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Town of Northumberland
Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes - Draft
Date: Monday, July 15, 2024
Place: Town Meeting Room – 10 Station Square
Time: 6:00 P.M.

Board members present: Jim Tierney, Jim Weagle
Others present: Judy Fox, Chuck Kenison, Jim Gibson, Pete Marshall, Norm Cotter, Al Rossetto, Tammy Letson, Andre Brasseur, Sean Durkin, C. R. Wheeler, Kathy Frechette, John Richard, Melinda Kennett, Rebecca St. Cyr-Minute Taker

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

2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** All

3. **Acceptance of Minutes:** 07/01/2024

   Motion to accept the 07/01/2024 minutes by: J. Weagle
   2nd by: J. Tierney, All in Favor 2-0

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

   Ambulance – EMS Chiefs Report - Jim Gibson
   1. 2024 as of this printing, we have had 286 calls to date.

   2. 2023 on this date we were at 244 calls.

   3. *No new updates* on Comstar report as of 06/14/2024. Net commitments are $105,148.35. This does not include payments made directly to the office or contract fees.

   4. The new ambulance has been sent to get lettering done, we should be taking delivery by the end of this month.

   5. The town of Stark will be having it 250th celebration on August 3rd and 4th. We have been invited to be in their parade as well as attending the car show to do ambulance tours.

   6. On the 10th, the ambulance crews as well as fire, police and the EMD were busy patrolling areas for washouts as well as making sure people were assessable and able to get help if needed. A few of the ambulance crew also went out to the other towns we cover to make sure, our frequent patients were safe and able to be accessed.

   7. Both ambulances are operational with no problems to report.

   New ambulance registration, Jim said we have all the information if there is anything missing, we will get it.

Washouts – Tammy needs specific documentation in regard to who was out and what they were doing. FEMA will want this information if they allow for a disaster in the area if they do we may be able to get reimbursement. They haven't always covered the storms for first responders, this time they may.

S. Durkin said he and J. Tierney met with Jean Shaheen's office. All of the stuff needs to be figured in everything that we can do to bring that up will give us more money for the Town. Any pictures of the damage that we have and anything else will help.

FD – Andre Brasseur, Chief -
Other than the storm it's been a peaceful month.

We had 3 calls for service, we didn't attend a lot of special events.

Per the request of the EMD, we went to help them in Lost Nation at Herman Savage Rd. with wash-outs. The people on the other side of it were fine and didn't want to be rescued. There was a point when they were landlocked for approx. 8 hours. There was a State culvert that failed on Lost Nation Rd, the water was high where you couldn't pass through – 3-4 feet deep. If anything had happened we would have needed to call in special resources like Dalton who has a boat or Fish & Game has boats. The culvert(s) have since been fixed.

It's a temporary patch, the culvert still needs to be fixed it needs to be a u shape and not round.

PD – Peter Pelletier, Chief -

Calls for service:	264	State Police 28
New investigations:	18	
Arrests:	7	1 – DWI, 2 – Drug, 4 - Others
MV Crash:	4	
MV Stops:	24	

Getting a lot of complaints about bears and trash. He was on Summer St. to help someone clean up. If people could use bearproof trash cans or dumpsters and don't put the trash out too early The berries are coming out and hopefully the bears will be looking for them and not eating garbage.

Peter appreciated Jim Gibson and EMS for the help provided on July 10th. They were prompt in their arrival with 2 ambulances, they were professional and did a great job. All the Town agencies for the Town did a great job. Officer Kenson was out late and worked closely with Fire and Highway.

This morning, we had a child that briefly went missing. Fire personnel overheard the radio traffic and started driving around. EMS also sent a crew out. It was 15-20 minutes, and he was found safe at home. The interagency cooperation has been exceptional.

5. Requested Agenda Matters:

a. George Kenison – wanted to know if the Board had looked at the info that Tammy sent about the ANSI and the definition about the difference between park models and RV's. Are we still adamant that they are park models or are we calling them RV's? J. Tierney said he believes they are park models; he asked what he is looking for us to do. Kenison doesn't think the 2 park models should have been put in there, he doesn't feel we followed proper procedure. No one was notified, there was a lot of things that were done wrong, and he wants everyone to be aware of it, so it doesn't happen again.

