Town of
Northumberland
Office of Selectmen
19 Main St
Groveton NH 03582
Phone (603) 636-1450
Fax (603) 636-6098
www.northumberlandnh.org

Town of Northumberland
Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes - Draft
Date: Monday, November 4, 2024
Place: Conference Room – 19 Main Street
Time: 6:00 P.M.

Board Members present: Jim Tierney, Jim Weagle, Keith Bronson
Others present: Tammy Letson, Al Rossetto, Pete Marshall, Norman Cotter, C. R. Wheeler, G. Kenison, Deb Miles, Glenn Cassady, Judy Fox, Kathy Frechette, Melinda Kennett, Sheila Smith, Melissa Dano, Doug Dano, Reginald Charron, Dawn Bryan, Jeff Normand, Jerry Monahan, Eric Brown, Peter Pelletier, William Daisey, 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:** 10/21/2024 and 10/25/2024

   Motion to accept the 10/21/24 minutes by: J. Weagle, 2nd by: K. Bronson, All in Favor 3-0

   Motion to accept the 10/25/24 minutes by: K. Bronson, 2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 3-0

4. **Department Head Business:** Hwy/Water/Sewer

   Hwy – Glenn Cassady, Road Agent
   - Vendors were in and everything is completed. The roads were completed, sides brushed back.
   - The crack sealing vendor is still working on nice days. They won't be doing the parking lots, due to being late in the season.
   - Glenn has called 3 times re: the striping on Brown Rd., he's left messages, they haven't returned my calls. One of their trucks flipped over last week in Jefferson.
   - We have put up the winter sand, hauled gravel for Reggie and got some stockpiled.
   - The mowing equipment has been put away
   - Started dressing the trucks for winter; Randy was dumping a load and a cross member broke. He took it down to Wilco. Glenn discussed what they built for us. The sanders are in, and we will be getting the plows on.
   - Will be cleaning out some drains that have leaves covering them.
   - We need to do the park benches. He received an email from E. Gray, advising that someone needs to do the flowerpots, we will probably p/u and take care of them. Tammy said that Elaine pulled all the flowers from the outside pots. J. Weagle said it would be great if the crew could take care of the pots.
   - The paving on Mechanic and Bearce St. is done.
   - M. Kennett asked who the company is that's going to do the striping. Glenn said L&D Safety Marking is the contractor, they are contracted through the DOT. C. Wheeler thought they were one of 3 different companies? Glenn said there were 3 divisions. Tammy said we

have signed paperwork with L&D, if it has to wait until spring we will hold them to cost they gave us.

- K. Bronson asked about the signs coming into Town near the funeral home is there a "Kids at play" sign? Reggie said no but there are school signs. The signs that are there are the States, it's Route 3. Keith's mom was concerned after seeing a child playing in the road.
- E. Brown asked if the location of tonight's meeting was posted somewhere. Yes, Tammy said the agenda shows the location Conference Room – 19 Main St. It's posted at the library and on our door, plus it went out on the email tree.
- An attendee asked when the minutes are posted. J. Weagle said we're not posting the minutes; since we are building a new website. All the minutes need to be consistent from all Boards and committees. Min commented by law the Town Meeting minutes are supposed to be posted within 5 days and that hasn't happened yet. Tammy noted that's why we are looking at a new website. The person doing it now is struggling with getting the PDF on there and turning the minutes into a Jpeg format isn't an easy process; this is the main reason it's not being put up right now. That's why we are looking at a new website that's more user friendly on both ends, the new company is Civally. Min said that Stratford did theirs over and it's one of the nicest ones in the State. Tammy further discussed the new company and moving forward. Typically, it's a 2-3 month process. There will be 4 or 5 of us that will have access to keep it updated. All the minutes that are missing will be added to the new site and they will bring over approx. 2 years of history.

