Town of
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Town of Northumberland
Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes - Draft
Date: Monday, March 18, 2024
Place: Town Meeting Room – 10 Station Square
Time: 6:00 P.M.

Board Members present: Keith Bronson, Jim Tierney, Jim Weagle
Others present: Kim Bronson, Tammy Letson, Jim Gibson, Sandra Mason, Stacey Glidden-Hodge, Norman Cotter, Pete Marshall, Al Rossetto, Elizabeth Ball, R. Archer, Judy Fox, Lisa Grimes, Louise Collins, Nancy Merrow, Bill Baxley, Bob Hart, Bryan Connary, Kathy Frechette, Andre Brasseur, William Daisey, Peter Pelletier, Melinda Kennett, Courtney McLain, Ryan Perkins, Reggie & Terri Charron, Ernest Roy, Glenn Cassady, Kathy Wiles, Rebecca St Cyr – Minute Taker

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

   S. Durkin asked if we could start the meetings with the Pledge of Allegiance. Everyone rose for the Pledge of Allegiance

   Motion for J. Tierney to be the Chairman by: J. Weagle,
   2nd by: Keith Bronson, All in Favor 3-0

   Motion for J. Weagle to be the Vice Chairman by: J. Tierney
   2nd by: K. Bronson, All in Favor 3-0

2. **Acceptance of Minutes:**

   Motion to approve the March 4, 2024 minutes by: J. Weagle
   2nd by: J. Tierney, 1 in Favor – 2 Abstained

3. **Department Head Business:**

   Ambulance – J. Gibson – EMS Chiefs Report

   1. 2024 as of this printing, we have had 94 calls to date (Print out included).
   2. 2023 on this date we were at 88 calls (Print out included).
   3. Comstar report as of 03/18/2024. Net commitments are $41,700.95, this does not include payments made directly to the office or contract fees.
   4. The training day for the PD which included CPR, first aid and Narcan administration went well. The entire staff is now up to date.
   5. The training on Obstetrics and neonatal resuscitation mentioned last month will be this Wednesday. This will involve training with hands on simulated patients and babies.

6. Both ambulances are currently operational. The 2015 (A1 unit) threw a check engine light last week. This is for a low voltage alert. An appointment will be made for it this week.

Fire Dept. - A. Brasseur

19 calls YTD
10 calls since last meeting:
4 un-permitted burns, 4 fire alarm activations, 1 MV crash, 1 __ malfunction

Nothing major to report.

We are in the brush burning season, getting the word out for permits.

Police Dept. – P. Pelletier

252 calls for service, none occurred when we weren't around.
9 went to NH State Police
38 Car stops
11 arrests with:
18 Charges including 2 drunk driving charges and 2 drug charges

Crushed one drug smugglers vehicle, the reason it was crushed is it had hidden compartments in it.

17 new investigations

Training was 1) first aid / CPR / Narcan and 2) Northern Boarder Alliance

Other training – Northern Border Alliance training and are ready to go when it starts.

J. Tierney asked about communications between Grafton and Berlin and problems going east – west. J. Gibson noted it's a problem for the ambulance with some of the locations they go to where they lose reception. J. Tierney said you might receive a call from the Northern Alliance; they received a grant for $1.2 million, so you might hear from Mark.

4. Requested Agenda Matters:

a. Ryck Morales – US Small Business Administration – R. Morales wasn't at the meeting; skipped over.

5. Town Administrator Business:

a. Eclipse Event At Small Ballfield – R. Archer; presented a flyer to the Board for the Eclipse event for their approval. We will have pizza; beverages are being donated by OSJL; the Family Resource Center is volunteering to help. We will have glasses to give out as well. We will make an announcement regarding looking at it safely. T. Letson only heard from 1 of the Rec Commission. They are all for it, but the restrooms will not be open

Motion to approve the event and sponsored by the Town by: J. Weagle
2nd by: K. Bronson, All in Favor 3-0

K. Bronson asked what Town sponsored event means? J. Weagle said Primex will cover it if anything happens.

K. Frechette asked if there could be a stipulation added about the field if it's wet. J. Tierney said no vehicles will be on the field or in the back area if it's muddy.

Archer also thanked Reggie Charron for his work finding the W/S lines to the train station. He came to the site visit and was quite a spokesperson in favor of the project. He went above and beyond the call of duty.

b. NH Emergency Notification System Sign Up – J. Gibson said the State sent some info because he is the 911 liaison. The State has a new contact and are going through a new company for emergency alerts through the 911 system. There are 3-4 forms to be filled out that he gave to Tammy. It can be used for any kind of alerts; an app is downloaded, and alerts can be sent through it. It requires one point of contact. Tammy recommended J. Gibson. There is no cost to the Town for this.

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

c. VSP Vision Care - T. Letson - our health insurance company - has reached out to us about this. They do offer coverage through VSP Vision Care, we have until April 5, 2024 to decide. It is something that can be passed onto the employees. It's $3.16 per member/ month. $6.32 for 2 persons; $10.16 for a family plan. Tammy reviewed what VSP would be covered. For places that don't take it, they will allow the member to send in the bill and get reimbursed that way. The Town would pay to cover the member and 50% for additional family members. K. Bronson commented we need to find the cost first. J. Tierney asked J. Weagle to pull back his motion until we research the costs, etc. first. Weagle pulled back his motion. It will be reviewed and revisited at another meeting.

d. Appointment of Reps on the Boards – J. Weagle is the Planning Board rep and alternate for Zoning Board. Weagle said that was changed, he can't be on both boards. K. Bronson will be an alternate on the Zoning Board.

