Town of
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Town of Northumberland
Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes - Draft
Date: Monday, January 6, 2025
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, Glenn Cassady, Al Rossetto, Deb Miles, Pete Marshall, Norman Cotter, Willian Daisey, Peter Pelletier, Melissa Dano, Doug Dano, Kathy Frechette, Sheila Smith, Judy Fox, Reggie & Terri Charron, Dawn Bryan, Jeff Normand, Eric, Brown, 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:** 12/13/24; 12/16/24; and 12/28/24

   Motion to accept the 12/13/24 minutes by: J. Weagle
   2nd by: K Bronson, All in Favor, 3-0

   Motion to accept the 12/16/24 minutes by: J. Weagle
   2nd by: K. Bronson, All in Favor 3-0

   Motion to accept the 12/28/24 minutes by: J. Weagle
   2nd by: K. Bronson, All in Favor 3-0

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

Highway – Glenn Cassady, Road Agent

- December was eventful with the weather - snow, ice, rain, thaws & warmups.
- Glenn purchased salt; it took 4 loads to fill the shed back up to where it was.
- We had some thawing and had to chase potholes. We had to keep an eye on the culverts, they started building ice, but we had some warm days which melted it.
- Before the rain and the slight storm 2 weeks ago, we picked up the piles of the snow; we haven't been using much sand, we don't want it flowing into the drains.
- Randy's truck is 10 years old. A leaf spring broke in the left front, we called around for quotes, Berlin Spring was the cheapest. No one could get us in until Jan 21. We got the parts and started changing them out today. We will have approx. $2,000 into fixing it.
- Been keeping the equipment cleaned up, greased, fixing things, etc. We did some cold patching. Trying to keep up with everything.
- We have some brush to cut at the cemetery to keep us busy on slow days.

Congratulations to Reid & Delenn Styles!!

Water/Sewer – Reggie Charron, Superintendent –

- Reconciled the communication issues with Verizon; haven't had any issues since December 16th. Verizon doesn't want to take ownership of it, but it's been 150% better.

- We had a water main break on Crow Hill; it was a 6" cast iron pipe with a spiral fracture. It's on the highest point of the hill; it's our 6th band-Aid in that area. We found that it's on ledge. The last 4-5 breaks we've had were spiral fractures, which can indicate it's riding on something and then you get a water hammer. When we were having the communications issues, the plant would shut down and we had to start it back up. Reggie said we could have added to the problem.

  Reggie thanked Andre and Dustin for the light tree from the Fire Dept. We were short-handed and Terri helped us by doing a lot of the running; it was bad timing with the cold weather and employees out. The water was off approx. 5 hours; we were out 8 hours because the water and sewer lines are only 2' apart and we hit the sewer line while trying to find the water. We had to replace a short section.

- Keith and Bart are starting the meter readings and hope to finish by 1/9. Keith hurt his knee during the water break repair, Bart is helping out with the readings.

Sewer -

- The Groveton wastewater treatment plant got back up and running on December 15th. Since we don't have infiltration, it's doing well. We wanted to get the level back up because in the cold weather if it's too low the cold will kill the bugs.

- New mandates – permits from DES and EPA; we had to do PFA testing for both plants (Groveton and Northumberland) during December, which was difficult because of the ice but we had to get some sludge. Reggie hasn't received the result back yet. From now on, it will be done every 3rd qtr. Eastern Analytical came up to assist us with the sludge because Reggie hadn't done that testing before. He did the rest of the testing.

- Bart has passed his Sewer License exam, he is an Operator Class 1; we are all certified now, we are one of the few towns that have backup operators certified. Reggie thanked Bart for getting it done.

- Did the year end reports, we pumped less water this year, which probably cut the electricity down too. Hopefully, it stays that way. Groveton's water plant pumped 10,000,000 gallons less this year than last. Lost Nation pumped 141,600 less. Both systems were good in 2024. There are 27 households in Lost Nation. Right now, we feel there is something going on there, maybe a toilet leaking. Typically, we run 4,500 gallons in a 24 hour period and we are up to 5,500 gallons. We are thinking it's usage because it comes and goes. There are some users that used to leave in the winter and now they aren't. We're keeping an eye on it.