<u>Water / Sewer – Reggie Charron, Superintendent</u>

- We have approx. 700 letters going out to most water users. The letters are because we don't know what the material is on either the owners side or the utility side. This is a National mandate from EPA; they are saying every unknown is considered lead; we don't have any lead, but we have some galvanized that will be part of a replacement plan over a 10 year period. The reason for the letters is one side of the line is unknown. We need to know what the pipes are on both sides of the lines. This will be a long drawn out process; don't get scared by the letters. If you want your water sampled, the State will be doing it. The State is also trying to ease out some of the federal requirements.

  If the line on your side is galvanized it will need to be replaced. There is going to be grant money available to help with the cost. If you get a letter, please read it thoroughly, there is a lot of good information. Please remember it's a national letter. We are fortunate that we don't have a lot of lead due to the 1971 Clean Water Act. There will probably be a lot of confusion, people calling the office etc. Reggie wants residents to know our water is safe. We test our water every day, but because of the mandate; they are putting out the fear. Reggie knows of an area in Town that is galvanized which will need to be replaced sooner than later. We are under their deadlines and mandates; and they are also threatening operators with jail time.

- We lost our remote access for the water plant. We can run it manually, the software we have was good for 5 years; Reggie has received the new software, which cost $3,500. He discussed a recent incident that happened, where we lost 55,000 gallons of water. We lost the remote access on the 23rd and we have it back as of tonight.

- The hill project, Reggie said he got an email today; we are getting close to being able to accept the bid that we have. NHDES Wastewater Division has signed off on the comments that Steve LaFrance had on the design, and it will go to the next level. Hopefully, we can make the November 20th deadline to maintain the contractor with the low bid. Most likely there won't be anything done until spring.

- We had an energy audit this summer which was great. It is done by Process Energy Service LLC with NHDES. They were good, they checked all our water systems. We were trying to look at solar to cut our energy costs. As one of the towns in the north country, we have a low energy cost. Reggie further discussed what we've done that is cost savings. There are some implementations that they would like to try. He is having a zoom meeting

with them on Thursday to look at trying to implement some of this. There are some benefits with Eversource; they are talking about paying up to 50% of some of these costs. Tammy said this is a grant, the company we are speaking with will take care of the Eversource applications to get the refund if we sign a paper then we will implement what they are offering for suggestions. We want to see the price tag before asking the Board to sign anything. They implied that we would see a return on investments within 18 months. Reggie said we do have some land that might be a good area for some solar arrays.

Sewer

– DES – we just had to renew 2 ground water permits for the Groveton and Northumberland Village treatment plants. The State is being hard on everybody; we had to talk to Horizons because they were getting lax. They have been doing this for 25 years, Reggie further discussed. We have deadlines and mandates to meet; everyone is swamped – it's not just Groveton it's everybody.

- PFA testing – It's part of our new permits. He will need to get some sludge out of the lagoons because they want samples, plus samples from Northumberland Village. It's all got to be done this month. Everyone is working hard, it's a lot of work but he's glad he started when he did. Reggie is spending a lot more time in front of a computer than he wants to right now. Bart and Keith are doing a phenomenal job. Bart will be helping out with the LCRR. We are all going to have to start doing more work. Tammy has to sign off on a lot of this as well.

- J. Monahan asked about the letters and the pipes. Tammy - EPA says if we can't identify what's there, it's assumed that it's lead. Jerry asked, so what if you can't get into someone's home? Reggie discussed; he has to set up appointments with homeowners to get a picture of what's coming into their basement. If he doesn't have records of what's on the utility side then we would need to dig. Tammy noted that we have 10 years to get an answer on everything.

  Eric asked if a note could be included with the letters. Reggie said he's been sending a note with the water bills asking people to take a picture and/or set up an appointment. We've included the note on the last 3 billing, but not the current one. Tammy said you might still get a letter because we might not know what's on the Town utility side. Discussion continued re: Brooklyn St. area; Reggie said it's CTS up to the curb. When we get the pictures they are put into the system by the address. Eric asked about the hill project and documenting what's there while they are doing it. Reggie said there are programs, we need to try and implement for the project now. Tammy said it will be a warrant article in March. There is a program through NHDES that will allow money for homeowners to replace service lines if necessary, but it needs to be run through the Town. It's a grant to the Town that the Town will pass off to the homeowner. We don't know how much they are willing to give us, they don't have that figured out yet. Discussion ensued regarding replacing the service lines.

