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Town of Northumberland
Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes - Draft
Date: Tuesday, September 3, 2024
Place: Town Meeting Room – 10 Station Square
Time: 6:00 P.M.

Board members present: Jim Weagle, Jim Tierney, Keith Bronson
Others present: Glenn Cassady, Pete Marshall, Norm Cotter, Clint Bramlett, Chris Wheeler, Shelly DeBlois, Frank Correll, Deb Miles, Doug Dano, Melissa Dano, Reggie & Terri Charron, Kathy Frechette, Dawn Bryan, Jeff Normand, Jerry Monahan, 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:** 08/19/2024

   Motion to approve the 08/19/24 minutes by: J. Weagle
   2nd by: K. Bronson, All in Favor 3-0

4. **Department Head Business:** Highway and Water/Sewer

Highway – Glenn Cassady, Town Road Agent

The paving is completed on Old Village Rd. Central Paving did another outstanding job. We did the shoulder, lawn work, etc. The road didn't get shifted over; the shoulders were cleaned out. The residents all seem to be happy.

There was a manhole on Riverside Drive that we had to find. It was buried under a 8"-10" of asphalt. We found it we were able to get into the main and rod the residence. We raised it to road level, there was another up there to repair also.

Patience will be coming soon, they have a hot box, they can pick up all the asphalt. We have several manholes that will be cleaned out and then put hot mix on from the machine to fill them and around the tracks. Hopefully in the next week or so.

Cameron Seal Coating, they are caught up with the crack sealing. It's been 4 summers since we did the Post Office parking lot to re-seal and re-stripe it. And will possibly do by the lot near the laundromat also.

Some residents on Page Hill Rd. complained about the potholes created by all the rain. We went up and spent a day shoveling gravel and packing with the loader. Glenn called for the grader, but they were too busy. They usually come in October to shape the roads up.

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We have all kinds of stripes in Town now, Pike finally came and did the lines before school started. It took 3 days to get what we did done; Glenn came in on Sunday (at straight time) to do by the high school and down to Passumpsic bank. The traffic was bad – there was a lot coming through, which made it difficult.

On some of the rainy days, Randy worked on the new Dodge pick-up, put the radio in, the rack behind the cab, etc. We used the sander to help do the shoulder work, it needed a bearing and chain.

Glenn talked with Tammy; we need to get a stretch of sidewalk done. It's on our agenda for fall work.

K. Frechette asked about the lines in front of the Methodist Church, can we not park there any longer? Glenn said no, we are not going to be able to park there. With the new sidewalk design, they are changing it. If it's not striped, there are no parking spots there. Wherever they painted a white straight line, there is no parking. There will be a public hearing on Sept. 26 for the new sidewalks design. The public gets to comment on what the engineers have designed for the sidewalk and parking over there.

K. Frechette mentioned the branches by Emersons need be trimmed, they are hanging over the sidewalk. She also asked about a dead skunk on State Street, will the crew be picking it up? She noticed it there a few days ago. Glenn noted it's a State road, but added to his list.

Water / Sewer – Reggie Charron, Superintendent

Vac truck will be here Sept 9 – 12, 6:00 am – 4:00 pm. Notices have been in the paper. Will do our best to keep the pressure down. Will leave some manhole covers open, which helps. This is Town wide.

We will be cleaning the tanks on Perras Road, the leach field system. Sept. 23 – 25. Something new and to save money, Reid went to training at the Fire Station, we are going to take their water truck, so the big truck won't have to move off the system. It will save approx. 10 hours at $300.00/hour. Lancaster does this too.

Water –

The 3rd quarter water meter readings will start on September 23.

