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Town of Northumberland
Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes - REVISED
Date: Tuesday October 13, 2026
Place: Town Meeting Room – 10 Station Square
Time: 6:00 P.M.

Board Members present: Jim Tierney, Al Rossetto
Others present: Mario Audit, Romy McMann, Debbie Montgomery, Kathy Frechette, Deb Miles, Judy Fox, Bart & Niki Merriam, Andre Brasseur, Joe Keenan, Ruth Lupine McDonough, Terri & Reggie Charron, Norm Cotter, Pete Marshall, Bob Roby, Jim Gibson, Kyler Kenison, Josh Lindor, Mark DeGennaro, Chris Wheeler, Chuck Kenison, Joseph Kennett, Rebecca St. Cyr - Minute Taker/Transcriber

Revision on page 3, Section 5 a. paragraph 7, R. McDonough requested her name to be removed. Revision approved by motion at the 10/26/26 meeting

1. **Chairman Opens the Meeting -** J. Tierney opened the meeting at 6:00 pm

2. **Pledge of Allegiance** - All

3. **Acceptance of Minutes: Monday, September 28, 2026**
   Motion to approve the September 28, 2026 minutes by: A. Rossetto
   2nd by: J. Tierney, All in Favor 2-0

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

PD - Kyler Kenison, Chief

- The department is currently down one officer, who broke his arm at the racetrack a couple of weeks ago. Staffing is tight, but they are getting through it.

- Over the past month or so, Chief Kenison and Sergeant Lindor have handled 250 calls for service.

- Calls are going down slightly, which usually happens as the weather gets colder and fewer people are out on the streets.

- Domestic disturbances are up as people stay indoors because of the cold and bad weather. Residents were reminded that there is always an alternative to violence, and that if police have to respond, someone usually ends up leaving with them.

- Traffic stops are up, especially for e-bikes. Most of the riders are kids, and parents have been understanding and cooperative.

- Activity remains about the same, with only two officers covering the town.

M. DeGennaro asked if the police patrol Lost Nation Road since it is a State road. Chief Kenison confirmed that they do. Mark noted that since the road was repaved, it's "like a speedway." Chief Kenison said he is out there all the time, going all the way to the town line, and the department tries to

do 2 - 3 patrols out there a day. He explained it's tough right now with only two officers. He drives slowly and waves through the area so residents see a police presence, he apologized if it is less than they would like, he hopes to improve it. Kenison added that he is writing tickets on that road and had anticipated the speeding problem.

Chief Kenison introduced Sgt. Josh Lindor, who was attending his first Select Board meeting.

J. Fox thanked the Police Department for the new crossing guard STOP signs. She said they are working great, the kids and parents love them. She noted a driver stopped to compliment as well. Kenison noted as mornings and afternoons get darker, the DOT tape and lights will help keep the crossing guards visible.

EMS - Jim Gibson, EMS Chief

1. 2026 as of this printing at noon today, we have had 368 calls for service to date.
2. 2025 on this date we were at 348 calls for service.
3. Comstar report as of 10/09/2026, $205,959.68. This does not include payments made directly to the office or 2026 contract fees.
4. Working on inventory and stocking of our A2 unit to get ready for the State EMS inspection in November.
5. Still running with low staff. Jim and Trevor are clocking 160 hours per week due to being short staffed.

J. Tierney asked if money is the reason he can't find staff. Jim Gibson said it's a mix of pay and a lack of places for staff to stay locally. He is reaching out to other local services, which are all short-staffed. The goal is a shared arrangement that brings in staff from down south to work rotating days with Lancaster, Northumberland, and Colebrook. For now, Gibson is looking for any EMT or higher-level provider. ALS/paramedics and EMTs are the main need.

J. Tierney suggested preparing a separate "wish list" alongside with the regular budget. Gibson said he is collecting figures from other towns to keep pay within a comparable range.

FD - Andre Brasseur, Chief

- Since the September 11 meeting there were 7 calls: 4 motor vehicle crashes, a brush fire, an alarm at the school and an alarm at a residence.

- YTD - that brings the year to 57 calls, which is on par with past years.

- The department took part in 3 parades: one on September 11, the homecoming parade, and Fire Prevention Week event(s).