  Reggie has been testing lead and copper in Town every 2 years for Groveton and every 3 years in Lost Nation; we take 10 random houses. The Town has been awesome, but when it comes to money out of homeowners pockets; he can't tell them to do it. Tammy said they have money for lead, but they don't know about the galvanized yet. Reggie said our water system is one of the best in the North Country. He doesn't want people freaking out about it. He has tested the schools and daycares. We don't have lead in our system.

  K. Frechette asked about the testing, what is it being tested for? It would be for lead.

  S. Smith asked if someone has copper pipes in their home can they assume that it's copper to the curb? Yes, but we still need to identify and document the other side as well. Reggie said they won't take his word; he needs to prove it.

J. Monahan asked about the work, mandates, and the costs. Tammy said there is limited grant money available within the State budget. Grant money is passed from the Federal Gov to the State, the State's budget decides how to spend it. The State needs to come up with a way to share it fairly across the State. It could be first come first served, a percentage, or size of the community. This is a Federal mandate that the water users will pay for. Anything built after 1986 is fine anything before 1986 could have lead. A filtration system in a home is a problem for taking a sample.

N. Cotter said he put his line in back in 1973; someone took pictures then. Reggie still needs a picture for proof.

D. Miles mentioned her line; Reggie said he believes hers is one that he has because he helped put it in.

With the sewer, Reggie has ways of testing that, he has a line locator can put a metal rod in, energize it and find it. Norm asked if he will get a letter? Reggie said possibly to find what's on the other side. Route 3 was done in 1970, but he has no documentation.

C. Wheeler asked if with the hill project, are you still required to start it before Dec 31. Tammy said we are not required to start it by Dec 31, but they have to be able to obligate the ARPA money. NHDES has verbally told us that it is obligated for us, and we are set.

J. Tierney asked about the problem in Northumberland, was it something that OSJL did? Reggie said he doesn't know what caused it and further discussed. We've seen stuff get in there and get stuck. J. Monahan asked if he checked the store on the other end. Yes we do, that water was shut off some time ago. Jerry said someone is doing some work there.

5. Requested Agenda Matters:

6. Town Administrator Business:

a. Assessing – A lot of towns in the North Country are having the same issues that we've had with assessors. When the RFPS' for assessing are sent out they get zero responses or thank you but no thank you. Recently, several towns got together; one of the suggestions that came up was to do a single Request for Proposal for the majority of the towns in Coos County. The Board needs to approve this before we can join the RFP.

Motion made to join the RFP by: J. Tierney
2nd by: K. Bronson

J. Tierney further explained the RFP it would be joint with the other towns, to review what they need, what we need; gather information and then send it out. There were 12 towns in attendance. A assessing firm could maybe open a satellite office in Coos County for their people to work out of. And maybe assign someone to live here, and work here.

J. Monahan asked if this is just looking for a new assessing firm? Yes, CNP is doing only the pickup's this year, not sure about next year. They are not willing to do revals. Colebrook was supposed to have a reval in 2023, they got an extension until 2024. Now they are under court order to do one by 2025, but they can't get anyone to do it. Any assessing firm hired needs to be licensed by the State of NH; they found someone from VT, but the State hasn't issued them a license yet.

E. Brown asked if the towns are looking to hire an independent assessor so that we will have a full-time assessor? J. Tierney said that would be choice #2, #1 would be to get an assessing firm. Tammy said if it's an employee that goes to multiple Towns, each town will have different disciplinary rules and how do you find an even ground across 12 towns to make the rules the same. Eric commented wouldn't that be part of joining the coalition

and making up the rules and hiring a person so that each town is paying their fair share. J. Tierney said we are looking at what all the towns are paying to see how much money we are talking about Tammy commented that we are hoping to attract a firm to cover all the Towns.

