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Town of Northumberland
Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes - Draft
Date: Tuesday, February 18, 2025
Place: Town Meeting Room – 10 Station Square
Time: 6:00 P.M.

Board members present: Jim Tierney, Keith Bronson, Jim Weagle (6:50)
Others present: Tammy Letson, Al Rossetto, Deb Miles, William Daisey, Peter Pelletier, Shelia Smith, Kathy Frechette, Andre Brasseur, Norman Cotter, Clint Bramlett, William S. Patten, Judy Fox, Kathy Wiles, 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:** 02/03/25 and 02/07/2025

   Motion to approve the 02/03/25 Selectmen minutes by: K. Bronson
   2nd by: J. Tierney, All in Favor 2-0

   Motion to approve the 02/07/25 minutes by: - Skipped over until J. Weagle got here.

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

   Fire Department – Chief Andre Brasseur

   Since last meeting - 11 calls for service, which included a chimney fire, went to Maidstone for structure fire, and went to assist Stratford to an area of Maidstone that is contracted to them, assisted Stratford on another call, assisted Lancaster with chimney fire. Several commercial fire alarms at the old Dollar Tree, they were having issues with frozen sprinkler pipes. The key holders were not aware a heating unit on the roof stopped working years ago.

   There have also been a few MV crashes, including the one last night.

   The trucks are all operational. Andre reached out to the company again about the tanker, no response. The company that services fire pumps are located in Merrimack, NH

   Police Department – Chief Peter Pelletier
   Calls for Service – 197 / NHSP 26

   Traffic Stops – 48 / 6 citations
   1. Defective equipment – 4
   2. Speed – 2
   3. Negligent Driving
   4. Following too closely

Arrests – 9 / 17 criminal charges
1. DWI's – 1
2. Drugs – 1
3. Arrest on a Warrant – 1
4. Other arrests – 6

MV Crashes – 8

New Investigations – 15

- We have started utilizing OHS grant money and will continue to do so throughout the year.
- MV Crash – 02/07/2025 0539 hours – 1815 hours, NHSP and 2 Groveton officers were called in. Both agencies were there throughout. Groveton also assisted with traffic.
- MV Crash – 02/17/2025 1800 hours to 0215, NHSP again responded, and we were called in. Two Groveton officers were called in. Both agencies were there throughout. Groveton Fire and EMS were also on scene until approx. 2:00 am.
- Kevin Deluca, a Groveton resident, started training on February 3rd. Tentatively he will attend the academy in May, which is 4 months long. Kevin will be assigned to ride and train with another officer and must always be with someone. Once he's certified and we are satisfied, he will be on his own.

Ambulance – EMS Chiefs Report

EMS Chief, Jim Gibson – He was out for a large portion of last night assisting with the accident. He is attending a Trama Decompression session tonight, along with the other crew members.

EMS Chiefs Report – 02/18/2025

1. 2025 as of this printing, we have had 60 calls to date.
2. 2024 on this date we were at 57 calls.
3. Comstar report as of 02/14/25, new commitments for 2025, $18,509.85. This does not include payments made directly to the office, 2024 contract fees or payments.
4. Both ambulances are operational, and A@ is almost ready for its first oil change.
5. Staffing is a major hurdle right now, looking for licensed help for coverage.

5. Requested Agenda Matters:

a. High School Parking; Enforcing Parking Laws –

W. Patten presented a folder to the Board with pictures and other information he had gathered, including the NH Drivers Ed manual. He lives on Eames St. next to the high school. He said there are 8 legal parking spaces on Eames St. and the rest of the street s no parking. Every time there is an event at the high school there is constant parking in illegal spots. On Pleasant St. there are no marked parking spots, and his understanding is that from the back of the school to State St. is for bus parking only. He noted there are at least 5 cars parked illegally there right now. He would like the PD to actually do something about it. It's been an ongoing problem, he knows there have been others who come in with complaints, but nothing gets done. He's not asking the Town to spend money, he's not asking them to do anything above and beyond what they already get paid to do. He feels the PD has too much office time and not enough field time.

