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Town of Northumberland
Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes - Draft
Date: Monday, September 16, 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, Peter Pelletier, C. R. Wheeler, Norm Cotter, Pete Marshall, Judy Fox, Kathy Frechette, Rick Archer, Sean Durkin, Sheila Smith, Eric Brown, Rebecca St. Cyr – Minute Taker

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

2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** All

3. **Acceptance of Minutes:** 09/03/2024

   Motion to accept the 09/03/24 minutes by: J. Weagle
   2nd by: K. Bronson, All in Favor 3-0

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

Ambulance – J. Tierney read the EMS Chiefs Report.

1. 2024 as of this printing, we have had 376 calls to date. Add 1 more to make it 377, not included in the printed report.
2. 2023 on this date we were at 333 calls.
3. Comstar report as of 09/13/24. New commitments are $166,350.50. This does not include payments made directly to the office or contract fees.
4. At the beginning of the year, we submitted data to Medicare for a price adjustment analysis to hopefully increase reimbursement rates. The State of New Hampshire has been working on a bill to also increase the reimbursement rate. The last 2 weeks data was sent to a consulting group to support the implementation of Senate bill 407 to insure a fair reimbursement rate for ambulance services.
5. The new ambulance should be here next Thursday.
6. Both ambulances will be going out for vehicle inspections on Wednesday and Thursday of this week.

Fire Department - No report tonight

Police Department - Peter Pelletier, Chief
Since the last report on 08/16/24 we have had the following:
CFS – 237 / NHSP 23
MV Stops – 36
Arrests – 6

Charges – 11
New Investigations – 24
Crashes – 7

The PD is still handing out helmets and backpacks

P. Marshall commented that Officer Kenison did a great job at the track on Saturday. P. Marshall saw the new cruiser with all the lights on – it's gorgeous.

E. Brown asked about the ad for an officer, are we losing an officer? P. Pelletier said we've been down a position for a while. E. Brown - So, we're not losing anybody, we're just filling an open spot. P. Pelletier said that's correct. E. Brown thanked P. Pelletier for the update.

5. Requested Agenda Matters:

a. Rick Archer: Hunter's Moon Family Fun Night On October 26,2024 (Use of small Ballfield)
R. Archer – this will be our second annual, they are looking to use the small ball field again this year. We are partnering with the Community Builders Hub to put on the event. We also have some other organizations that may be coming in. Tonight, we are looking for permission to use the field and get the Towns blessing.

Motion to allow the Hunters Moon family Fun Night at the small ballfield as a Town sponsored event by: J. Weagle
2nd by: K, Bronson, All in Favor 3-0

Farmers Market – R. Archer said we decided instead of going through October 13th, that last Sunday was the last one for this year. There's a lot that we've learned, the biggest thing is we are competing with Littleton. They draw all the farms, it's difficult to have a farmers market w/o the farms. Next year we are looking at having it in the evening during the middle of the week. It should put us in a better position to attract farms.

R. Archer also mentioned that if everything goes right, they have a building that they've been negotiating on. If that goes through, he should probably know this week. They'll have their work cut out for them, but they'll be setting up the Community Center/food pantry.

E. Brown asked if the Trunk or Treat will be on the same day as the Family Fun Night on the 26th? J. Weagle said we don't know yet, we're working on that. K. Frechette asked if this is the same night as the Trunk or Treat at the Fairgrounds? J. Weagle said yes. R. Archer said that last year, it worked fantastically. As the trunk or treat was wrapping up, we started our event. It was totally seamless. Everybody had such a great time. J. Weagle said we are thinking about having the pumpkin carving that day also.

6. Town Administrator Business:

a. Meeting Room Application; Primex – They have to hold meetings throughout the State. They are asking if they can use the meeting room. Sept 30 at 11:00 – 11:30. They are required to go out to several towns. They pay the fee.

Motion to allow Primex to use the meeting room by: J. Weagle
2nd by: K. Bronson, All in Favor 3-0

b. Salt - 3 quotes received – 1 is high for synthetic salt, 1 – sea salt and 1 - is for rock salt Synthetic salt is more environmentally safe, it's pet friendly, it's nicer but the price is 2 1/2 times more than we normally pay. J. Tierney said the contract is asking for 425 tons. The price in 2022 was 98.75, 2023 was $100.00+. The quote is for $94.00/ton – delivered to our pickup point.
C. Wheeler – what are the advantages of using the synthetic? T. Letson said it's environmentally friendly. J. Weagle said the synthetic salt has to be produced and regular

salt is mined. J. Tierney said it would be approx. $62,000 more than the current cost. Cargill is the company, it's delivered to Stark, but their terminal is in St. Johnsbury. We store it in the salt shed behind the Town garage. P. Marshall is this for regular or sea salt? We get the rock salt. G. Cassady has said the sea salt doesn't last as long on the roads as rock salt.

