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Town of Northumberland
Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes - Draft
Date: Monday, June 17, 2024
Place: Town Meeting Room – 10 Station Square
Time: 6:00 P.M.

Board members present: Jim Tierney, Jim Weagle, Keith Bronson
Others present: Tammy Letson, Al Rossetto, Judy Fox, James Gibson, Pete Marshall, Norm Cotter, Dawn Pelletier, Randall Pelletier, Tim Emperor, Andre Brasseur, Rose Menzies, Doug Menzies, Kathy Frechette, C. R. Wheeler, Kim Bronson, Rena Kirk, William Daisey, Peter Pelletier, Noella Begin, Eric Brown, 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:** 06/03/2024 **–** no corrections

   Motion to accept the 06/03/2024 minutes by: J. Weagle
   2nd by: K. Bronson, All in Favor 2 - 1 - Abstained

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

Ambulance – Jim Gibson, EMS Chief -

1. 2024 as of this printing, we have had 237 calls to date.
2. 2023 on this date we were at 193 calls.
3. Constar report as of 06/14/2024. New commitments are $105,148.35. This does not include payments made directly to the office or contract fees.
4. The Ambulances are both currently operational, scheduled oil and filter changes will be made next week.
5. The end of school last week officially kicked off vacation season. At least half of my regular active attendants are out for the next 2 weeks. The remaining regulars and I are putting in the extra time to make sure everything is covered.
6. The North Country Emergency Showcase is this Saturday, the 22nd at the Lancaster Fairgrounds from 10am to 3pm. Emergency services from all over the state will be there to show their apparatus and demonstrations will be given. This event is for everyone, with food and vendors as well as a corn hole tournament. Jim also noted there will be law, fire, EMS, 3 helicopters and police dogs.

Fire Department – Andre Brasseur, Chief -
Since the last meeting on May 20th, we have had 4 calls for service with 52 YTD
Last training was on hydrants.

This week is the Trans America Bike Ride; the fire station will be open for a rest stop for restrooms and will set up tables for water, etc.

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Friday evening 6/21 there is an event and bonfire at the small ballfield we will be covering.

We were asked by Speedway safety to cover an event at Riverside Speedway, with the Nascar event they were short. We will be sending out some guys and EMT to cover.

In July will be doing some testing.

No issues

Police Department -Peter Pelletier, Chief –
Since the last meetings, the Northumberland Police Dept has handled:

451 calls for service
143 motor vehicle stops with 45 tickets issued.
Made six (6) arrests (1 drug, 1 DWI)
Investigated 8 motor vehicle crashes
Opened 18 new investigations

We participated in a bicycle giveaway at the racetrack on 06/08/24 by giving out over forty-five bike helmets for children, in cooperation with Mike Humphries.

Several more helmets were given away from the station over the next few days as well as gun locks. We actually ran out of bike helmets for a short period but just received another case of thirty-five helmets.

We will be participating in the bike rodeo in cooperation with the Recreation Dept on June 27.

Congratulations to the 2024 graduating class of Groveton High School.

Comments:
Pete Marshall noted that Saturday night there were a lot at the track, and a lot in the beer barn. The PD presence was much appreciated, they were well represented and there were no problems.

K. Frechette asked what does it take for a bear to be a nuisance? P. Pelletier said scattering trash, trying to get into buildings, causing damage to property, getting into chicken coops. They don't need to cause damage to be a nuisance. They don't need to do damage, if they are just strolling through that's not necessarily a nuisance. For example, one was pushing in a door on a garage to get after trash inside. People should not feed them and not provide anything that will excite them, bears are always hungry. Spring was early. Don't leave food inside your car with the window open! Once a nuisance they are killed or euthanized by F&G. There is a law against feeding the bears; we are not supposed to feed wildlife. Kathy asked if we notice someone feeding the bears what do we do? Peter said to let us know or F&G and we will do the best we can.