Patten said he recently went into the high school and had a blow up due to a vehicle blocking his driveway. The police officer that responded said he didn't have time to deal with it and wasn't dealing with it and the vehicle was parked legally. The officer also passed several illegally parked vehicles (with signage) and did nothing about it. If you can't park legally, you don't need to be in this Town. He feels the school is responsible for finding reasonable parking or is that a Town issue. J. Tierney said the people coming in need to find legal parking spots.

Patten said the speed limit on Eames St is 30 mph, its common sense, we don't need to do 30 down that street, especially in the summer when children are playing outside. It's been an ongoing issue; he's called our local police and State Police who said they weren't sending a trooper up here. He was curious what we would do when someone dies because we can't get an ambulance to them. He wanted to know what we're going to do as a Town to hold the PD accountable to make this right. He is not asking to spend money, he just want's people to do their jobs.

Chief Pelletier said he would set aside the other night when there was an accident, we did have someone breakaway from covering the accident to check out his situation, he didn't feel it needed an immediate response. Pelletier asked if he (Patten) is still on the Fire Dept, Patten said no, he resigned until he's comfortable working closely with the PD and the Town is doing what the people want, then he might look at rejoining. He doesn't want to do that and have people have a fear of him or he doesn't want to worry that someone doesn't have his back. Peter didn't realize he was no longer on the Fire Dept.; his face is one that he usually sees and counts on at scene's.

In regard to the parking situation, Pelletier said he's right, we haven't done enough. Patten commented that he's seen Pelletier parking in front of the school with others parked behind him. It's not that you haven't done enough, you've refused to do enough.

Pelletier said it's a no parking zone and an emergency lane. Pelletier said he has never got into arguments with parents there to p/u kids. Patten asked isn't a safety hazard for the kids getting picked up. Patten said as a taxpayer why would he want to pay taxes without a PD that wants to do their job. Pelletier said we monitored traffic during the summer when he complained, we can adopt a zero-tolerance policy and ticket everyone. Patten said he isn't asking for ticketing; just go in and ask them to move.

K. Bronson commented to Pelletier; if you go by and there is someone parked illegally, put a ticket on them. We've tried using the signs, towing might not work either. If you put a ticket on them, it will probably end a lot of this. Pelletier said we can put this out on the PD social media page and on the Town website, asking people to be considerate of residents on that street. He doesn't want to see anyone get into trouble; but at the end of the day whoever is driving the illegally parked vehicle will find a ticket on it. Patten said he just wants something to be done. He realizes a lot of the vehicles are probably from out of town, but some aren't.

K. Frechette noted at the corner of Eames and Park St., even a bus would have trouble getting around there if cars are parked at the end of Eames St. It was made one way to hopefully get rid of issues. S. Shelia asked if they could give a warning first and then a ticket. Pelletier said we put signs up so people can see them, he would rather get back lash from those ticketed than the people that live there. J. Tierney suggested giving the school a heads up.

6. Town Administrator Business:

a. Meeting Room Application – Town employee (Glenn Cassady) would like to use the meeting room for a couple of hours. Feb 22, 2025 – 1:00 – 4:00. for a birthday party. If we open it for him at no charge, we would have to open it up to everyone. J. Tierney was ok with it if he pays a $25.00/hour fee. The Board further discussed. They would be responsible for clean-up. Through is position, Glenn has a key to get in.

Motion to allow if he pays a $75.00 fee, he can rent the room: K. Bronson

C. Bramlett asked if there is any liability to the Town? Tammy said no, we have looked at that before. There should be no more than 57 people per fire code.

2nd by: J. Tierney, All in Favor 2-0

b. Laydown Yard – Contractors for the hill project; they contacted a business in town for a laydown yard for storage of gravel, sand, pipes, etc. but it fell through. He was then looking at a private property, Tammy steered him away from that. His third option was in the snow dump, Reggie will verify if it works with the DES permit. He doesn't want his stuff stored on asphalt; they don't want to be responsible for damage to it.