J. Tierney is on the Conservation Commission; Rec Comm – they asked for Tammy to be the rep. J. Weagle said there still needs to be a Select Board member, he will be the Rep. Tammy will attend when needed for financial.

6. Applications/Permits and Warrants:

a. Building Permits - (0) **–** putting off until next month otherwise they would only be good for approx. 2 weeks.

b. Abatements – (1) Map/Lot 103-019 **-** came in on March 6th. By State law they are due by March 1st. We denied another one that came in after the 1st.

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

S. Durkin asked if that's just because it was late? J. Tierney said they can't refile until next year. They can challenge the denial through BTLA or go to court. T. Letson said we have a standard letter that will be sent to the applicant.

7. **Public Comment:

- T. Charron – the Fire Dept. will be doing a burn at the Town Cemetery on April 2.

- S. Durkin – Lancaster shot down the Community Power; he asked if we are still moving forward with this? He thinks it's a good idea and could save households approx. $25.00/ month. Briefly discussed the rates. J. Weagle said he will be getting an email this week about the committee. Tammy has some information to pass on when the committee gets started. Leeann Potter in Lancaster has a lot of information on this and Henry Noelle, Berlin is another resource.

- K. Bronson asked what this was about – J. Tierney explained Community Power is for everyone and would be signed up. They can opt out if they want to. The supplier and distributor is Eversource, the supply of the energy is from Standard Power or others. It's bought in bulk to save money. If people don't go with it, they will pay whatever Eversource or other carriers charge. B. Connary asked if you opt in is there a contract period? Tammy said if the Town opts in the Town is in a contract period. B. Connary asked if it's variable rate pricing during the contract period? Tammy said from those she had heard sales pitches from, yes. She is not sure if the rates are different for residential vs. industrial.

  If the Town opts in, Sean commented that they buy what the Town is projected to use and then rebuy at the end of the year. Tammy said the market has fallen out and it's going at low rates right now. A. Rossetto has done some research, and it sounds like a good idea, however it doesn't support net metering. He generates 40 – 50% of their power on site. he would have to opt out. He heard that there are some bills coming up in the legislature that might help with it. J. Tierney further discussed.

- C. McLain – Sam Young isn't taking the Trustee of Trust Funds position; she was a write in. Tammy will put out a notice for letters of interest. They will need to be back by April 15 for review at the Select Board meeting.

- M. Kennett asked if the Board has thought about getting another deputy clerk yet. We have water bills that will need to be out soon. J. Tierney said it can be discussed in Non-Pub.

- Norm Cotter– what's going on in the Town Office; he's hearing that we don't have a Town Clerk? J. Tierney explained the right of refusal goes to write-ins. When you sign up to run for a position, you agree to accept the position. We have a Town Clerk that was elected; if we don't come to terms with her tonight, the individual will have to resign. Min said they do have an opt out if they haven't been signed in. J. Tierney noted that the deputy can be there for 30 days.

8. Announcements: The Town of Stark and the Town of Stratford have graciously agreed to process our motor vehicle registrations while our new Town Clerk/Tax Collector completes her training.

Stark – open on Tuesday & Thursday
Stratford – Mixed hours on Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday

Tammy will put together a flyer to hand out and will have it posted on the website, will also send it out on the email tree. It will have the 2 Towns, phone #'s, days, and hours, but she recommends calling for an appt. B. Baxley said he called Stark today, but they weren't ready yet. Min said we've done them for Stratford and Stark in the past; we would keep the agent fees and issue them a check for the local fees. Tammy said we have an extra $5.00 fee for transportation, neither Stark nor Stratford can collect the extra amount; their software doesn't allow it. Registrations will be $5.00 cheaper.

9. Next Board Meeting Date: Monday, April 1, 2024 – 6 pm

10. 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. Bonson
Roll Call: J. Weagle – Yes; J. Tierney – Yes; K. Bronson - Yes

Into Non-Public Session at – 6:42 pm

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

Out of Non-Public Session at 7:29 pm

Into regular session at 7:29 pm

Lisa Tetreault, Justice of the Peace/Notary was present to swear in Kathy Wiles as the newly elected Town Clerk/Tax Collector. The oath was read, Kathy was officially sworn in at 7:34 pm on 03/18/24; for a term of 2 years as the Northumberland Town Clerk/Tax Collector.

Motion to go back into Non-Public Session by: J. Weagle
2nd by: K. Bronson, All in Favor 3-0
Roll Call: J. Weagle – Yes; K. Bronson – Yes, J. Tierney - Yes

Back into Non-Public Session at 7:44 pm.

Motion to come out of Non-Public Session by: J. Weagle
2nd by: K. Bronson, All in Favor 3-0

Out of Non-Public Session at 8:41 pm

Into Regular Session at 8:41

Motion to seal the minutes for section c & e of the Non-Public Session by: J. Weagle
2nd by: K. Bronson, All in Favor 3-0
Roll Call: J. Weagle – Yes; K Bronson – Yes; J. Tierney - Yes

11. Adjournment:

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:44 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)

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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