Andre asked about the status of the hydrant that used to be at the corner of Maple and High St. J Tierney said it is staying where it is and will not be moved. R. Charron said it wasn't removed; the hydrant was moved to a different spot. The original spot had ledge, a nearby utility pole, a shallow water line and granite. Adding another hydrant there would cost about $30,000 - $33,000.

The hydrants are now closer together than the recommended 500-foot spacing, in some places under 150 feet, so coverage is better. He added that the old location at the intersection could have caused traffic problems if the hydrant were in use. Now every approach to the area passes a hydrant: Fisk, Maple, the top of Grandview and Crow Hill.

Andre asked why the hydrant wasn't put back in its original upper-side spot if moving it to the lower side cost too much. Reggie referred the question to the engineers. Board members recalled raising the issue with the engineer at an earlier meeting, where no answer was given. It was noted that Kevin, the resident engineer overseeing the project, later looked into the cost, and Mike Duffy came up with the

numbers. It's too bad it wasn't caught sooner, noting that Steve LaFrance had been taken off the job long ago.

Reggie added that the hydrant extensions have been purchased. One is already installed on the replaced hydrant on Lancaster Road.

5. Requested Agenda Matters:

a. Weston & Sampson –

M. Randall asked if Weston & Sampson can be taken off the agenda, since the Board decided to proceed with M.A. Bean. Glenn has been calling references. FEMA has come back with more questions that the contractor will need to answer. J. Tierney noted that M.A. Bean has been told it must provide a scope of work. M. Randall has not yet reached anyone at M.A. Bean and will try again tomorrow.

J. Keenan asked which project was being discussed. J. Tierney confirmed it is the bridge on Herman Savage. Keenan requested an update. J. Tierney said Weston & Sampson's proposal was about $118,000–$120,000 for engineering only, with no construction or materials. M.A. Bean's proposal is about $180,000 for a one-piece bridge, with engineering and construction included. The Board chose M.A. Bean. Under FEMA's 75/25 split, the town pay about $45,000.

J. Tierney described it as a large upside-down "U" with a flat top for the roadbed. It will be set back far enough that crews never have to touch the water, it's embedded on supports, with riprap around it to control water flow. It is about 24' long. M. Randall has not seen the actual proposal. J. Tierney has a copy but no design drawing is available to view yet. FEMA has approved the project but needs a scope of work, which then must be approved by FEMA. M.A. Bean has built bridges for towns, mainly "red line" bridges, but never for FEMA. They will have to learn the Federal requirements.

FEMA is involved because the bridge was destroyed in a storm covered by a disaster declaration (requested by the Governor and accepted by the President). Which made it eligible for FEMA funding. Lancaster, Dalton, and Northumberland were all in the declaration area. J. Keenan asked why it's taken 3-4 years. M. Randall cited the government shutdown and retirements among the FEMA staff that Glenn had been working with. The Town also lost the Town Administrator who was handling the project, and no one was in the office until M. Randall started on December 1, 2025. Several FEMA extensions followed. There were also issues with the quotes from the two engineering firms that responded to the RFQ.

M. Randall explained that M.A. Bean built a bridge in Stark, which is how the Board learned of them. She is not sure where the company is based.

J. Keenan said he's lived there 20 years and the bridge has washed out at least 2 or 3 times, never costing approx. $186,000 to fix. He asked if the Town is locked into FEMA. M. Randall said yes if the Town wants FEMA to cover 75% of the cost. She confirmed the Town would still owe about $45,000.

J. Keenan spoke for himself and a new neighbor, who is moving here from Maryland and bought the Chris Hawkins place. They want the corner to be less open and more like a normal road onto Lost Nation Road. It is currently used as a pull-off, and the curve has led to accidents. Joe said they want to stay involved in how the bridge looks above ground: natural, not industrial. R. McDonough commented she would not comment until more information is available.

Al Rossetto asked whether to table the item again. J. Tierney said it was tabled last month and remains tabled. M. Randall asked to rename it "Herman Savage Updates," since it no longer involves Weston & Sampson. J. Tierney agreed to use the new name next time.

b. RCAP Solutions -
J. Tierney said the Town is talking with RCAP Solutions about where our Water/Sewer rates should be. M. Randall found a 2022–2023 RCAP report in paperwork Reggie provided. They (RCAP) agreed to prepare an updated report, but will need the 2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026 budgets. The service is federally and state funded, there is no cost to the town. The RCAP contact is the person from the Board's zoom meeting, who did the previous study three to four years ago. The Town is getting him just before he retires.

