

**Town of Northumberland
Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
Date: Tuesday, February 16th, 2016
Place: Town Meeting Room – 10 Station Square
Time: 6:00 P.M.**

Board members present: Michael Phillips, Jim Tierney, Jim Weagle
Other present: Jim Gibson, Sam Oakes, Trevor Gibson, Chief Platt, Nancy Merrow,
Ron Caron, Linda Caron, Al Rossetto, Mark Robinson, Shawn Donahue, Rick
Samson, Rebecca St. Cyr - Recorder

1. Chairman opens the meeting:

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

2. Acceptance of Minutes:

Motion approve the January 19, 2016 minutes by: J. Tierney
2nd by: M. Phillips, All in Favor 3-0

3. Selectmen Business:

a. Department Head Business: Ambulance/Police Dept.

Jim Gibson – Ambulance

Reviewed EMS Chiefs Report – see below.

The numbers are down possibly due to the weather. We haven't had calls for car and snow-machine accidents, etc.

Discussed an issue with the billing company. As of Friday we are all paid up; should be able to start billing soon. J. Tierney further reviewed the revenues that are pending and what has come in.

Chief Platt – Police Dept.

Statistics: 14 cases to date; 8 arrests and added another felony case today. 59 MV stops with 11 summons issued. Covered 5 accidents.

The cruisers are running fine. Chief Platt suggested putting out another bid for the 2009 Crown Vic. The person that bid on it has not gotten back to the Chief. The \$100.00 that was submitted previously will be put with it.

Hiring officers – M. Phillips said we are receiving some applications; we haven't announced when we will start doing anything with them. He was made aware that someone had heard we are not hiring anyone w/o certification. Not sure where that came from, but if someone doesn't have their certification and are qualified otherwise – they may be considered.

- b. Discussion of Town North Country Council Rep
J. Tierney has been the NCC rep and hasn't been able to make the meetings; generally, the meetings are 3:00 - 5:00 pm, Tierney recommended finding someone else. They work with TAC (Transportation Advisory Committee) and advise the State District 1 Rep. what they feel needs to be done, where fixes are needed on State roads, etc. They are big on the State trails, but he doesn't think any of them go through Groveton. It will be posted on Facebook to start with. Donohue asked about Lost Nation (a State road); and is there any plan to fix it. Tierney addressed, he believes it on the plan for 2017. They might be skim coating, but not digging up and fixing it like it needs to be. Donahue commented that Milan Hill Road used to be in competition with Lost Nation Road as the worst road in the county, they have fixed it and did a good job.

The Board will look for a volunteer to be a representative for one meeting a month 2-3 hours. The meetings are in Littleton.

- c. General Assessing Services Contract
The contract is just for pick-ups, current use, etc. The rate is \$95.00 per hour – same as last year. There is another 2 years remaining of the 5-year contract.

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

Al Rossetto asked if the \$95.00/hour is when the assessor goes out after a building permit is issued and the work is done. The Board discussed the fees and covering the costs. J. Tierney said they usually come up and do several at a time instead of coming up for just one.

- d. Electricity Contract – CES
.075 per kw hour, currently we are paying .085 per kw hour. The contract will come later; if we like this price.

Motion to approve and authorize the Chairman to sign by: J. Tierney 2nd by: M. Phillips, All in Favor 3-0

- e. Perambulation Agreement
This is a warrant article and is contingent on approval at Town Meeting.

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

- f. Northern Pass Intervenor – M. Phillips understands that neither J. Tierney or J. Weagle will be actively involved. J. Weagle said he never said that he wouldn't participate, he wants to see where things were going and thought it would be better to go through Ed. J. Tierney said he did not wish to be on it, he has other entities that he works on and is not Interested in riling anything that might go through.

- g. Article 23 – M. Phillips said it was discussed last Wednesday. In looking into this further, this tax exemption is over the course of the first 5 years and the improvements are to be done by the new industrial concern that owns the land. There is no option to lease the land. M. Phillips feels the current version of Article 23 is confusing. Phillips reviewed 2 business in Berlin; 1) Capone Steel (qualified for the exemption); 2) the furniture factory (they did not qualify). J. Weagle said it's been sent to Tammy and there needs to be a provision for new business, Becky Craggy will be writing it up. J. Tierney said it basically has to be new construction and the application is filed prior to when construction begins. The owner of the property is the one that has to ask for this. Phillips said that it can't be on leased property. If he builds and doesn't get the exemption – it doesn't make any difference.