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

c. Letter of Interest from Sheila Smith for an Alternate on the Planning Board. It hasn't been filled for a few years.

Motion to appoint S. Smith as an alternate on the Planning Board by: J. Weagle
2nd by: K. Bronson, All in Favor 3-0

T. Letson asked S. Smith to stop in before the next Planning Board meeting to be sworn in.

7. Applications/Permits and Warrants:

a. Building Permits (3):

1. Map/Lot 246-001 – David A Fortin, 664 Lost Nation Rd., break up slab and put in a new slab for new garage in the same spot. Fee is paid, Building Inspector needs to sign.
   Motion to approve pending a signature from the Building Inspector by: J. Weagle, 2nd by: K. Bronson, All in Favor 3-0

2. Map/Lot 226-003 – Chris Shephard, 95 Thompson Rd., temporary geodesic dome similar to a yurt. – 30' Dia x 15' high. No contractor the owner is constructing. Fee Paid, Building Inspector needs to sign.
   Motion to approve pending a signature from the Building Inspector by: J. Weagle, 2nd by: K. Bronson, All in Favor 3-0

3. Map/Lot 220-013 – Sun-Up Solar, 203 Brown Rd., installation of a 68 – 400 watt solarium, IQ8 micro converter solar system. Fee is paid, Al has signed.
   Motion to sign by: J. Weagle, 2nd by: K. Bronson, All in Favor 3-0

Discussion continued regarding the solar system.

8. **Public Comment:

- P. Marshall asked for an update on the lines on the Brown Rd. When he left 2 weeks ago fog was starting to settle in and it was raining, you can't see anything. T. Letson – G. Cassady sent in the proposal the Board signed, the vendor is still planning to come up and do that. C. Wheeler mentioned there is a section of Route 3 further north that hasn't been lined yet, maybe they will do it when they come to do that.

- C. Wheeler asked for an update on the bids for the hill project. T. Letson – we have learned from USDA that they were not ready to go out to bid on the project. The bidding that was done may be bumped out or extended. Construction will not start this fall. She voice her concern with the State, they believe as long as we have a signed contract it should be ok. Our rep at the State is going to verify this and hasn't got back to her yet. J. Weagle suggested getting it in writing. There is a slim chance that we might have to rebid; USDA doesn't think we will have to. The contractor might be ok if it's extended a bit. The rep for ARPA is NHDES. J. Tierney suggested talking to Chuck Henderson and get him to ask some questions and tell them he wants it in writing. C. Wheeler commented – right now there isn't a signed contract? T. Letson said that's correct. T. Letson discussed the bid process; the low bid gets it.

E. Brown asked what was the amount of the contract bids? T. Letson said the bid was for about $8.7 million with an additional $1 million if we did Grand View, which was our bid alternate. The Town approved $10.2 million, which includes the engineering, permitting, and the contingency. Tammy - we got a $1.5 million grant from the State of NH through a trust fund. She hoped it would be considered in addition to the $10.2 million, but it is not. They will give us the money instead of loaning it.

T. Letson discussed the government and the grant process on another grant. She talked to 2 of the coaches – all of Coos county can apply for it. She asked if we can do Grand View – they said no.

C. Wheeler asked if the original project included Grand View. T. Letson – going back 25 years the original project the entire hill was supposed to be done. We did about 1/3 of it and ran out of money. What we brought to the taxpayers was the plan to allow us to get the rest of the hill done. When the boring were done, the plans that we had – included 2 streets that were left off the original estimates. Reggie knows the system and the strengths and weaknesses. Grand View was the one he thought could be left off.

C. Wheeler discussed his property insurance. From the Town shutoff to the house is the property owners. He has insurance to cover the connection for the sewer and for a contractor to do the work. He further discussed his policy and the coverage he has.

- S. Durkin – 1) Sept 24 – we have a tentative Energy meeting scheduled at the Library at 6:00 pm. 2) This afternoon there was a group of people at the bridge on Herman Savage Rd. Was that FEMA? T. Letson said yes it was. It's the beginning of a very long process. We have been declared a disaster; this is our first on-site after the declaration. They were impressed that our roads with the exception of the culvert at Herman Savage and we are considered 100% complete. The large culvert on Herman Savage isn't complete because we are afraid another storm will take it out. We are working with FEMA to hopefully use their mitigation side and replace the 48" Steel culvert with a 6' open bottom box culvert. They feel they will be able to give us 75% of that plan.