He has counted 9 RV's from his line to Page Hill Rd. Some have sewer, some have water & some have water & sewer. The town is filling up with rv's and he doesn't feel it's helping our tax base. We have rules and if we don't stick to them we are going to have more campers out there. There are more coming in all the time.

Jim T. said this would come under the Planning Board, they write the zoning rules. He knows there is grandfathering. There are trailers near where he lives. According to some former senior residents in the area it was against the convenance of the Groveton Heights development. It was allowed way back and once it gets in; it makes it difficult for anyone else.

We can see what can be done about it, but until Ackerley charges a fee for anyone staying in the park model rv's, it's not a campground. If it's just friends and family there is not much we can do. Kenison said it's a residential sub-division in timber management. Planning can look at it and stress to any future developers up there to set up covenants. Covenants are enforceable through the court; they are hard to do but are enforceable in court. They are not enforceable by the PD because it's a civil matter.

Kenison said it puts a civil matter on people that have property in a residential sub-division and the neighbors are liable to see that anything get done about it. Jim T. said as far as he can tell we didn't break any rules. Kenison asked if anyone went out and measured them. J. Tierney reviewed the park model sq footage and size; he further discussed. They are being hooked up to water/sewer, which is more the trailer park way. That's what the Planning and Zoning Boards need to look at. Tierney said we passed a bill in Concord concerning ADU's being allowed to be built on property. Discussion ensued re: ADU's.

C. Wheeler asked about them being hooked up to water / sewer; Tammy said they put in a well and septic. Jim T. said the trailer parks in Town are metered now; they split it up and everyone gets charged for their usage. Tammy said the property in question is on a private road off Page Hill, they have a septic. She understands that DES approved it. C. Wheeler said someone should check on it because the State has 72 hours to approve; Tammy said she believes they have been there, and we typically receive the paperwork from them. Jim W. said years ago the State didn't approve one that was put in and they had to dig it up. Chris can remember in this town if they didn't show up within 72 hours it was good to go. Jim W. said now they have to have State approval.

Kenison said the leach field has been covered up and one of the units has been piped, the power is hooked up solid, there is a 200-amp box on the trailer. There is one that's on cement blocks. Al Rossetto said it's for leveling, it still has tires on it. He has been by the site and checked the electrical, and sewer connections. One of the trailers is for sale. The 3 units were wired in by an electrician to a pole and the septic was approved by the State and installed by a licensed State dirt guy. Al further discussed.

We required him to put in the septic system, with it designed for the max capacity for the 3 trailers. We required the electrical to be done by a licensed electrician. Mr. Ackerley has provided a written statement that it will only be used for family. He has 3 trailers that are currently registered in Massachusetts. Al has stressed to him that they need to remain registered. He feels he's met all the requirements that the Town has asked. He pulled a permit for miscellaneous grading and a mobile pad for lifting weights.

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As of Friday, Al felt all the stipulations had been met. Al said there is one that's next to the road, which is for sale. Kenison said it's still hooked up. Mr. Ackerley plans to liquidate as soon as possible. Al feels it's done right.

S. Durkin asked where they are registered – Al said Massachusetts. Is there a time limit that they can be set up camp before they are considered for residency? Jim W. said as long as they are registered there isn't much the Town can do. You can store anything on your land. M. Kennett said there is a "non-resident registration," a lot have campers, boats, etc. that are left here but they live in Florida. It would be nice to suggest to him to register them here. Al will let him know that, so the Town can get revenue for them.

S. Durkin commented that if the units are hard wired in and you have water/sewer it's kind of permanent; what is the definition of being disconnected? The Board will check to see if there is anything in the RSA that addressed hard wired. If he hasn't broken the law, there isn't much we can do about it.

6. Town Administrator Business:

a. Investment Policy Review – T. Letson – we are supposed to review the investment policy yearly; if there needs to be a change then it's addressed. It's been the same policy for approx. 10 years. She doesn't feel it's needs to be changed. There wasn't a hard copy for the Board to review.

Motion to table by: J. Weagle, 2nd by: J. Tierney, All in Favor 2-0

b. Water/Sewer utility truck registration – they got the truck; we have until next Monday to get it registered. Everything has been sent down and now the State has suggested that we send someone to Twin Mountain to do the next step. If they have governmental plates the registration can be finished there, if not we can finish everything, and they will mail the plates to us. The plates are not transferred, it doesn't save us money to do that. The plate we have is not in good shape and we need a new one anyway. Jim W. is willing to go to Concord if necessary. M. Kennett said normally they just mail them from Concord. It's Concord that's said to do it this way.

