Town employee take a CDL test, they should be retained for a year. JT said we've tried this before, especially with the Police Academy. When we try to put a contract out, the lawyers say you can't do that.

Eric, discussed when he got his CDL B. In the long run, it could benefit the Town.
Chris - if you do this, once he has his CDL who pays for the med card every 2 years. Reggie talked about the parttime position at the Transfer Station. He doesn't fault anyone for wanting to improve, but it's following the proper protocol. The ICC Physical is every 2 years unless health issues warrant more.

Andre said the State of NH pays for employees to get the CDL. When it comes testing they pay the employee to use the truck and pay another one to go with him. They have no qualms - they even encourage office employee's to get a CDL, if interested.

d. Thank You Letter - J. Tierney read the proposed thank you letter from the Town to Mr. & Mrs. Feller for a donation of $150.00 to the Meeting House.
Motion to sign the letter by: W. Montgomery, 2nd by: A. Rossetto, All in Favor 3-0

e. Health Officer - M. Randall advised we found out after the fact the State wanted more forms.
Motion to sign the form to satisfy the State by: A. Rossetto
2nd by: W. Montgomery, All in Favor 3-0

f. Rangers Fort - letter from Dan Ayer - J. Tierney read:
As the town is promoting the meeting house and Fort Wentworth on their website for the nation's 250th Anniversary. I would allow them in the public at the same time to utilize the monuments. For Fort Wentworth, the dates would be June 27 to July 12. During that time, my second driveway near the cemetery would be open for people for overflow parking. The driveway is for the house and barn would not be part of this and would be off. Limits. Because of the close relationship between the Meeting House and the Fort. I would

request the town add me as additional insured for this dates above. I normally don't allow people access to my property, but with this being a special national celebration, I feel it is appropriate.

Michelle talked with Primex, they basically said if we hold something on private property, that's not overseen by Town employee's Primex cannot cover it. It will only provide insurance for the members. They would not be able to add Ayer as added insured. Dan said the Meeting House employee's walks over there, they work for the Town. He's not charging anything, this is for the 250th. For the history of this Town, he feels it's important.

R. Roby said he's willing to volunteer for the 6 six days to walk over, plus work his regular shift. Michelle said she can go back to Primex if the Town is willing to enter an MOU between the property owner and the Town staff. That someone from the Town will be directing the tours of Fort Wentworth. Michelle read the email from Primex, the event described doesn't meet those requirements. She further discussed the matter. Dan reviewed a map with the Board of the walking path, he plans to put a light up as well. Jim asked Michelle to call Primex back. If Primex gives us something we can call another meeting.

Motion to approve this request if we can get insurance coverage for this event by: W. Montgomery 2nd by: A. Rossetto, All in Favor 3-0

6. Applications/Permits and Warrants:

a. Zoning Permits Map/Lots:

#107-118-00-00 - Andrea Sargent and Melonie Whitney, Summer St., Installation of a 10' x 16'storage shed, no plumbing, sewer, electric, or living quarters. It will comply with all the Town of Northumberland's setback's and zoning requirements. The fee is paid.

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

#107-015-00-00 - Quasar LLC. This is basically a renewal of a permit that they pulled from well over a year ago and they didn't renew it. The last permit was in 2024, construction of original permit Phase 2 still needs to be completed. Fee is paid.

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

#247-002-02-00 - David and Sandy Sirois, Chelle Lane, putting up a new timber frame home. Fee is paid. Bruce Enderson is the contractor

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

George asked if there is a start time on the permit? Al said from the date it's signed, it's good for a year. George asked what happens to them, does someone look at the permit against what was executed. What about a occupancy permit? The State requires an occupancy permit on a new house. Some owners are responsible, but if it is not done, then the State Fire Marshall can actually step in to see whether or not they meet occupancy requirements. There is a State RSA on this. Al said if residents need a certificate of occupancy they need to know this asap. Romy said it falls to the owner, If they have a building loan, the lien holder will make them get one.

#229-048-00-00 - Dana Deblois - Woodshed over outdoor boiler, 20' x 24', 43 feet from road, 18' from house. Fee has been paid.

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

#215-001-00-00 - Gifford, Larry Hamel - Solar panels for lights, building is a Quonset hut. No grid connections.

Motion to table until the July 6th meeting by: A. Rossetto
2nd by: W. Montgomery, All in Favor 3-0

b. **Elderly Exemption Map/Lot:**

#229-025-MH-25 - taxpayer qualifies - meets all the requirements.

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

c. **Abatements: Map/Lots:**

#205-011-00-00 - $325.00 this abates the 80%

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

#205-009-00-00 - $159.00 this abates the 80%

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

#105-010-00-00 - $159.00 - 2025 1st bill, this abates the 80%

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

7. **Public Comment:

- D. Ayer commented he believes in this Town's history; there is a deeded access given to the Town. In 1966 A. Potter gave the Town 7 acres where the new part of the cemetery is. The historic society picked out 3 monuments 2 at the museum and one out at the point. Tell the insurance company you have a deeded easement on the property. J. Tierney said the easement doesn't go back to the monument. Ayer said he's willing to do set hours for the tours during the 250th celebration.

- K. Frechette asked if we could check to make sure all the Town's flags are in good shape. T. Charron said they were replaced before Memorial Day.

- E. Brown asked about the graffiti on the bridge which was discussed at the last meeting. M. Randall went out last week, we tested in 12 areas, there was only one that gave a vague reaction of lead paint. All the other paint that we tested didn't show lead paint. She had a meeting with FEMA and asked if they could give her a contact at the State. She is waiting to hear from them. Kils spray paint can be used to cover it. J. Tierney commented the old car wash was checked for asbestos and lead paint. The cost to tear down the old carwash building - $24,800.

- D. Montgomery - about a month ago Jim asked Michelle to find out what's in the storage unit that Courtney has. Michelle advised that she hasn't got in touch with her yet. It's her unit, she doesn't have to let us in. Deb thought it was Town property that she had. Michelle isn't sure if the storage unit is still in use or not. She needs to speak with Courtney before discussing further.

- Chief Kenison asked if the Fire Dept. fills up small pools? Andre said no we don't and there is an ordinance about it. J. Tierney noted that we would need to have a meter on the hose to know how much to bill the customer. Discussion continued about filling up private pools. Jim said if the insurance will cover it, and Reggie is OK with it then maybe. Andre there are a lot of things that could happen being on private property. Discussed charging for water and fuel, fireman being on the clock, etc.

8. Announcements:

Transfer Station will be CLOSED Saturday, July 4, 2026
The Town Library will be CLOSED on Saturday July 4th.

9. Next Board Meeting Date: July 6, 2026

10. 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, W. Montgomery - Yes, A. Rossetto - Yes

Into Non-Public session at 8:40 pm

a. Residential -
b. Personnel -
c. Personnel -

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 10:25 pm
Into Regular session at 10:25 pm

Motion to hire Josh Lindor as a Sgt. subject to a background check by: W. Montgomery
2nd by: A. Rossetto, All in Favor 3-0

11. Adjournment:

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

Meeting adjourned at 10:26 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