

**Town of Northumberland
Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
Date: Monday, April 18th, 2016
Place: Town Meeting Room – 10 Station Square
Time: 6:00 P.M.**

Board Members present: Michael Phillips, Jim Tierney, Jim Weagle
Other present: Richard Cotter, Rob Reynolds, Robert Barry, Andrew Cote, Jim Morse, Addy Hall, Karen Grant, Nancy Mellow, Al Rossetto, Jessica Riendeau, Shawn Donohue, Jenna Dorr, Adam Pinette, Mike Sterling, Joseph Kennett, Mario Audit, Jim Gibson, Rebecca St. Cyr – Recorder

1. Chairman opens the meeting:

J. Weagle opened the meeting at 6:00 pm.

2. Acceptance of Minutes:

Motion to approve the April 4, 2016 minutes by: J. Tierney
2nd by: M. Phillips, All in Favor 3-0

3. Selectmen Business:

a. Department Head Business: Ambulance/Police Depts.

Ambulance - Jim Gibson – EMS Chiefs Report – Gibson reviewed the report – see below.

J. Tierney asked about the transfers. Gibson said he checked with a few other services, it seems to be down across the board. There are more helicopter flights and patients going to CMC – a service is contracted to come up here to get them.

Shawn Donahue thanked the ambulance crew for being present that the recent Police Dept. PT testing. They took our blood pressures, heart rate and monitored us though out the testing.

Police Department – Mario Audit:

Stats – 1 MV lockout, 1 operating on a suspended license, 1 disorderly conduct, 1 identity fraud case and numerous IRS scam calls. A notice was put out on Facebook to advise everyone to not fall victim of it.

Breach of peace call at Melcher Court during the day, 2 MV accidents, 1 non-inspection, 36 speed stops – 30 warnings, 6 tickets were issued. A missing person that was recovered within 20 minutes of reporting, 1 taken into protective custody (intoxication) and transported to the County jail, 2 domestic disturbance calls, 1 road rage incident, 2 – 911 hang up calls – misdials.

4 court cases complete today and 2 last week, an elderly abuse case and A suicidal teenager and a suicidal report.

M. Phillips asked how they are doing at the PD; Audit said they are doing what they can with what we have. It's been very busy. We have 6 part-time officers, 3 need some continued education requirements.

- b. Kilkenny Trail Riders – R. Cotter – ATV trail – Page Hill access renewal
Richard Cotter – May 27th the trails will be opening; they would like to see Page Hill open again for the summer.

M. Phillips – when this was proposed, it was until a trail could be built in the woods. R. Cotter said they are still looking for ways to get through. They would much rather have a trail in the woods, but at this time Lost Nation Rd. is the only access to the trails. There is also a new trail system opening in Lancaster, which they are hoping will be open this summer also. Phillips was interested in seeing a map of the trails.

Rossetto said the ATV's go by at all hours of the night; right now the PD is stressed. He doesn't feel Page Hill should be opened at this time. Rossetto further discussed. He asked them (Kilkenny Trail Riders) to present the Board with information to justify the cost of them using the road. What are they doing for the Town? Cotter said we are giving ATV riders the opportunity to drive into Town, buy gas, eat at the restaurants, etc. and not just drive through to Colebrook and further north. It has been open for 2 years, the 1st year we had some complaints; but for the most part Cotter feels it's gone pretty smooth. The hours are sun up to sun down. After dark there should not be anyone on the trails or streets. Cotter said they want to start patrolling the trails more this year. If residents can get pictures and plate #'s, the info can be passed to F & G for them to take care of it. M. Phillips asked if anyone has been cited? Cotter didn't think they have had any; J. Weagle mentioned that Berlin has had some citations, which resulted in F&G taking the ATV.

Addy Hall asked if the ATV's can run on the power lines. Cotter said it depends who owns the property. Hall suggested checking with Eversource or Northern Pass about that possibility, the power line goes over into Lost Nation. Cotter said they are looking at the options.

Rossetto - if the patrols are going to be out, he suggested letting the Police Dept. know. The ATV's should be off the road and right now they can't access the gas station because they can't cross the bridge. Route 3 was cleared with the State for them to cross the bridge. Rossetto said there are hundreds of taxpayers that are having their peace & quiet destroyed for your (ATV's) benefit. He strongly suggested that the Board not open Page Hill until the issues are resolved.

Motion to open Page Hill to ATV's by: J. Weagle

J. Tierney added the following caveat - "If there are any complaints, it will be closed, it must be patrolled, the speed must be slowed down and the hours are sunrise to sunset" only.

2nd by: J. Tierney, 2 in Favor; 1 Against.

- c. 34 Winter Street water & sewer invoice – This is for work done at a residence.

Motion to send the bill by: J. Tierney

2nd by: M. Phillips, All in Favor 3-0

Addy Hall asked about the field across from the Newton property – the Town dug it up, are they going to fix it? J. Weagle will check into it. The W/S project will be starting over there soon, the lawn work might not get done until the project is done. The bill is for work the resident should have taken care of and didn't. J. Tierney said the work for that resident has been completed. J. Kennett mentioned, if the work isn't done the bill should be held. The Board didn't have the details.