5. Requested Agenda Matters:

6. Town Administrator Business:

a. Budget Workshop – Scheduled for Thursday evening 01/09/25; everyone should be all set to attend. It will be at 4:00 pm in the meeting room.

b. Town Report – we have 3 quotes for the Town Report; Smith and Town is who we have used for the past few years.

   Smith & Town – price includes delivery
   450 - $1,992
   500 – $2,156
   550 – $2,518

600 - $2,673
RC Bradshaw –
450 - $1,943
500 - $2,145

For 132 pages, plus the cover – for additional b/w pages - .02/page; colored .20/page

Select Print Solutions –
450 - $2,345
500 - $2,565

Tammy noted that we sent emails to a list of people, these are the only ones that responded with a quote. There were others that responded to advise they no longer do Town Reports. The Board further reviewed the quotes.

Motion to go with Smith & Town by: J. Weagle
2nd by: K. Bronson, All in Favor 3-0

Motion to increase the amount to 500 by: K. Bronson
2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 3-0

The Town Report will cost: $2,156.00

c. 49 Chellie Lane (Map/Lot 247-002) – 1) Mr. Ackerley sent an email asking for updates on his property; he wanted the Town to know that he has registered the RV's in Groveton. J. Tierney reviewed the information that Ackerley presented; the information that indicates it has been done can be attached to the minutes.

2) Tammy – We received a letter (the Conservation Commission has been cc'd on a letter that Mr. Ackerley received from DES). It's regarding a complaint they received that he is in violation of wetlands. This is informational only at this time. DES sends copies to the Town and the Conservation Commission.

d. Complaint – Received from Min Kennett in regards to this and that, she is frustrated about a lot of things; date and time of event: about every day. Re: online info - Town Report 2023 isn't there, Town Meeting minutes from 2024, not there. There was a complaint concerning the PD re: an individual loitering outside her parents' house.

J. Tierney asked if there is a requirement that we have a website? J. Weagle said yes for some federal requirements. Tierney said let's find out if there is a requirement that we have one. If there isn't a requirement to have one, then get with the company that's setting up the new one; and if they can't get it done by a certain date – then we drop the whole thing. Then there will be nothing on the website. If people want information, they can request it and it can be emailed to them.

This is getting to be a bit much; it needs to be done in a quicker time than it is. K. Bronson agreed. N. Cotter asked why there is a problem with it now. J. Tierney commented that we are changing companies; J. Weagle said the current website is free; but they changed the file format. He further explained the process to upload documents.

The new website will be plug and play. They are building the new website now; it takes time importing everything over. Weagle said he's been updating what he can; the following have been uploaded: Selectmens schedule, info from the Library, Supervisors, and Cemetery. J. Tierney asked when the new company will be taking it over. Tammy said they were missing a piece of info, which was sent to them today. She wants to give them a few days before she starts hounding them. Tierney asked if they will be able to put up the older information. Tammy said yes and they will teach us how to put up the missing pieces.

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Pete Marshall commented on the PD issue at his house. Last Thursday at 8:00 am there was an individual standing in front of his house. His wife was home alone. It was called in and dispatch said there was no one on duty. Pete asked what their hours are. Tammy said they are down 2 officers and are trying to cover the busiest times. They have the Chief, 2 full time officers and a part-time officer. They are working as many hours as they can. Pete said that dispatch turned it over to State Police and it was taken care of. J. Tierney noted that Emeilia Campbell resigned at the end of November.

T. Charron said it's not mandatory in NH that municipalities have a web-site. According to the New Hampshire right to know law RSA Chapter 91-A requires that public bodies post meeting notices in two appropriate places, including their website (if they have one). K. Bronson asked where the appropriate places are. The Town Office, the Library, the school. Tammy noted that the SAU and the Library post all of our notices on their bulletin boards.

N. Cotter commented where they post info is where no one goes. Tammy said it's posted on the front door (facing Main St.) at the Town Office, there is no need to come inside. It can be seen 24/7.

e. Fire Vehicle Registration – This is the cruiser that the Fire Dept. took over; we had to get a duplicate title, now we need to do a transfer from the Police Dept to the Town of Northumberland. It will be a fire plate instead of a police plate. To do that the Board needs to sign a letter saying that we want a fire plate on it. They will also need to nominate a Board member to come in and sign the registration, title, and do a letter if we need to go to Twin to pick up. The letter signing tonight is only saying we want a fire plate.
   Motion for the Chairman to sign the paperwork by: J. Weagle
   2nd by: K. Bronson, All in Favor 3-0

f. Coyote Permit – We regularly receive a request from Deagan Styles to allow him to hunt coyote's on Town owned land.
   Motion to allow Deagan Styles to hunt coyote's on Town land by: J. Weagle
   2nd by: K. Bronson, All in Favor 3-0