Jerry asked about the license for Colebrook. J. Tierney said OPLC is part of the problem is Governor Sununu OPLC to handle all licenses for every industry in the State. Tammy noted with the concept being; if it's all in one State department, reciprocity with our surrounding States would be easier. They don't have the expertise in the office to do it. Eric suggested that since J. Tierney is a State Rep maybe he can do something to help it move along.

G. Kenison re: pickup's, per some of our discussions we have talked about assessment cards. When we are doing pickups, theoretically the cards will be updated? Tammy said yes, the cards should be updated with every pickup. If the tax cards are incorrect we are not getting a proper tax bill; Tammy agreed. Geroge said they are not getting an assessment that is reflective of their property. Everybody needs to pay their fair share of the taxes. Tammy said Colebrook & Groveton are looking now because we don't have a contract. The other towns have an assessor until Dec 31. We are all looking to have someone by spring. J. Tierney said one of the towns has a reval due next year. George said bottom line is that there is a lot of revenue that is not being picked up on.

All in Favor 3-0

b. Nuisance Ordinance – Pete Pelletier – the Select Board approved an ordinance for nuisance activity. This part of it was supposed to be included, but it wasn't. What it addresses is if we keep attending the same type of calls at the same resident, or an apartment building with tenants that are out of control. The ordinance addresses whether we can site the owner of the property for maintaining a nuisance property.

Pete reviewed an incident in the past; we had an apartment building where we were always there, we ticketed it wasn't stopping. We made some arrests and things calmed down; people actually got evicted. We had given the owner a heads up that he would be responsible for that kind of activity since they were not doing much to get the tenants in line. When we submitted the original ordinance it was missed.

E. Brown asked for the ordinance to be read into the record so that people know what is being proposed. J. Tierney reviewed the citation form. Pete said this is the summons that would be used, the ordinance requires us to give a warning the first time. Once is gets ridiculous, and we've been there too much, then we can start applying fines.

J. Tierney said it will be added to the minutes. Eric asked if there is a time restriction on the noise. Shouldn't there be some restrictions on the time so that someone having an afternoon barbeque can enjoy their yard? Pete said he isn't in favor of setting a time restriction, we have people that work shifts, etc. A backyard barbeque is one thing but if someone is burning rubber and being crazy that's a little different. We can usually distinguish that quickly. J. Tierney further reviewed the long list of items that are on the citation.

J. Monahan asked: You want to hold a landlord responsible for what his tenants are doing? Pete said yes, there are some landlords that are completely out of touch, and they don't care who they offend as long as the money keeps coming in. They don't care what the tenants are up to. People have the right to live in peace. Monahan asked if this is only for residences or businesses too? What if you have to go to the racetrack 3 weeks in a row for fights? Peter said there hasn't been a lot of that kind of activity at the racetrack; the current owner runs a pretty tight ship. Peter said it could be for a business as well and he

discussed a situation. If/When there is a place that is consistently disorderly, why wouldn't we hold the owner responsible.
G. Kenison asked who pays for the prosecution? We already pay for prosecution; Tammy said we pay for prosecution on a monthly basis. Discussion continued re: prosecuting. J. Monahan commented if you keep going to these places you are probably going to arrest someone. Pete said if the landlord is allowing for enabling that kind on nuisance activity, why wouldn't you hold them responsible. J. Monahan doesn't think the landlord is responsible for what the tenants do. Pete disagrees on that. Eric commented, say the landlord has tried to do something, but the courts say no? Pete said if the landlord is doing what he can to abate the nuisance and the courts are not helping, it would be unfair. We are trying to address property owners who are completely enabling; and we are always there. J. Tierney said Uncle Sam does it right now, if you allow a tenant to grow marijuana and you may know it and allow it to go on; you can lose your property. Uncle Sam will take it away from you. The Ordinance is giving you a fine, this is just adding it to the Nuisance Ordinance.

Eric when a law is written or we pass ordinances; it doesn't matter what the intent is, it matters what's written into it. It needs to be clarified in the ordinance that if the landlord has tried to do something, he won't be held responsible. The Board tabled until the next meeting until the paragraph is re-written.