Motion to change name on the paperwork to Jim Weagle by: J. Tierney 2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 2-0

7. Applications/Permits and Warrants:

a. <u>Building Permits (2):</u>

1. Map/Lot 104-143 – Kimberly D. Robinson, 57 First St., expanding door/porch landing, 8' x 6' to the existing 4' x 4' on the driveway side. Fee is paid, Al has signed.
Motion to approve by: J. Weagle, 2nd by: J. Tierney, All in Favor 2-0

2. Map/Lot 105-006 – Freedom Forever MA, LLC, 35 Brooklyn St., Roof mount solar System 7.8kw, 20 jinco solar 390 watts, 72 cells. Fee is paid, Al has signed.
Motion to approve by: J. Weagle, 2nd by: J. Tierney, All in Favor 2-0

3. Map / Lot 251 – 006 – gentleman received a building permit for work to do in October. He didn't realize that it had expired on March 31. He called the Town office, it could have been extended for a year if he had contacted us sooner. He mailed the payment and it's been received. They are ready to do the work now. Jim T. suggested moving the expiration date to a location that it's more visible.
Motion to approve by: J, Weagle, 2nd by: J. Tierney, All in Favor 2-0

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b. Transfer Station Non-Resident Permit Renewals (1):
1. Map/Lot 236-026 – Paul Mahoney Old Village Rd.
Motion to approve by: J. Weagle, 2nd by: J. Tierney, All in Favor 2-0

c. Intent to Cut (1): Map/Lot 207-004 **–** no paperwork;
Motion to table by: J. Weagle, 2nd by: J. Tierney, All in Favor 2-0

8. **Public Comment:

- Al Rossetto asked what do I tell Mr. Ackerley about the usage of his property. Jim T. asked Tammy to check on the electrical disconnect and let Al know. You can also tell him about the non-resident registration as well.

- P. Marshall said he still hasn't received his junkyard license. He received the application that was signed in the mail, but no license. Tammy will check on it. Pete is tired of paying big taxes with no results.

- N. Cotter heard rumors that someone went to register a vehicle and couldn't because it was a Box #, Lancaster. Rd., Lancaster, NH. Min said she talked to the Town Clerk in Lancaster, who advised there has been an influx of people coming in. They have a mailing address that is Lancaster; but they are in Groveton. We are sending out the renewal letters because they are Northumberland residents. The mailing address shows in bold which is imported from the State.

- C. Wheeler presumes that Horizon still has all the drawings, etc. and that nothing has been forwarded to the Town? Tammy said they are looking to schedule times when they might be able to go out to bid, so we are step closer now. They work with the DES, USDA, and the Town to make sure everyone is good with the timelines. They do all the paperwork to make sure it's all done accurately by all agencies involved. Jim W. noted that all the agencies have to okay it before it can go out for bid. They do the preparation, and the Town makes the decision.

- M. Kennett said she read the minutes from the last meeting. Is the Town purchasing the tax software or is it just being looked into? Jim T. said it's just being looked into. She asked why? She had done it, and the decision was made to keep BMSI, MRI – the same person that wrote BMSI wrote that program, and Avatar is good but doesn't talk to BMSI. Jim T. believes that BMSI has new ownership and the person we dealt with has retired. Tammy said they did have 2 people retire; both the positions have been transferred to 2 people that work for the firm that have their own jobs. Jim T. said it's being looked at to see what's out there that would work. Tammy noted it's also an issue that G Works will have BMSI around before asking us to switch. Min further discussed the software. She loved BMSI but it didn't talk to the accounting system.

Min - Has Kathy taken zoom meetings or training with BMSI, there are some issues going on. Tammy has asked and she doesn't think they are offering them right now. Min said there was someone a few months ago that has said it's still not taken care of. Jim W. said he talked with Kathy last week and it should be getting straightened out. The Secretary of State portal isn't correct and needs to be corrected.

Min asked about the Town website; Jim W. is still working on upgrading it. It will be more user friendly. Jim said he will be keeping it updated. Discussion ensued regarding the information on the website.