- d. Discuss and vote to issue Notice to Proceed on Phase 1A Directional Drilling - J. Weagle reviewed, the contract will commence to start May 2, 2016.

Motion to approve by: J. Tierney, 2nd by: M. Phillips, All in Favor 3-0

- e. Opening of York Street bids and award – 2 bids were received.

1. Kent & Saran Holden - \$100 deposit paid - \$8,510

2. Jenna Dorr & Adam Pinette – \$100 deposit paid – \$8,751

Motion to accept the bid from Jenna Dorr & Adam Pinette by: J. Tierney

2nd by: M. Phillips, All in Favor 3-0

- f. Review of Meeting House Applications received – 1 application was received.

1. Bob Roby – he wants to categorize the inventory, if hired.

Motion to approve hiring Bob Roby by: J. Tierney

2nd by: M. Phillips, All in Favor 3-0

- g. Discussion/vote on re-financing of 2005 USDA/RD Loan

J. Tierney – addressed, currently the interest is 4.25%. We went out to the bond bank their current rate is 3.15%, we are trying to refinance it. The balance is \$1,725,420; there is 18 years remaining. The refinance will be for the same – 18 years. It will save us \$200,000 in interest. There will be a Public Hearing and then a final vote from the Board before finalizing. There is a timeline for the rates, they don't think that it will be higher. The local banks would not give us the term – they would only go 5-7 years. It's paid by the year, the payment in June is just interest (approx. \$40,000), in December the rest of the interest and the principal payment is paid. The principal payment is approx. \$95,000, which remains the same. The interest will be lower.

- h. Discussion of street lighting junction of Rte 110 & Rte 3 (JW) - The lighting on the bridge was removed a couple of years ago. There have been some accidents in the area. Weagle recommended putting at least one light back up. M. Audit commented there is a sidewalk on the bridge also. There was a near fatal with a pedestrian accident, because the area is very dark. He strongly recommended putting at least 3 lights back up and trade-off for another area that doesn't have high traffic. J. Tierney said the lights were taken down approx. 2 years ago – Dave Peel did a study on them. Will need to find out what the cost to put them back up is. A. Rossetto commented – the ones taken down were on Town roads only. He suggested looking at Lost Nation there are some lights there that could be looked at for trade-off.

The lights on the bridge may have been the States, they have been going through other towns also. There is a safety concern without them and it would be beneficial to the Town to have them back up. M. Audit said to talk with Phil Boleo.

4. Applications/Permits and Warrants:

- a. Parade Permit (1) – Race car display for car show - Speedway 51 – May 21, 2016 - then they will parade to the track.

Motion to approve by: J. Tierney, 2nd by: M. Phillips, All in Favor 3-0

- b. Elderly Exemption Applications (2) –
 - 1. Didn't qualify, their income was too high.

Motion to deny by: J. Tierney, 2nd by: M. Phillips, All in Favor 3-0

- 2. Based on the info provided – qualified

Motion to approve by: J. Tierney, 2nd by: M. Phillips, All in Favor 3-0

- c. Non Resident Transfer Station Permits (5) -
 - Newton Reliable Trust – Renewal
 - Robert & Cathy Chapman – Renewal
 - John Nugent & Sons – commercial – Renewal
 - Ricky & Jennifer Theberge – Renewal
 - Betty Gould – A family member takes it.

Motion to approve 5 - Non Resident permits (above) by: J. Tierney, 2nd by: M. Phillips, All in Favor 3-0

- d. First quarter water/sewer warrant – M. Kennett to collect:
\$75,813.00 – Water and \$65,842.08 – Sewer.

Motion to sign by: J. Tierney, 2nd by: M. Phillips, All in Favor 3-0

5. Public Matters To Be Addressed By The Board:

- a. Directional Drilling Construction Kickoff Meeting Monday, May 2nd at 9:30 am – 10 Station Square.
- b. M. Phillips – Rick Samson shared a letter from the Board of Selectmen in Stewartstown, which they wrote to the State DOT. It was in regards to them spending \$2.8 million on an upgrade to private road in Dixville, when our State roads need to be upgraded. M. Phillips will draft a letter for us to send also.
Motion to sign the letter that Mike Phillips is drafting by: J. Tierney
2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 3-0
- c. N. Merrow – Police Department what are we doing? J. Weagle said at this time we are contacting others, he talked with the Sheriff's Dept. today. He's waiting to hear back from them. N. Merrow referred to a discussion (in December), the Board was going to be looking at a panel to hire a Chief. Does that include a Select Board member or anyone from the public? J. Tierney said in the past, it has not included a Select Board member; it has been senior police officers, F&G – 5-7 that were all law enforcement. They reviewed the individuals that were applying for experience, knowledge, etc.