T. Letson said the biggest issue that she sees is the traffic going down those streets. Glenn has said that it can get wet down there and they could do some damage hauling the equipment in and out of there. Tammy didn't want the Board to vote on it until Reggie gets back to her.

The contractor also wants to put a construction trailer out here between the 2 guardrails. In case anything happens, the PD camera would cover the door to the trailer. The supervisor asked how much the Town would charge them? Tammy feels that's defeating the project to charge them. Steve Dunkinson is the supervisor and he's been in Town quite a bit, he drives a white utility truck and doesn't mind people asking him questions. He's looking to possibly buy a house in Town while working on the project.

c. Sales ratio – Tammy – this is a form the assessors are supposed to do annually. It compares the current sales prices with what the assessed values are. The form is called the pink slip, that version of the form is in there for the Board to sign. The reval was approx. 2 years ago, the mean sales is 87.2% and the median is approx. 83%. We are below the current market values by 13%. The State median is approx. $520,000 - $525,000 for a house.

Al asked where the numbers come from. How many homes have sold in Northumberland since the re-evaluation? J. Tierney discussed, an example is a home is $200,00 and sold for $250,000, which is 20% below. They compare all the differences and come up with the mean for the average. They would have to up our grand list by 12%-13% approx. to bring us up to parity with the State. Tammy said the assessor was here today and said, on average, we have about 45 sales per year that they can compare to.

Motion to sign the Municipal Assessment Data Certificate for 2024 by: K. Bronson
2nd by: J. Tierney, All in Favor 2-0

During the reval, the highest growing market % here are mfg. homes; the Assessing Standards Board, their opinion is that there are so many people that are coming in from outside that are buying single family at higher rates than the locals can afford. One of the things they can afford is mfg./mobile homes. So, the prices for them are going up based on supply and demand. That's the number that growing the highest in NH – in Exeter mobile homes have increased 149%.

7. Applications/Permits and Warrants:

a. Solar Exemption (1): Map/Lot 236-008 – Solar Energy System, 637 Lancaster Road.
Motion to approve the solar exemption by: K. Bronson
2nd by: J. Tierney, All in Favor 2-0

b. Abatement Application (1): Map/Lot 103-019 - Property tax abatement application;
Motion to send to the assessors by: J. Tierney
2nd by: K. Bronson, All in Favor 2-0

Tammy noted the assessor has said she will try to get everything done before March 31st.

c. Abatement (1): Map/Lot 237-008 – Solar abatement that was previously discussed $224.40. It was misplaced with the change in personnel.
Motion to approve the solar abatement by: K. Bronson
2nd by: J. Tierney, All in Favor 2-0

8. ****Public Comment:**

- Al Rossetto – the Library has very nice ladies and he doesn't feel they should be out shoveling. K. Frechette said they do a good job on the front side of the building however the backside doesn't always get done. D. Miles said they did do it this morning, she happened to see them. Tammy will re-visit it with the crew; they all share with the shoveling at our buildings. K. Frechette doesn't mind doing it when there is just a little. S. Smith asked if there are any other Town buildings that the staff does? Tammy noted that they will stop and clean us up and on occasion we do it ourselves.

- K. Frechette asked about a dog being tied on a front porch; when walking by he will come out on the sidewalk. He's impeding our walk. K. Wiles noted there was a dog loose by the pool.

9. **Announcements:**

Town Elections (voting) will be Tuesday, March 11, 2025 from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.; 10 Station Square (meeting room).

The Town Meeting will be held on Saturday, March 15, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.; the High School gym. Or right after the school meeting when it adjourns.

Energy Committee meeting on 02/25/2025, 6:00 pm at the Library.

10. **Next Board Meeting Date**: Monday, March 3, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

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

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

Into Non-Public Session at 7:02 pm

a. Employee Matter
b. Employee Matter
c. Resident Matter

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 7:48 pm
Into Regular Session at 7:48 pm

Motion to accept the 02/07 Budget Hearing minutes by: J. Weagle
2nd by: J. Tierney, 2 – In Favor, 1 – Abstention

12. **Adjournment:**

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:51 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). 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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