C. Wheeler asked if it's always a warning for the first time. Pete said yes. Wheeler didn't recommend adding it, the first time might need to be more. Pete further discussed; this is directed towards those that are allowing it to go on. J. Monahan asked if we have a lot of this in town. Pete said no, there was one place on the hill up until recently we were going to; it's pretty rare.

Motion to table until the next meeting by: J. Weagle
2nd by: K. Bronson, All in Favor 3-0

c. Abatement – It's for the Town of Northumberland, Tammy said a first issue tax bill was issued and shouldn't have been - $1,648 the location is 146 Old Village Rd.

Motion to abate the property taxes by: K. Bronson, 2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 3-0

d. AVRRD – Tammy – AVRRD is entering into a contract for gas sale. Al Rossetto said 10 months ago the District signed a contract with Northern Bio-Gas to collect the gas coming off the landfill, which is mostly methane. It's very complex; there were other companies that bid on this. The District made the decision to go with Northern Bio-Gas. Al further discussed the reasoning behind going with Northern Bio-Gas. The are going to put in systems to take out the landfill gas, (which is dirty) and put it into the pipeline.

Sharon Gauthier was the Director for approx. 30 years and knows the system the best. There will be a public hearing this month for public input. Al asked the attorneys if it's in the best interest of the District to sign it and they both said yes. Sharon Gauthier said yes as well. When all the paperwork is done a check for $10,000,000 will come to the District.

Al reviewed the outs of going with Northern Bio-Gas. It will allow the member towns a place to send their trash conservatively through 2045. We will also get money for the gas that goes into the pipeline; the Directors voted to go with the pre-load option where we get the money up front instead of a little more money based on the cubic feet. It's been a long process; he feels the Town should move to sign the contract.

J. Tierney believes there is a 3 year window to get out at the beginning for any reason. The $10,000,000 has to be returned and the District gets any interest accrued. There is also a monthly royalty payment for the gas. After the 3 years there has to be reasons by either side to terminal the contract. Discussion continued regarding the contract. J.

Tierney is hoping the District doesn't spend the $10,000,000 to fast. Al said the plan is for the money to be put into high yield accounts and sit on it. We've already paid for the cell opening and unless society collapses we are still going to be making trash. The nine member towns put 9% of the trash into Mt. Carberry; the rest comes from other NH municipalities and Towns; 1% - 2% comes from VT and/or ME.

J. Monahan asked how this benefits the Town of Northumberland. J. Tierney said one of the benefits are the savings we get; 10 years ago, we were paying Mt. Carberry $65,000-$85,000 a year in fees to dump our trash. Not tipping fees, just a fee to do it. We haven't paid a fee in a while. The 9 member towns don't have to pay a fee; they pay a $58.00/ton tipping fee. Al further discussed the tipping fee costs.

Al said when Cassella closes that's going to bring the price of trash up. Sharon Gauthier has put the District in an excellent position; it's a very well run municipal entity. J. Tierney said the 9 towns that own it are doing ok. There are others that want to join but as long as the Directors say no they keep paying a fee to dump there plus pay a higher tipping fee. Al said Cassella has a standing offer to buy Mt. Carberry, he further discussed.

The members of AVRRD: Northumberland, Dummer, Milan, Berlin, Stark, Randolph, Unincorporated Places, Gorham and one more. They are the original towns that joined, and no others have been allowed since.

The Board agreed it's a good idea

7. Applications/Permits and Warrants:

a. Building Permits (1):

1. Map/Lot 104-96 **–** Joe Iodice, 49 Hillside, Finish framing, insulation, drywall, add bathroom, assemble kitchen and bath, finish portion of basement, repair and finish siding, finish deck, repair garage, roof, siding, and flooring . Al signed and the fee ($250.00) is paid.

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

2. Map/Lot 104-058 – 34 State St., rebuild and realign main house chimney, the fee is paid, Al has signed.

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

3. Map/Lot 104-059 – 32 State St., Chimney service, fee paid, Al has signed.

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

b. Non-Resident Transfer Station Permit (1):

1. Map/Lot 104-96 – New – Joe Iodice, 49 Hillside Ave., fee paid $15.00

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

8. **Public Comment:

- M. Kennett asked about the abatement signed for Town owned property that was issued a 1st issue tax bill; she thinks everything that was taken needs to be looked at also.