> Motion to approve the Town signing up with RCAP Solutions, at no cost, for an updated Water /Sewer rate study by: A. Rossetto, 2nd by: J. Tierney, All in Favor 2-0

c. Ackerley Motion -
J. Tierney read a letter from the Town's legal counsel: *the structures on the site are recreational vehicles. If their registrations are current, several RVs on the site can reasonably be treated as a campsite, which is a permitted use in the Timber Management zoning district. Counsel recommended that the Board find the use permissible, subject to the RV restrictions in Section 4.16 of the Zoning Ordinance, including limits on how long the RVs can be occupied*.

J. Crompton, Zoning Board Chairman said this was the first he had heard of the site (Chelle Lane, off Page Hill) but saw no problems with it.

J. Tierney said the owners use the site on weekends, close up before winter and return in spring, so he believes they stay within the six-month occupancy limit. It was noted that the ordinance limits occupancy to six months but does not require the camper to be moved if the site is considered a camp.

C. Wheeler asked about the sewage. A. Rossetto said the site has a well and a septic system designed by DES for the maximum output of the three RVs. The design carries a DES stamp, and the system was installed by a DES-licensed installer.

The Town's assessor found that the units are not RVs, an RV must be movable on the road and less than 8’ 6” wide. Tierney explained that the assessing codes have no category for park-model RVs, which is why the assessor used a different code. A. Rossetto noted that the units have New Hampshire VINs, license plates, and current registrations, so they count as registered vehicles.

If others camp there, they are trespassing. J. Tierney said the site is not a commercial campground; it is for the owner's family and friends. M. Randall added that the same three campers stay on site and visitors use those; no extra campers are brought in.

R. McDonough asked about the process and if other owners would get the same answer. J. Tierney said it depends on the location: camping is allowed within Timber Management, and the property is about 5–6 wooded acres. He said no zoning is being changed, enforcement is usually driven by complaints, and an unhappy abutter can appeal to the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

J. Keenan asked whose lawyer gave the opinion. J. Tierney confirmed it was the Town's lawyer. C. Kenison asked if the Board stands behind calling the units recreational vehicles, J. Tierney said yes, though not motorized ones.

> Motion that the Board finds the use of the site permissible as a campsite under Section 4.16 by A. Rossetto, 2nd by: J Tierney

There was an objection to using the word "zoning" since the property is already in Timber Management. J. Tierney withdrew his 2nd and A. Rossetto withdrew the motion.

Motion moved that the Board declare the use a campsite, making it an allowed use under Timber Management Zoning by: J. Tierney, 2nd by: A. Rossetto

M. DeGennaro asked if the Board could act without a third Selectman. Tierney said yes, 2 members are a quorum, and this is regular town business.

All in Favor 2-0

d. Update on Monument -
Discussed traffic visibility, the south end of the island has a stop sign, and the Howitzer could block drivers view. There may be enough room near the stop sign, but drivers would still have to look back over their shoulder.

Terri had a concern about people climbing on it, people already climb on the train. The Legion proposed a roped-off area with "Do Not Climb" signs. Anyone who climbs anyway is responsible for their own injuries. J. Tierney pointed out that it sits on Town property. Chief Kenison supported the idea but noted that kids, including himself growing up, climbed the Lancaster Howitzer regularly, so people will do it no matter what. J. Tierney noted that lawsuits against towns are far more common now than in the past, and towns often settle rather than fight them.

Discussion ensued regarding the metal and upkeep, it could be stolen and sold for scrap, and there will be ongoing upkeep. Lancaster has had to repaint theirs several times. Road salt could damage the concrete slab. Tierney noted that only the front side of the island is plowed and salted.

J. Tierney asked that the concerns be handled one at a time, starting with traffic, and didn't approve placement yet. Have the Legion (Jeremy) bring it down for a trial placement, without a slab, so its effect on sight lines at the stop sign can be checked. Jim also suggested involving PD. Al Rossetto suggested leaving it on the grass for a few days so the public could see it before the next Board meeting. Because of the towing and theft risk, J. Tierney recommended instead leaving it for about an hour while someone watches it, then removing it. Fencing or a barrier to keep people from climbing on it will be addressed after the traffic question is settled. Terri will talk with Jeremy Brann tomorrow.