7. Applications/Permits and Warrants:

a. Tax Credit Applications (2):

1) Map/Lot 104-009 – Veteran credit – J. Tierney reviewed; they do qualify.
   Motion to grant the Veteran's credit by: J. Weagle
   2nd by: K. Bronson, All in Favor 3-0

Map/Lot 104-009 – Elderly Exemption – applicant requested denial.
   Motion to deny per applicant's request by: J. Weagle
   2nd by: K. Bronson, All in Favor 3-0

2) Map/Lot 104-078 – Veterans credit & Elderly exemption (applicant requested denial) – J. Tierney reviewed the application.
   Motion to deny the Veteran's credit and a motion to deny the Elderly exemption per applicant's request by: J. Weagle
   2nd by: K. Bronson, All in Favor 3-0

K. Frechette asked what are the reasons why an applicant would be denied. Tammy reviewed some general reasons, there's residency requirements. (they would have to own the house at least one year preceding April 1st in the year the tax credit is claimed), they need to have served at least 90 days in active service, it has to be an honorable discharge or an officer honorably separated from service, or they were terminated from the armed forces because of a service connected disability. And then for the regular veteran, we allow the all, but for the regular veteran they would have

had to serve during war-time. When it's the "all" it is the same requirements, and you're not eligible because you didn't serve in wartime. Then you can become qualified with the all. DRA has very specific details in their rules. It has to be one of those rules that doesn't qualify them. Discussion continued re: different types of discharges and the rules.

b. Building Permits (2):
1) Map/Lot 101-022 – This one was put in a while ago. The payment wasn't received until this weekend. This permit is valid; Al met with the applicant; he brought in cash to pay the permit fee. Any issues with the property improvements have been taken care of.
Motion to approve by: J. Weagle, 2nd by: K. Bronson, All in Favor 3-0

2) Map/Lot 236-008 – For a solar array; it listed a wind tower. We have an exemption for anything less than 40'. Al spoke with the applicant and further discussed the tower. The fee is paid.
Motion to approve by: J. Weagle, 2nd by: K. Bronson, All in Favor 3-0

c. Transfer Station Permits (1):
1) Map/Lot 222-002 – Patrick Bedard, 129 Lancaster Rd., Non Resident – fee is paid.
Motion to approve by: J. Weagle, 2nd by: K. Bronson, All in Favor 3-0

d. Abatement Application (1):
1) Map/Lot 246-002 –
Motion to send to the assessors by: J. Weagle
2nd by: K. Bronson, All in Favor 3-0

8. **Public Comment:

- P. Marshall commented that he thinks we are lucky to have the trash people that we have. He drives through and sometimes things are a mess. After they pick up it's clean.
- T. Charron – The Supervisors of the Checklist have 2 meetings coming up – Friday, Jan 10th, 8:30 am – 9:00 am and Tuesday, Jan 21st, 7:00 pm – 7:30 pm. Upstairs in the Town office, ring the doorbell; if you can't do the steps, we will meet you downstairs.

9. Announcements: The Town Offices will be closed on January 20, 2025 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

There will be a Community Power Public Hearing on Monday, January 13, 2025 at 2:00 pm in the meeting room. Andrew Hatch will be coming to give a presentation as he did previously.

10. Next Board Meeting Date: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 – 6 pm

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

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

Into Non-Public session at 7:05 pm

a. Employee Matter – **SEALED**
b. Employee Matter
c. Employee Matter
d. Land – **SEALED**
e. Land – **SEALED**

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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 8:40 pm

Into Regular session at 8:40 pm

Motion to "SEAL" the Non-Public minutes for item a, d, and e by: J. Weagle
2nd by: K. Bronson, All in Favor 3-0
Roll Call: J. Tierney – Yes, J. Weagle – Yes, K. Bronson - Yes

J. Tierney commented that we previously discussed a potential COLA; we talked about 2% and 3%. He suggested putting it in at 2% and look at what the increase would be at 2.5% and 3%.

No further business was discussed.

12. Adjournment:

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:43 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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