The last person that was doing the website updates; that person hasn't been replaced. She kept the website updated and had no problems with it. Why can't J. Weagle use that

computer? At the meeting someone always asks about when are you updating the website. She knows the answer is: in 4-5 months we will have a new website, but what about now? J. Weagle said the website has changed and makes it more difficult than it was. He's not used to the old website compared to the new website. It's kind of antiquated. It's not just the software; it's just the way the programs have changed, J. Weagle further discussed. Min didn't update the website but would send info to Liz.

J. Weagle said the PDF's need to be changed to Jpeg now. Min said Liz had the software to change the PDF files to Jpeg. K. Bronson said a previous Town employee's computer shouldn't be used. Mothball it. Tammy said if we get an assessor they would probably use that computer. It's the Towns computer that Liz used, which she had to log in to with her own user ID and password. The computer can be cleaned out. Eric noted aren't we deleting public records if everything is wiped out? Tammy said there are Town records on that computer that haven't been cleaned off yet.

C. Wheeler doesn't know who Liz is, but why can't she be hired to do it? Tammy explained she resigned and no longer works for the Town. J. Weagle took it over and had to deal with the software changes. With the new website, the updates will be spread across several people.

- A. Rossetto – the Energy Committee will be passing out pamphlets about the public hearing we are having on November 12. Andrew Hatch will be here to outline the program and answer questions. He contacted Moderator, Keith Young, and they will be handing them out at the election on 11/05. An average consumer with 500 kw hrs./month would save approx. $9.00/month on the electric portion.

- J. Monahan asked how long the Town has owned the apartment building on Old Village Rd. Tammy said sometime in April. Are you going to let Reggie into the cellar? Why is it not up for sale yet? Tammy said it's not up for sale yet, because we are looking into different ways to sell all of our tax deeded property. Min asked why are the residents still there. J. Tierney commented that it's not that easy. Tammy understood it was a vacant building; there were special circumstances with this property. Min asked if they know the Town took it; Tammy commented they were sent a letter. They also own the building next to this one. Min said before she retired, they were supposed to come in to meet with the Board. J. Tierney and Tammy further discussed. Sheila asked who is paying the bills. The Town is covering the W/S; when it gets sold we will recoup that amount.

- E. Brown presented the Board with a list of issues in regard to public records. How come officer Daisey didn't fill out an application for employment? Tammy said at that time he was hired it was standard practice that the Town didn't request an application for part-time police officers. Eric commented when he went to full-time, do you think we should have gotten one so the citizens would have a paper trail of where he worked before and if there was a problem they could go to that town. Why wasn't one done then.

  Eric said in the package presented he also asked for complaints filed against Officer Daisey. The Chief said there were none, so he went to Tammy and told her he knows that's a lie. It's a violation of RSA 91A – Withholding public records. Whether it was a mistake or not, it's a crime in this State. On the last page is the complaint that he put in writing.

  It seems the Town doesn't do anything unless it's in writing. When our government lies to us it's a very disturbing thing. Chief Pelletier signed it, Tammy had told him that the Chief is responsible for the personnel records at the PD. He had ample opportunity to go through and see if there was one there. He expected the Board to do something, a reprimand or an investigation by another town or do something. You did nothing when town members complained about it. He has a problem with that and expects something to be done. Brown further discussed and feels Pelletier either intentionally lied or didn't do his job.

Tammy said the PD officers have 2 personnel files, she explained the content of each. The one she gave him was in the office file. In most towns the PD has their own personnel records and some of the information are not for public record. They have to have files that we don't. When he came to her and felt it was a lie, that's when she went through our records and found the one that she shared with Brown. When you tell us there are complaints then I believe there are complaints. Eric finds it disturbing that it was signed stating there were none. Min feels it was fluffed under the rug and covered up the whole time. K. Bronson said at that time there was an investigation going on at the time and it wasn't available to the public. He understands Daisey was verbally reprimanded. J. Monahan commented it's against the law for an Officer to break the law and the Chief didn't do anything.