Terri and Chief Kenison both like the idea. Terri thought it would look great and draw attention to the other monuments.

6. Town Business:

a. Resignation - Wayne Montgomery has resigned from the Board of Selectmen. J. Tierney read his letter of resignation. We can put someone in for 4-5 months or less but it needs to be posted in the papers and on the website first. This would only be until Town Meeting in March. There will be a 2 year and a 3 year seat on the warrant. Wayne was elected for a 3 year term.

A. Rossetto thought it might be November before we could get anyone on. The candidate, if interested, can run for the 2 year opening in March. It would be done simple, there won't be a review board. D. Miles asked if you have spoken with Robin. M. Randall said she (Robin) is interested and has put in a letter of interest. The Board agreed to put a small ad in the paper with replies due by 11/6. It will also be on the website. A. Rossetto suggested checking the RSA's for timing of the advertising.

M. DeGennaro asked, when the Town hires do applicants need to have a specific background check or specific qualifications. For employees, yes and we do a background check. Selectmen are elected.

b. Health Trust -
J. Tierney reviewed the Health Trust renewal.
Dental: rate increase 1.9% for all dental plan options for calendar year 2027, which includes a 5.3% capital risk charge. M. Randall said her understanding is that the 5.3% is part of the 1.9%, and said other towns' increases were much larger than ours.

Short-term disability: rates go down 0.04% for 2027 (same 5.3% capital risk charge).

Long-term disability and life coverage: no rate change.

Health Trust FSA/HRA administrative fees: changes are coming, no amounts were given. The notice says there are no per-month, per-participant, or annual renewal fees for these services.

J. Tierney commented the Town has little say in how much rates go up; the choice is to look for another provider or stay with Health Trust.

November 20, 2026: last day to request any coverage changes, to be completed by January 1, 2027. December 11, 2026 - for signed renewal transmittals due from the Town.

M. Randall discussed Health Trust's Vision Care as a possible new benefit. It could be employee-paid, or the Town could pay part of it. She would like the Board and Department Heads to consider it. She noted the School offers vision coverage, but employees pay for it themselves.

T. Charron described current vision coverage: an eye exam yearly if there is a medical reason, otherwise every two years, plus about $100 per year reimbursement toward glasses or contacts. N. Merriam noted the WEX card can be used for glasses but she was overcharged about $150 for extra work at a regular visit, and felt a vision program would probably benefit employees. J. Tierney asked that the cost and details be looked into.

New Rates - Option 3 is the plan the Town has for its employees - J. Tierney reviewed
Dental: Single - $51.33; 2 Person - $98.72; Family - $173.26
STD - Short-term disability - for ea. $10.00 of benefit/month - $.43
Basic life:
AD&D - Accidental death and disability:

M. DeGennaro asked about the WEX card for glasses. Michelle explained it’s the Health Savings account, where the Town contributes a percentage based on each employee's insurance to help cover the deductible. It’s not the fuel card. It’s the same company different product.

A. Rossetto asked how much overall, did the health insurance go up. Tierney and Michelle clarified this renewal covers only dental, short-term disability and life insurance. The Town gets its health insurance through School Care, and no renewal figures have come in yet. Health Trust does not offer health insurance. The town shares this policy, and its health insurance, with the School, so it’s part of a larger group. Health Trust towns saw larger increases, some similar to the 37% increase to Town had on health insurance last year. Towns that switched to brokers or third-party companies have reported bad experiences, and some are asking Health Trust to take them back. J. Tierney further discussed the large increase last year.

> Motion to allow the Chair to sign the Health Trust renewal(s) by: A. Rossetto
> 2nd by: J. Tierney, All in Favor 2-0

c. Transfers from CRF’s -
Warrant Article #5 - from 2026 Town Meeting - W/S Short Lived Assets CRF, established in 2020. Transfer amount is $40,000. This is the final or total amount authorized by the article or represents the final payment in a series

Motion to approve the CRF transfer for the W/S Short Lived Assets by: A. Rossetto
2nd by: J. Tierney, All in Favor 2-0

Article #5, section b - Water Maintenance & Repair Expendible Trust Fund, established in 2025.
Transfer amount - $20,000

Motion to approve Transfer of $20,000 to the Water Maintenance
& Repair ETF by: A. Rossetto, 2nd by: J. Tierney, All in Favor 2-0