Min asked if there were any deeded properties; online it doesn't look like anything was changed. Tammy doesn't recall which ones were taken. The outstanding liens are still

out there. It's kind of a mess. A couple of people have called her - Tri County Cap paid the W/S but the resident still has an outstanding balance for 2024. She needs to call BMSI to get it straightened out.

Min - Yellow lines on Brown Rd., are they going to paint them? Jim T. said no, because from her house to Craggy Rd. was going to be $2,500 if done when the State was doing some. If not it was going to be double. Min said it looked so nice when they were painted. Jim T. said we can look into putting it in the 2025 budget. She feels it helps keep people in the lines.

Min asked if the crosswalks will be freshened up when this project is done. Jim W. said some of them will be, the State is eliminating some of them, they are responsible for them. Jim T. mentioned the one in front of the High School is diagonal and it needs to be 90 degrees. They can't be put into a parking space. Jim W. said the one by the Elementary School in front of the Fire Station will be eliminated because it's illegal.

Min asked if the Meeting House will be opening? Jim T. said we will be discussing an applicant during non-public session.

Is there any progress with the bridge/train? Jim T. said the biggest problem with the bridge is the lead paint; it can't go into the river. It's a very expensive project to do. Min said there has been a time when the river has been down to the dirt. Jim W. said we still can't do it – if one chip goes into the river we could see millions in fines. They don't want it in the air; we have talked about it.

Min said last summer/fall – the Town Clerk is the keeper of the vault; there was a sign out sheet and she was told that she was the only key holder. The minutes were kept in there for 20 years and then they were taken out. Tammy said the minutes have been put back in there. Min never knew how they got moved.

- C. Wheeler talked about painting the lines on Brown Rd. and putting the cost into next year's budget. It will probably cost more next year and double if you do it separately. It doesn't make sense. Jim T. commented that we can look at where it might be able to come from. Tammy said we would need to make that decision when they are ready to paint the main road. She discussed the damages on Herman Savage Rd. and Brook Rd. If FEMA doesn't cover it will be ours 100%. Jim T. said they would cover the county unless they have changed their rules. Tammy will review with Glenn. There is ARPA money left as well.

- Andre asked about yellow lines on Old Village Rd.? Jim W. said we used to but there hasn't been for some time. P. Marshall said the yellow lines are for safety; do we put a price on safety?

  Motion to repaint the yellow lines on the Brown Rd. if we can find the money in the budget by: J. Weagle, 2nd by: J. Tierney, All in Favor 3-0

- Min – shared some info with the Board about when she was talking about the deeded property.

- J. Fox asked about the Fire Work Ordinance. In order to change it does it need to go to Town Meeting? She doesn't think that a highly residential area is the place for fireworks. Tammy said yes it has to go to Town Meeting. J. Tierney unofficially agreed due to the debris that fell into his yard. Judy understands that he had a permit, but both of her vehicles were covered with debris, she's been picking it up all over her yard and it's all over her roof. The big show was on Saturday 7/06, and they did them on the 3rd, 4th, and 5th also. They are also popping off things that just make a lot of noise in the middle of the afternoon.

Tammy said Andre has a new permit that includes descriptions of commercial and consumer fireworks, the RSA, and our ordinance. He did a very nice job putting it together. Andre said the consumer fireworks are anything up to 3" which is big and goes up 300'. There is nothing in the State RSA that prevents us from issuing a permit to someone just because they live close to other houses. It would need to be outlined in the ordinance. Judy would understand if she were at an event, and debris was on her car. Discussion continued about the fireworks.

9. Announcements:

10. Next Board Meeting Date: Monday, August 5, 2024 – 6 pm

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

Motion to go into Non-Public Session by: J. Weagle
2nd by: J. Tierney, All in Favor 2-0
Roll Call: J. Tierney – Yes; J. Weagle - Yes

Into Non-Public Session at 7:20 pm.

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

Out of Non-Public Session at 8:24 pm

Into Regular Session at 8:24 pm

Motion to seal section a & c of the Non-Public Session by: J. Weagle
2nd by: J. Tierney, All in Favor 2-0

12. Adjournment:

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:26 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca St. Cyr, Minute Taker

*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 Tierney
Northumberland Select Board Chair

X_____
Jim Weagle
Northumberland Select Board Member

X_____
Keith Bronson
Northumberland Select Board Member