  T. Letson said we don't have the totals yet; their estimates are w/o replacing the box culvert - $26,500; they will give us 75% of that. That's everything the Town had to put into it. We had minor damage to 3 of our W/S access roads, the biggest was the culvert at Herman Savage and washouts on Brook Rd. Since they were both were gravel; we had both roads open within a week. S. Durkin mentioned the Dalton SB meeting – they don't have all their roads fixed yet. The storm on July 10, left the culvert but washed out both sides of it. Further up Herman Savage – there was another smaller culvert.

- J. Fox said we were told at a previous meeting to take pictures of dogs on the soccer field and take them to the PD. She knows it's not top priority but has some pictures to bring in. Some of them are not well behaved.

- J. Fox commented on the new crosswalk at the High School, the way the State moved it is stupid. Only 6 people use it today. T. Letson said be here on 9/26 for the Public Hearing on the sidewalk project; it will be on the final design. There will be changes to that crosswalk and to the one in front of the Elementary school. J. Weagle said the Federal government is saying how they have to be. J. Fox further discussed; T. Letson said it has to be the shortest distance from point to point. The

Federal Gov has also mandated a law, if a crosswalk is touched it shall be brought up to standards. We reached out to the State asking what can we do? There isn't anything we can do because it's federal money that goes to the State for the asphalt. It's all State money, it's not local taxes. J. Tierney said when we were building the budget we were getting federal grant money; that's why the State will obey the rules not to lose it.

- E. Brown mentioned that last time he was here we talked about the bridge. T. Letson said the grant for Grand View, they said no. She asked what we can do for more sidewalks, which was too much, and she opted not to do that. They loved the idea of doing some work on the bridge. Because it's mixed use no vehicles, it falls into their trails and recreation area. We can get up to $.5 million. It's an 80/20 grant. They would allow us to tent it, remove the siding, replace the siding with either wood and paint or composite. There would have to be educational signs posted. They suggested putting in a pavilion with picnic tables and the train could be worked on as well. She hasn't reached out to businesses yet, but like Trout Unlimited – could they put up some signs for education; that could be considered a match for the covered bridge.

  $2.6 million for 5 side streets was too much. E. Brown asked if we can look into removing the sidewalks. J. Tierney said we are required by law to clear the sidewalks. We can start repairing in small sections with black top. T. Letson said the plows catch the black top and rip it up, she feels concrete would be better. J. Weagle said we also have the sidewalk CRF which money is put into yearly. T. Letson said she and G. Cassady have discussed but he has been too busy to get it done. He needs to do some research in regards to hiring a contractor, etc. E. Brown commented that the sidewalks are treacherous for everyone.

- N. Cotter asked about the plows ripping up the black top. T. Letson said it's the bobcat. If a root comes up through the asphalt it will push up quicker than concrete. We get a lot of complaints about the asphalt from dog owners, it's hot for their feet in the summer. The one we did last fall already has some issues.

- C. Wheeler noticed the Fire Dept was at OSJL parking lot testing the hoses and ladders. He asked what the cost was. T. Letson hasn't seen the bill for it yet. C. Wheeler – the Chief said he didn't want to tax the volunteers to do it. T. Letson – they are paid volunteers, but we can't make them show up. J. Weagle said it's puts our engine under stress. It's their motors that test the hoses. C. Wheeler asked 1) How often do they have to be hydrotested 2) What are they hydrotested for 3) What's the max pressure our engine puts out. K. Bronson commented that you want us to buy the equipment and test with volunteers. How much do you think we would spend? They tested the hoses in 1 day, plus they tested all the ladders. T. Letson hasn't got a bill yet – the estimate was $2,250 for 5,000 ft of hose. They estimated 5,000 ft of hose for .45/foot. If we wanted to add the nozzle testing it was $20.00/nozzle. NFPA – they recommend the hoses be tested annually. It's been some time since we've had ours tested. E. Brown commented about the hoses, when the chief was here he said the money was already in their budget for this year.

- K. Frechette said the next day the skunk was gone, and the trees have been trimmed. Glenn should get a compliment.

9. Announcements:

Next Thursday, September 26, 2024 at 6:00 pm is the Public Hearing for the sidewalks. It will run similar to the original presentation. The engineer runs the meeting.

10. Next Board Meeting Date: Monday, October 7, 2024 – 6 pm

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

There was not a 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 7:01 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