At the State level right now they are working with the legislature to override it, so that it covers any county. This has to be rectified before Town meeting. Rossetto said he thought the RSA dropped the tax by 50% for the first 3 years. M. Phillips said the information he received came from Paul Grenier, Berlin. J. Weagle said he thinks that towns can adopt what levels they want.

4. Applications/Permits and Warrants:

- a. Abatement Request – Marcia Robinson – The water was shut off and the sewer capped off.

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

- b. Meeting Room Use Application

Request from the Family Resource Center, Gorham for a play group every Tuesday starting March 1, 2016. They asked for Non-Profit status, the Board didn't know if they are registered non-profit. They must have insurance - \$1,000,000 min. is required. The Board needs to look into it further.

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

N. Merrow asked what the cost to the Town is for heat, electricity, etc. The Board said \$25.00 fee covers those expenses.

- c. Rick Samson – Tax Exemption Law – House bill 359 proposed. Samson feels they need to address the proposed HB 359 as a Board. Samson asked if any or all of the Board could attend the delegation meeting in Lancaster on Friday. It's now before the Ways & Means Committee. There is a bill that gives only Coos County the exemption. If that is taken away it doesn't give businesses any incentive to come to Coos.

What might be beneficial to Groveton is to find out how many houses are for sale, how many are behind on taxes and what the median income is. The meeting is at 10:00 am on Friday, February 19, 2016 at the F&G building in Lancaster. It would make more of an impact on the commissioners if the

Town is represented. M. Phillips will plan on attending the meeting. J. Tierney is not available and J. Weagle will try to get more info to M. Phillips. It is open to the public also. Capone Steel has been accepted into this program, the furniture factory didn't qualify because they went into a readymade building.

Discussed the bond and whether Chapman will lease or sell the property. M. Phillips asked if there are other businesses that have qualified for the exemption; Samson said Capone Steel is the only one that he is aware of in Coos County. It seems that any economic development has been directed towards Berlin.

N. Merrow asked if there is an email address where citizens can oppose the bill; Samson advised to go to the NH government website and look for the Ways & Means Committee.

Sam Oakes commented he feels the Board needs to draft a letter opposing the bill to send to the delegation and to the Ways & Means Committee.

Samson said the Town will vote to adopt this at Town Meeting and the Select Board has the authority. There is a warrant article in, if the Town doesn't formally adopt it – the Select Board can't grant an exemption to a company for a number of years. It can be changed during Town Meeting only – whatever is adopted by the Town, is all the Board can do. Reviewed RSA 7276; 7275 is the RSA that is just for Coos County.

Motion to draft and sign letters to oppose HB 359 by: M. Phillips
2nd by: J. Tierney, All in Favor 3-0

5. Public Matters To Be Addressed By The Board:

- a. N. Merrow asked when Town Reports would be available, Weagle said at least a week prior to Town Meeting. Merrow attended the School Board meeting and the tax rate will increase by at least \$1.20/thousand, which doesn't include petitioned articles. They have cut 4 positions and are not replacing 1 teacher. J. Tierney asked when the Public Hearing for the petitioned articles is scheduled, Merrow wasn't sure.
- b. The Girl Scouts will be distributing cookies on February 26, 2016 from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm.

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

Motion to go into Non-Public Session by: J. Tierney
2nd by: M. Phillips, All in Favor 3-0

Into Non-Public session at 6:46 pm

Out of Non-Public session at 7:22 pm

Motion to adjourn the Non-Public session by: J. Tierney
2nd by: M. Phillips, All in Favor 3-0

Non-Public session adjourned at 7:22 pm.

Into Regular session at 7:22 pm

J. Tierney briefly reviewed the Non-Public session. The Board agreed to allow Sean Rodden work as a part-time officer and they approved a wage increase for an employee.