Hill Project update, it's going nowhere right now. The RR is holding us up with no permits. They gave us the option to do the sewer line, we didn't want to take it out. The Engineers wanted to do that to get the bids out. We did have a company come up to look at lining the line. The lining project will save us some money, it's the only avenue we have. It's a 10" to a 8" so it will still be a good-sized line. Reggie further discussed the process. He got an email from DES and USDA, and they are in agreement with it. DES won't sign off on it until the permits are in hand. The bid process, we have accepted a contractor, they had 60 days to go over it and have the right to decline it. We don't want to half do this job; it needs to be done right.

Busy keeping up with the leach fields, we had issues with E. Coli because of so much water, people are using their sump pumps. The flows are high down there due to that. We had to cut some trees down up there.

C. Wheeler asked if the sleeve will go under the building? Yes, it runs under the building. The section that we are doing is approx. 650'. It's on RR property. The line was done in 1970 – 1971. Today, everything has to be permitted.

Chris asked if the RR crossing is going to be fixed? Reggie said the project has nothing to do with that.

5. Requested Agenda Matters:

6. Town Administrator Business:

a. Trustee of Trust Funds: Lyn Tober Resignation and Gail Rossetto Appointment – Gail volunteered to fill in until Town Meeting in March 2025.

b. Parade Application (08/06/24) Approved By Chief Pelletier - Home Coming – 09/13. FYI - State Parade permits are no longer accepted through fax, there is a new portal that has been set up. N. Cotter asked how the Board can grant if it's a State road. J. Tierney said the State has to grant the permission and then we go along with it. When Page Hill was closed to ATV's, the State waited until we closed it and then they officially closed Lost Nation Rd.

09/13 at 7:00 PM. The date is incorrect on the application, they need to correct it with the State. The State needs to grant it. J. Weagle will contact Kari.

Motion to accept the application for the Home Coming for 09/13/24 contingent on getting the date changed with the State by: J. Weagle, 2nd by: K. Bronson, All in Favor 3-0

7. Applications/Permits and Warrants:

a. <u>Building Permits (6):</u>

1. Map/Lot 104-090 – Kelsey Ledger, demo shower and surround, toilet, new roll in shower, 30" sink & vanity, VP flooring, fee paid, Al signed.
   Motion to approve by: K. Bronson, 2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 3-0

2. Map/Lot 205-017 - Susie Batchelder, 324 Stratford Rd., 20' x 32' pole barn, fee paid, Al signed.
   Motion to approve by: J. Weagle, 2nd by: K. Bronson, All in Favor 3-0

3. Map/Lot 227-005 - Susie Batchelder, remove old kitchen, replace with new cabinets and floor. Fee is paid, Al signed.
   Motion to approve by: J. Weagle, 2nd by: K. Bronson, All in Favor 3-0

4. Map/Lot 104-031-00-00 – Frank Corell, 24 Graham St., removing mobile home, replacing with a full foundation and modular 26' x 56' with front and rear porch. Fee is paid, Al signed by: K. Bronson, 2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 3-0

5. Map/Lot 104-017 - Greg and Ann Auger, 18 Eames St., Shed 12' x 16' wood construction, metal roof, vinyl siding. Fee is paid, Al signed.
   Motion to approve by: J. Weagle, 2nd by: K. Bronson, All in Favor 3-0

6. Map/Lot 101-029 – Was approved at a previous meeting contingent on the code from the State and receiving a bond. We have received the code and the bond. K. Bronson asked if the bond of $30,000 is enough? Glenn and Reggie looked at it, they think it should be enough.

b. <u>Transfer Station Non-Resident Permit (1)</u>:

1. Map/Lot 104-006 - Patrick Carr, Central Ave., New, fee is paid.

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

8. **Public Comment:

- P. Marshall asked if the taxes will go down will all the permits? Maybe with the new double wide.

  P. Marshall commented about the paving on Old Village Road – very nice job.

- C. Wheeler – followed up re: the lines Brown Road. Glenn said we are on their list and have been since July. Wheeler also asked about lines on Village Rd. Glenn said it wasn't striped.

- S. Deblois asked when she will receive the permit that was approved? It will be mailed, or J. Tierney said give the office a call and you should be able to pick it up at the Town Office..