R. Pelletier spoke of an incident with his granddaughter; Officer Daisy came to help and Officer Kenison was on duty. Officer Daisey was right on and got there before he did. Randall said he can't thank him enough.

5. Requested Agenda Matters:

a. ATV Road Use – T. Emperor it's the same form submitted that is done yearly, J. Tierney said the roads are for meshing with the trails. They are not for driving to the grocery store, etc. When their season ends and the trails close; October 31 – then use of Town roads for ATV's closes as well.

Motion to allow for 1 year by: J. Weagle

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Al Rossetto asked what roads will be open? Page Hill will not be open. He has seen the ATVs after the season closes, can we have some police presence to police them. J. Tierney said it will be up to the PD, if they are breaking the law there are RSAs to cover. The RSA that regulate them is F&G. Al asked for increased communication when it is noticed. P. Pelletier said we make it a point to get out to Page Hill; Al said it isn't a big problem out there right now. J. Weagle said the streets that are open are Main, State and Melcher. Any resident can use a street to access a trail. Peter – for the motion made what are dates that is covers. J. Tiereny said the 2024 season.

B. Daisey asked if this is written somewhere? T. Emperor said it's on the maps, State website and on the boards. J. Weagle will put it on the Town website as well. Peter asked if it's posted on the Kiosk. Emperor said we can put it on there as well.

2nd by: K. Bronson, All in Favor 3-0

The club will post the open dates on the Kiosk and in the paper for end of season as well.

6. Town Administrator Business:

a. Land purchase (2):
Map/Lot 107-007 – This is where the Old Town Garage was. Tammy heard from the bank and they are not interested. There are 2 people interested in it. Randall & Dawn Pelletier and the LaChance's. He doesn't care who owns it, R. Pelletier said we have been in touch with everybody. He needs a right of way to get into his driveway. He's been there 10 years and pushes all the snow in there in the winter. R. Pelletier further discussed the property. How the bank got an easement is beyond him? Mr. Dupuis may have had a verbal agreement with someone. Tammy said there are easements; the bank has a deeded right of way; there are other easements in there and he may have a right of way already. Tammy was looking at it today and there are easements that go back to the 1920's. The Town has had it since then.

She suggested they stop in to review the property card for the easements to see if there is one to the Pelletier property. Then they can decide if they want to put a bid in. J. Tierney said to let the Lachance's know to have something in for the July 1 meeting.

Dawn asked if they would swear to this that this is it; 2 weeks ago, you said to send her a letter, which she never got. Now there are other people interested, we are talking 6 weeks now. J. Weagle said if nobody bids on it, it stays with the Town. Dawn said J. Tierney said to send the Pelletier's a letter. Tammy didn't send a letter because she had talked with her. J. Tierney said at the next meeting it will be decided.

K. Frechette commented about a property issue that she had.

Map/Lot 104-174 – The Foggs were interested in it, but didn't send a bid in. They previously indicated they own the lot, but there isn't any proof. Tammy said Lisa Fogg remembers that Terasa Brooks had gone down to the Town Office two times asking why the property wasn't in the Fogg's name, she remembers them paying for it. A deed was never done.

J. Tierney read the bid received from Dustin Supernois for Map/Lot 104-174 - .004 acre. He offered $750.00.

The Fogg's didn't submit a bid and there is no proof that they bought it many years ago. Tammy noted the Foggs said they paid in cash when Teresa Brooks was the tax collector. Within the Fogg property folder there is a draft of an invitation to bid, there is no deed, receipts, etc. The Town hasn't been taxing anyone on the lot and this happened back in the 80's. The Board further reviewed the information in the Fogg property folder. Mr. Fogg has been utilizing the lot with the presumption that he owns it. J. Tierney said he's been using it for approximately 40 years, if the lawyer says

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there isn't anything to impend it, then it can be sold to Mr. Supernois w/o waiting until the next meeting.