Other business:

The Board is scheduled for meetings on March 7th and 21st. Town Meeting is March 12th. The meeting scheduled for the 21st will be moved to March 28th. The Precinct meeting is scheduled for March 1st in the Town Hall Meeting Room.

No other business was discussed.

7. Adjournment:

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

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

EMS Chiefs Report

02/16/2016

1. 2016 we have had 63 calls to date.

Breakdown:

40 transports

23 non transports

5 transfers (included with transports)

2. 2014 there were 78 calls to this date.

Breakdown:

48 transports

30 non transports

5 transfers (included with transports)

3. We are down 15 calls which can be accounted for as a decrease in 911 calls due to the weather (fewer automobile/snowmobile accidents). To date we had to deny (4 transfers) because of inadequate personnel (no Paramedic on staff at the time of request).

a. This presented a potential for @ \$7,200.00 of extra billable revenue. (low end estimate)

b. This translates too approximately @\$3200.00 of potential extra profits. (low end estimate)

4. Revenues this year to date 2016: See Attachment

5. Medicare: Payment has been sent in to get the process going. I have worked with Medicare and Comstar to have the so called fine changed to a paperwork processing fee as I believe it was mostly Medicare's fault that the original paperwork with one representatives signature was overlooked for 6 months and they never notified us or asked to have it fixed. This will reflect better on us when audits happen as we will have a clean record with no fines associated with our account.

Ambulance Run Data Report
GROVETON AMBULANCE
From 01/01/16 To 02/16/16
Total Number of Runs Based on Search Criteria: 58

Runs by City

City	# of Runs	% of Runs
Bloomfield	3	5.17%
Brunswick (Town of)	1	1.72%
COLEBROOK	2	3.45%
Groveton	35	60.34%
LANCASTER	4	6.90%
Maidstone (Town of)	2	3.45%
North Stratford	7	12.07%
Stark	4	6.90%
Unknown	0	0.00%
Total	58	100%

Runs by Response Request

Response Request	# of Times	% of Times
911 Response	49	84.48%
Interfacility / Hospital Transfer (Emergent)	5	8.62%
Mutual Aid	1	1.72%
Standby (Scheduled Event)	3	5.17%
Unknown	0	0.00%
Total	58	100%

Runs by Response Disposition

Response Disposition	# of Times	% of Times
Agency Assist	1	1.72%
ALS Evaluation, Care and Transport by THIS Unit	39	67.24%
Dead at Scene (Including Terminated Efforts)	1	1.72%
Evaluated and Assisted, No Care Required	5	8.62%
Evaluated, Refused Care and Transport	3	5.17%
Evaluation and Care, Refused Transport	2	3.45%
No Patient Found	1	1.72%
Standby Only - No Patient Contacts	6	10.34%
Unknown	0	0.00%
Total	58	100%

Ambulance Run Data Report
GROVETON AMBULANCE
From 01/01/15 To 02/16/15
Total Number of Runs Based on Search Criteria: 78

Runs by City

City	# of Runs	% of Runs
Bethlehem	1	1.28%
Colebrook	1	1.28%
Groveton (Northumberland)	56	71.79%
Lancaster	2	2.56%
Littleton	1	1.28%
Stark	7	8.97%
Stratford	10	12.82%
Unknown	0	0.00%
Total	78	100%

Runs by Response Request

Response Request	# of Times	% of Times
911 Response	68	87.18%
Interfacility / Hospital Transfer (Emergent)	3	3.85%
Medical Transport (Other than Hospital)	2	2.56%
PIFT (Paramedic Interfacility Transfer)	2	2.56%
Standby (Scheduled Event)	3	3.85%
Unknown	0	0.00%
Total	78	100%

Runs by Response Disposition

Response Disposition	# of Times	% of Times
ALS Evaluation, Care and Transport by THIS Unit	48	61.54%
Cancelled	2	2.56%
Dead at Scene (Including Terminated Efforts)	2	2.56%
Evaluated and Assisted, No Care Required	3	3.85%
Evaluated, Refused Care and Transport	7	8.97%
Evaluation and Care, Refused Transport	3	3.85%
No Patient Found	1	1.28%
Standby Only - No Patient Contacts	12	15.38%
Unknown	0	0.00%
Total	78	100%