Article #6 - 2026 -
$10,000 - Public Equipment CRF
$ 5,000 - Municipal Building CRF
$40,000 - Sludge Removal ETF
$ 5,000 - Ambulance Equipment CRF
$10,000 - Ambulance CRF
$ 5,000 - Legal Expense CRF
$ 1,000 - Town Celebration/History ETF
$ 5,000 - Assessing Revaluation ETF
$ 5,000 - Technology ETF

Motion to sign all of the Transfers above by: J. Tierney, 2nd by: A. Rossetto, All in Favor 2-0

7. Applications/Permits and Warrants:

a. Zoning Permits -
J. Tierney - after discussion with the Attorney, we need to let people know they can do what they need to, but we are not doing permits until the issue is fixed. After Town Meeting permits will be issued. The lawyer wanted us to see about getting the Zoning Permit approved and voted on, but it was too late for the November election. It will be voted on at the Town meeting in March. If they are changing the footprint, they should probably let someone know. Romy and Tierney renewals.

The Attorney offered someone that can do this for us. It's not a total re-write of the ordinances, this is to make our zoning ordinances match to what needs to be done. Not sure when the permits where actually voted on and adopted. The Town put in Planning and Zoning back in the 1990's. Further discussed the Zoning Ordinances and Town Meeting. C. Kenison noted there is quite a bit of updates to be made if we go from the Building to a Zoning Permit. People would still need to check with W/S if building a new home or adding new pipes.

Romy - the Town website has the Zoning Permit, people don't know the difference. They are pulling a building permit from a 3rd party website.

#225-022-00-00, #237-003-00-00, #214-030-00-00 – Tabled 09/28/26

b. Non-Resident Transfer Station Permits -
#247-002-06-00 - Renewal, David Sirois, 30 Chelle Lane
#246-021-00-00 - Jonathan Wicks, Page Hill

Motion to approve the 2 Transfer Station permits above by: A. Rossetto
2nd by: J. Tierney, All in Favor 2-0

8. **Public Comment:

- Chief Kenison - we are working on a couple of things, 1) we are teaming up with the Ambulance to work on the new building project; 2) teaming up with the Ambulance to set up a search and rescue - involving obtaining a side by side and drone with grant money. We have also contacted some of the business's for donations if the grant falls through. It would be nice to have the means to go out and assist.

Drug issue - the other night we pulled someone over with drugs and guns that turned into an arrest. It's not on the back burner. The Northern Border (Berlin PD) are stopping them too. If you are bringing drugs into our Town, we are here for you and will see you in court. Sgt. Lindor added drug take back day is coming up, if you have anything to be disposed of, bring it down and it will be taken care of. J. Tierney talked about the drug triangle - Groveton is one of the anchor points.

- K. Frechette thanked Chief Kenison for his words at Lloyd Tippets funeral, it was a nice addition to the service.
- C. Wheeler asked what is being done for Halloween this year. K. Frechette - Trunk or Treat is at the Rec Center on October 31, 2026 - 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm. There will be NO costume parade or judging. Kids can still go out trick or treating around town. J. Tierney reminded that cars/trucks can't park on the field but can use the parking areas. There will also be a dance at the gym on October 30, 2026 for kids in grades 6th - 12th - 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm.

9. Announcements:

10. Next Board Meeting Date: October 26, 2026 at 6:00 pm.

Building Committee meeting in the Town Meeting Room - October 14, 2026 at 6:00 pm.

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

Motion to go into Non-Public session by: A. Rossetto, 2nd by: J. Tierney, All in Favor 2-0
Roll Call - J. Tierney - Yes, A. Rossetto - Yes

Into Non-Public session at 7:44 pm

Present: JT, AR, MR, MA, RS

a. Personnel
b. Residential

Motion to come out of Non-Public Session by: A. Rossetto, 2nd by: J. Tierney, All in Favor 2-0

Out of Non-Public Session at 8:43 pm
Into regular session at 8:43 pm

No further business was discussed.

12. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by: A. Rossetto, 2nd by: J. Tierney, All in Favor 2-0

Meeting adjourned at 8:44 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca St. Cyr
Minute Taker/Transcriber

*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_____
James Tierney
Northumberland Select Board Chair

X_____
Alan Rossetto
Northumberland Select Board Member

X_____
Vacant
Northumberland Select Board Member