N. Merrow asked if they are going to pursue bringing on a Chief before we hire any other officers. J. Tierney's opinion - he is not in favor of that, he doesn't want a Chief to pick and choose his department. M. Phillips opinion – he feels we should start looking for a new chief and is hoping to start looking at applications. There will be training; it's a tough situation. J. Weagle opinion – we are playing this day by day, he doesn't want to jump into hiring and get us into more trouble. He doesn't want to hire a chief and things don't go as planned and we end up with 2 Chiefs. There is still fit protocol, there is a 45-day window for the former Chief – He wants to make sure things are done correctly.

Jessica Riendeau said at the last meeting the Board was moving forward with looking at a 90-day interim Chief position and feelers were going to be put out for interest. Is that still the plan of attack? J. Weagle said we are contacting other agencies to see if they have names (of retiree's) that we can contact. Lloyd Tippitt isn't interested due to his health.

J. Riendeau has concerns and reservations about hiring new officers when there isn't a leadership position in place. It has nothing to do with whoever is selected as Chief picking who works for him. It's about sending guys or girls to the academy without a support structure in place first.

- d. Al Rossetto – the Town of Lancaster & Littleton are now getting \$68.00 per ton for their plastics above #2. He doesn't know all the details, but it's melted down and brought to Groveton. At AVR RD there's nothing we get that can be recycled for more than \$20.00 per ton. So why isn't Groveton doing this? We have the technology and seems that it would be a good thing for us to pursue. Rossetto will try to get more information. M. Phillips said we don't have a

baler. J. Tierney commented when he last spoke with Michele, he wasn't taking in much except from farms and further discussed.

- e. A. Rossetto - Reading the papers, the Colebrook Board decided to go neutral on Northern Pass. Rossetto asked if this Board been approached? The Groveton Board has not been contacted and further discussed. J. Kennett doesn't feel that anyone should tell the Board what their opinion should be. There has been a lot of clear cutting around the power lines. It appears they started here, there has been some noticed in Lancaster also.

- f. Shawn Donohue - commented about the Police Department and the Police Academy. J. Tierney said the course is 16 weeks at the NH Police Academy. There is a class starting May 2, 2016, we won't have anyone going to that one. There is another one in September, which is the last one this year. He will be suggesting that we get someone into that session.

There is one applicant that has been through the NH Academy in 2014, that might be someone to look at. Tierney further discussed the PT testing, etc. M. Phillips asked if we know that the September class has openings; M. Audit said there is still plenty of time and suggested getting names to the Academy in August. The Correction Officer training is different than Police training.

N. Merrow asked about policy issue - who has a right to be hired. Has it been reviewed, are you sticking with it. J. Tierney addressed, he is in favor of following the policy re: hiring. What happened before didn't violate the policy; they weren't family when hired, but became family and the Board at the time didn't do anything about it. J. Tierney isn't sure if there is any language that could be added to correct. Jim Morse said wasn't that a conflict of interest, J. Tierney, said yes it becomes a conflict of interest.

J. Kennett commented, when sending candidates to the Academy, they go and get the training, the Town pays for it and then they leave. Can't they be required to sign an agreement to keep them for a period of time. J. Tierney said it was taken forward, but it can't be enforced. To help the system, we have increased the hourly rate to be more competitive with other PD's in this area. We are much closer to their pay scales now. Discussion ensued re: contracts.

Littleton has a 2-year contract that officers are required to sign. M. Audit commented they are paid while at the Academy and are provided bullets. J. Tierney said it's possible the cost of the Academy could become an expense for the Town.

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

Motion to go into Non Public session by: M. Phillips

2nd by: J. Tierney, All in Favor 3-0

Into Non-Public Session at 7:10 p.m.

Motion to adjourn the Non-Public session by: M. Phillips

2nd by: J. Tierney

All in Favor 3-0

Out of Non-Public Session at 8:16

Into regular session at 8:16 pm.

No further business was discussed.

7. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by: J. Tierney

2nd by: M. Phillips, All in Favor 3-0

Meeting adjourned at 8:17 pm.

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider, and employer***

EMS Chiefs Report

04/18/2016

1. 2016 we have had 157 calls to date.

Breakdown:

105 transports

52 non transports

20 transfers accepted (included with transports) 9 transfers declined YTD

2. 2015 there were 171 calls to this date.

Breakdown:

110 transports

61 non transports

30 transfers accepted (included with transports) 38 transfers declined YTD

3. We are down 14 calls which can be accounted for as a decrease in 911 calls due to the weather (fewer automobile/snowmobile accidents) and rejection of transfers (no medic available at the time of call). To date we had to deny (9 transfers) because of inadequate personnel (no Paramedic on staff at the time of request).

1. This presented a potential for @ \$16,800.00 of extra billable revenue. (low end estimate)

2. This translates too approximately @ \$8400.00 of potential extra profits. (low end estimate)

4. Revenues this year to date 2016: See Attachments

5. Medicare: Still a work in progress. All paperwork has been submitted and permission to wire money to Union Bank has been verified by certified letter that was sent out last week.

6. Jeff Olander from American Emergency Vehicles will be stopping by this week to take pictures and do an estimate for paint on A3 (The 2011 ambulance). We have asked AEV to warranty the paint job as it has bubbling and blistering throughout the box.