Sheila asked if the Chief has rules that need to be followed when someone is hired? Pelletier is supposed to know the background on new hires for the safety of all of us. Tammy said the rules are set out by Police Standards and Training. She was not privy to when he was hired; it was before she was here. Sheila asked if it's up to the Board to talk with Pelletier. Tammy said the Board are the only ones that make the final decisions on hiring. J. Tierney said usually when Pelletier comes in to talk to us about a new hire, he presents all the information about him or her. The stuff Eric is complaining about was done here. Eric said he also requested info on the newest officer. Why didn't we require that when he was hired full-time. J. Weagle noted that usually with part-time officers they are employed by another town, who has done all the work on their end. It's a seamless transition when they come to us. Eric said why don't we make applications required for part-time?

Motion for any employee, for any department, be required to submit an application and a resume can be attached effective 11/05/24 by: J. Tierney
2nd by: K. Bronson

J. Monahan asked if there are any positions that don't require an application. Crossing Guard was the only one mentioned.

All in Favor 3-0

- Min asked about an issue in Northumberland with some rats. There have been a lot of complaints. Is the Town doing anything about it? J. Tierney said we are looking into it, but we don't take care of hiring pest control for private property or go to anyone's house. J. Tierney said we sent inquiries into the NH Vet who stated there isn't anything they can do to assist us. Fish & Game has said to others they can't help with it either. It's a neighborhood in a private residence, it may have spread to neighbors. As far as we know we are not liable for pest control in homes. What we are looking at is: if the people are still residing in the home; there is an office in Concord that will be contacting them. Tammy said the lawyers have contacted us and said there isn't anything the Town is responsible for. The Health Officer is working with us and DHHS. Min understands the rats were to feed their snake(s) and they breed like rabbits!! There was a police officer who went into the property and had to leave it was so bad and neighbors are having an issue with them. J. Tierney said our hands are tied with what we can do. If the Health Officer comes back and says it's not habitable, we are on the hook to pay for putting the family up if we move them out. Discussion continued regarding the situation.

- M. Kennett asked about the tax rate, when will we get it? Tammy said we are waiting on the auditors for the 535, she has reached out to them and doesn't expect it to be much longer. Tammy said by law they are due April 1st; the 434 is an estimate, the later that it's done, the more accurate it is. Min noted that normally the tax rate is set in October. J. Tierney said as long as the assessors and everyone assists in that process it happens. The auditors are not done. The bills won't go out until we get the rate. Discussion continued regarding the tax rate, revenue, assets. This rate is based on what is voted on at Town

Meeting, the reval and what all that drives for a new rate. The revenues are estimated, that's what the 434 is for, which Tammy does. The Town Clerk brings in a lot of revenue other than property taxes, registrations, dog licenses, etc. Min suggested getting after the auditors.

- Sheila asked if the rats will be taken care of before winter? They will continue to multiply. J. Tierney said hopefully we will get word as to 1) are the people are still living there, and 2) what needs to happen to get them out if deemed unfit for habitation. It has to be done legally. The Health Officer may have talked with them, we haven't been able to talk with them yet. Min talked with the grandson; who said it hasn't been good for a long time. He has moved and said they let them (the rats) go. J. Tierney said we are looking into it but have no authority to do anything unless we are told it's unfit for human habitation.

- E. Brown noted that the Non Public Session has to show what the session is about. J. Weagle said we put it on the agenda, but we don't have anything for Non-Public session tonight.

9. Announcements: Elections are Tuesday, November 5, 2024 from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
The Town Office will be closed November 11, 2024 in observance of Veteran's Day.
The Energy Committee Public Hearing will be November 12, 2024

10. Next Board Meeting Date: Monday, November 18, 2024 – 6 pm

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

There was nothing for Non-Public session during this meeting.

12. Adjournment:

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:33 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