Motion to sell Map/Lot 104-174 to D. Supernois pending what the lawyer says to be sure it's done correctly by: J. Weagle
2nd by: K. Bronson, All in Favor 3-0

Judy Fox asked about the lot numbers; Map/Lot #107-007 when she looked them up she gets a different location. Tammy looked them up during the meeting; 107/007 is the Old Town Garage lot and the property the Town has on Maple St. is Map/Lot #104-229

b. Old Village Rd. Paving Quotes –
Black Top - $90,463.56
Central Paving - $89,368.00

T. Letson said this is a decrease from what we were expecting. When we did the other half of Old Village Rd. both of them had quoted approx. $250,000 for the entire road. With the new quotes, we will be just about $200,000. If we do this, it will use up the majority of what the taxpayers put in. Central has given a verbal saying if we add another road / street to reach $100,000 the price could be reduced. They haven't said by how much. If we go up to $105,000 that would get us over the $100,000; Glenn can come up with a road / street. Andre asked if that includes grinding and paving; Tammy said yes. She explained what the contractor(s) do. We do the ditching. The distance is 1,600 linear feet. The Board further reviewed the bids.

Motion to go with Central Paving up to $105,000 by: J. Weagle
2nd by: K. Bronson, All in Favor 3-0

c. Highway Safety Grant Agreement Amendment – Tammy - this is to be able to get equipment through the Highway Safety grant. They pay 75% of the equipment. This equipment will include a laptop and 1 portable devise. It can be strapped to where they want to use it, it records a lot of data. It lets them to know where there are speed issues, where they need to patrol. It can record a vehicle count and can break out the large trucks. J. Weagle asked if it can be backed up to the Cloud. P. Pelletier wasn't sure about that, Jim suggested looking into it. Peter said it's not a cruiser mounted device, it's strapped to a tree or other object. The total cost is approx. $5,400 – our share is approx. $1,350. The PD will find that amount in their budget.

Motion to accept the grant for PD equipment by: K. Bronson
2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 3-0

d. PA-28 Decision – It's been 8 – 10 years since we used it. The Board agreed not to use it.

Motion to NOT use the PA-28 form by: J. Weagle
2nd by: K. Bronson, All in Favor 3-0

e. Outstanding Dog License Warrants – This is for anyone that hasn't registered their dog(s).

Motion to sign the Dog Un-Licensed Warrant by: J. Weagle
2nd by: K. Bronson, All in Favor 3-0

E. Brown asked about the warrant; J. Weagle said if they come in a pay by a certain date, if not they go to court and pay fines. Tammy said they have received a first letter and still haven't followed through. Off this the PD goes out and delivers another letter. K. Frechette commented that residents have until April 30th to register and then

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another month to pay with a late fee. They had plenty of time to get this done. J. Weagle noted that going to court could cost hundreds of dollars.

7. Applications/Permits and Warrants:

a. Building Permits (3):

1. Map/Lot 243-006 - James Buss – demolition of 20' x 24' woodshed and build a 24' x 26' new garage with 2nd story storage and attached to existing house. Fee has been paid; Al has signed.

Motion to approve by: J. Weagle, 2nd by: K. Bronson, All in Favor 3-0

2. Map/Lot 247-002 – John Ackerley – build a 10' x 10' exercise platform deck on castors with a ez-up cover; repair lawn after septic install, extend lawn by 80'. Al has signed, fee hasn't been paid. Al further discussed Mr. Ackerley's plan and what happened.

Motion to approve pending receipt of payment by: J. Weagle
2nd by: K. Bronson, All in Favor 3-0

J. Tierney commented if the fee hasn't been paid; the permit should not come to the Board until it has been received. The other members concurred.

3. Map/Lot 237-026 – Stacy Avery, installing privacy fence on north side property line, adding on to existing room on front of the house (70 sq ft) and a 16' x 12' deck on the back of the house. Al signed and fee is paid. Al said the addition on the front is not coming any closer than the original bump out and the setbacks for the deck are adequate.