- J. Monahan asked if the Town is still being sued by a police officer? J. Tierney said he doesn't believe so. He thinks we've been notified by the lawyer that the Town has been taken out, but we haven't been notified by the court that they agreed to taking it out.

- D. Miles asked if there is a policy on fireworks. J. Weagle said yes and it's on the Town website. She asked if there are specific dates, and is this week in there. She has a cat that is terrorized by the noise and has seen other complaints about them. The Board said they are supposed to get a permit, not sure if there was one for last night (Labor Day).

  J. Weagle said there are specific dates. It says: fireworks maybe allowed at other times if a permit is obtained in advance by the Fire Chief or his designee. Deb asked if they have an option to do something about it? J. Tierney said if we got a lot of complaints we would need to update the ordinance. Complaints are to be sent to Tammy or Niki. J. Tierney further discussed the process, you can do it with a petition. It could be put up as a warrant article for the Town to vote on. Deb asked how many signatures would be needed before acting on it. J. Tierney said any amount, it's not like putting a warrant article on. K. Bronson asked who do you call? Tierney said call the police and they can verify if there is a permit.

- C. Wheeler asked about the hose testing and getting the Town certified to do it themselves. J. Tierney hasn't heard from Andre. He was going to speak with the Chief in Lancaster to see who they use. And then our firemen are volunteers.

- D. Bryan asked questions about the covered bridge; we talked about it at the last meeting. If it's declared historical what are the benefits? J. Tierney discussed, the bridge in Stark was awarded a grant to get re-done. That federal grant is no longer available. It hasn't been declared historical yet. The State has a program with special MV plates and putting money into a fund, there could be other grants available through the State Culture and Recreation. Reggie reminded that we would need to stop the ATV and Snowmobiles from crossing it. J. Tierney further discussed the options with MV, pedestrians, etc.

  Dawn thought the idea about the composite for the sides is a good idea. J. Tierney said the snowmobile club puts plywood down on the planks in the winter and they have replaced several planks when needed. The W/S lines no longer run under the bridge; the lines are all underground now.

- K. Frechette asked if any decision has been made about the house on Maple with people living there that shouldn't be. J. Tierney read a response from NHMA – John E. Cowell, Esq. – there are 2 ways a municipality can regulate a dwelling which may be inhabitable.

  1 – Through the Health Officer under the process outlined in RSA 147;16-a. The Health Officer shall have the authority to order occupants to vacate a building structure or other premises. If the officer determines based on reasonable information and belief that the condition of such premises constitutes a clear and imminent danger to the life or health of occupants or other persons, and that protection of life or health requires vacating the premises.

2 – Through the hazardous and dilapidated building statutes. RSA 155;b– States the governing body of any city or town may order the owner of any hazardous building within the municipality to correct the hazardous condition of such building or to raise or remove the same. The process of doing this is outlined in the rest of RSA 55-b.

They recommended talking with the Town Atty before doing anything. The Board hasn't directed Tammy to speak with Sean and starting a big bill. He would prefer to wait until November or December for budget purposes. K. Frechette asked how unsafe is it? Tierney said it was the wood stove (a fire hazard) and there was mold. The owner of the house was told he can't have tenants. Kathy asked if the Town is responsible if someone gets hurt or killed. The Board said they didn't think so; the Town Atty would cost us between $300 - $600/hour for everything he does. Reggie commented that when he leaves (for the winter) are they going to stay? If there is not a rental agreement or rental payment – there are no tenants, they are guests.

- Chris asked about the $17,000 water bill. J. Tierney wasn't sure, but we didn't grant them an abatement. If the title company doesn't pay it, there will be a lien put on the house. It's currently for sale.

9. Announcements:

10. Next Board Meeting Date: Monday, September 16, 2024 – 6 pm

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

There was no Non-Public Session on this date – 09/03/24

12. Adjournment:

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:52 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).

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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