Motion to approve by: J. Weagle, 2nd by: K. Bronson, All in Favor 3-0

b. Transfer Station Non-Resident Permit Renewals (1):
Map/Lot 237-016 – Lisa Chafin; 951 Lancaster Rd. The fee is paid.

Motion to approve by: J. Weagle, 2nd by: K. Bronson, All in Favor 3-0

c. Junkyard License Renewal (1):
Map/Lot 240/007 – Harold E. Marshall, Jr. or Nancy J. Marshall, Lancaster Rd.

Motion to approve by: J. Weagle, 2nd by: K. Bronson, All in Favor 3-0

8. **Public Comment:

- C. Wheeler asked if there are any updates on the W/S project? Tammy said the plans are with USDA and DES to get their approval. Once it's given we can start the go out to bid process. When we started it was going to be a 1-year project, then a 2-year project. Now we are behind the March deadline that the engineers gave us. We will be lucky to have it done by the end of summer in 2025. It was approved in March 2023 by the taxpayers. J. Weagle said we approve it and then the Feds take it over. Chris said he understands from the last meeting that it was required to break ground this calendar year or a lot of money could be lost. Tammy said the ARPA money has to be spent this year which is a little less of a $1,000,000. The engineering will eat up a large portion of that money. We will still need to break ground, but it doesn't need to be a large portion of the project to obligate the ARPA money to the State. No guarantee but he could see it finished by the end of 2025.

- A Rossetto re: community power, we started a committee about 1 year ago. We still haven't had a meeting. J. Weagle said he should be getting an email next week.

- Ed Brown asked about a 900' section of the hill project that wasn't in the plan. T. Letson said it's been included in the plans, but the fear is there won't be enough funding. When it

goes out for bid it will be done with bid alternates; give us a bid for the whole project but give us amounts we can subtract for not doing certain roads, which is our choice for the roads. He asked if we had checked into putting liners in some of the lines. Tammy said it was decided between the State and Feds that they didn't like that idea. The reason being the serpentine layout of the sewer line. It opens us up for more issues going forward. It might not last as long as they would like it to. J. Weagle said we think the water lines won't be PVC, but it hasn't been put in writing yet. Kudos to Reggie for finding the correct argument about the PFA's. There are now studies that are showing that PFA's can come off the PVC.

- Rena Kirk – the Board did ask for the letters to be sent, there was a vacation that affected getting them out. The letters should be going out in the next couple of days. Once the Board knows who is interested then they can reach out to all of them and ask for a sealed bid. It's more of a drawn-out process because the lot that abuts her is tax deeded. We have to take the steps to notify them. Rena sent an email but didn't receive a response; she asked if it could at least be acknowledged. Tammy will have her email Rena tomorrow.

- N. Begin asked if she could meet during Non-Public re: property matter.

9. Announcements: The Town Office will be closed on July 4, 2024. Due to the holiday, the Planning Board will meet on July 10, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

10. Next Board Meeting Date: Monday, July 1, 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: K. Bronson, All in Favor 3-0

Into Non-Public session at 7:21 pm.

Motion to adjourn the Non-Public session by: J. Weagle
2nd by: K. Bronson, All in Favor 3-0

Out of Non-Public session at 7:44 pm

Into Regular session at 7:44 on

Motion to abate all the lien charges on N. Begin's W/S bill by: J. Weagle
2nd by: K. Bronson, All in Favor 3-0

J. Tierney would like to amend the statement at the bottom of the agenda to read – "This statement can be amended by the Board of Selectmen at will." Or with the appropriate wording.

J. Weagle was ok with anything basic but nothing big, sometimes it needs to be researched. Tammy discussed a scenario where she would want to put in a permit that came in on a meeting Monday.

Motion to amend the statement at the bottom of the agenda to read – "This statement can be amended by the Board of Selectmen at will." Or with the appropriate wording by: J. Tierney
2nd by: K. Bronson, All in Favor 3-0

It will be updated before the next meeting.

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12. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by: K. Bronson
2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 3-0

Meeting adjourned at 7:47 pm.

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)

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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

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