

**Town of Northumberland
Board of Selectmen
Draft Meeting Minutes
Date: Monday, May 2nd, 2016
Place: Town Meeting Room – 10 Station Square
Time: 6:00 P.M.**

Board members present: Michael Phillips, Jim Tierney, Jim Weagle
Other present: Glenn Cassady, Mike Stirling, Al Rossetto, Jim Morse, Joseph Kennett, Jeffrey St. Cyr, Chris Caron, Rick Samson, Donna Jordan, Reggie Charron, Nancy Merrow, Shawn Donohue, Winston Hawes, Kayla Audit, Rebecca St. Cyr - Recorder

1. Chairman opens the meeting:

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

2. Acceptance of Minutes:

Motion to accept the April 18, 2016 minutes by: J. Tierney
2nd by: M. Phillips, All in Favor 3-0

3. Selectmen Business:

a. Department Head Business: Highway and Water/Sewer

Glenn Cassady - Highway

The crew has been working on sweeping when the weather is good, it has been minimal this year. It looks like we won't need to use the highway sweeper, which will save approx. \$2,500.

The first round of grading has been done, there is some ditching and culverts to take care of, the roads are in good shape. The Lost Nation road ban is still on. There is some work to do on the sewer manholes. The one on Church St needs to be repaired, we may have to close one lane on the street. There is one on Spring St. that has dropped down also. We have been doing cold patching as needed. Cassady said they took the plow off his truck. Last week we finished the project on Winter St.

Cassady is helping the Library Trustees to get the window wells repaired. He has talked with two vendors to get quotes for the repairs. The estimated cost is \$600 – \$800. We're not sure if there is a parameter drain, there are not any blue prints.

The crew will start the line painting as soon as it warms up and they will be getting the pool ready for the summer season soon.

Building Maintenance fund – Cassady asked about the furnace, the cost is approx. \$18,000. He has 2 quotes, which are both close in cost. J. Tierney recommended that he bring the quotes in for the Board to review.

Reggie Charron – Water/Sewer

Tri State Well went into the wells with the camera last week. They went down the full length of both of them. Everything looked good, the water was clear. Charron will email the results to the Board when he receives the report. We were able to see both screens and will need to decide on how to clean them. #1 well - there is a 3' section of broken pipe at the bottom – that's not affecting anything, but we will be looking a retrieving it. We can't do the chemical method right now, so will be looking to see what can be done mechanically.

Charron would like to get the second Hi Lift Pump ordered, the quote was for \$25,000, but we have the Soft Starts being built now too. Charron is not sure what's needed up front for the pump. This is in the budget under maintenance, however the soft Starts are under the RF. This will take 6-8 weeks for delivery. J. Tierney reviewed the financials, we may need to tap the TAN. Tax bills go out at the end of this month and due by July 1.

DES is coming up for the Sanitary Survey on the Lost Nation system.

Charron said they had kick off meeting this morning for the drilling project. The drilling under the river will start May 9. The contractor will be working from 7:00 am – 7:00 pm. The drilling takes approx. 3 weeks. The driller will be set up behind the monuments. The project is scheduled to be completed by July 16th.

Charron had Dig Safe come in for a couple of areas. We need to replace a valve on Mechanic St., there is a valve to replace for the old Bond Auto building also.

The 1st quarter W/S bills went out. We are still changing out meters and are caught up with the older ones; now are looking which ones will be next.

Sewer – We need to start thinking about getting our summer help started soon. The leach field is green!

The project on Winter St. – Charron had contacted the resident and he wanted to put his own seed down. It's been taken care of and looks a lot better.

There is a lot going on with the projects.

- b. Discussion of Tax Exception Request Received – Chapman Redevelopment
This concerns a warrant article, there is a 1st draft of the application which needs to be in by December 31st. M. Phillips discussed a concern – when we were in the process of adopting the RSA and putting it on the warrant, there was a question of ownership. He was not expecting the developer would ask for the tax exception. He was anticipating that it would be a specific business that was "here to stay" and that the investment in the building and land was a way we could be reassured as a community that the tax exception worked.

J. Tierney said the building is still there, the exception doesn't come through until the building is complete, he further explained. We will still get the tax

money. Phillips is still not clear that we would be giving this to the developer vs a business. He is uncomfortable that we can't be told about what the business activity will be. Berlin has written a 9 page document (3-4 pages) which apply to this exemption. Phillips feels that we need to look at defining things like this. J. Tierney said it's not due until 12/31/16 for April 1, 2017. Tierney reiterated that no exemption comes in until a building is complete.

Phillips said the application is for 6 lots telling us nothing about the business needs to have more details. M. Stirling has offered the Board members an opportunity to sign a non-disclosure agreement to discuss the businesses. If they can't sign the non-disclosure, he can't talk about it. He can't afford to have the information get out. M. Phillips was asked to sign a non-disclosure agreement, not by Chapman or Stirling, but by Jim Tierney. This violates his idea of how Selectmen work together. He is not comfortable with it, given the background of Northern Pass and the possibility of being set up as having said something. He doesn't want to be put at risk. Phillips feels that his integrity is being stamped on.

M. Stirling commented with the Canadian company, that information was already out there. He didn't have any agreement with them to keep their information private. Stirling didn't intend to offend any member of the Board, he approached the Select Board as a whole. When he heard that Phillips wasn't comfortable signing the non-disclosure, he didn't pursue him further.

This situation now is different than Lyndonville, no one else knows about these two opportunities. Stirling is happy to provide more details, but only under a non-disclosure. If he starts doing anything, he loses the opportunity for the exemption. Stirling further discussed – Groveton is the best option for these companies, but there is a hard sell to make. He is willing to provide a layout of what they want to do, which may of came across as a blanket request. This could bring some good jobs to the community, but there is still no guarantee they will come. He doesn't feel that either of the companies will make the investment and then leave in 3 years.

Bob Chapman has given Stirling the authority to structure the property; he wants to get the companies here. Stirling is willing to work with companies to get them what they want and need. We benefit greatly by being a 1st choice for one of these companies. Stirling wants to be sure the businesses are locked up before any announcements are made. They will make a dent in the tax base and be good neighbors.

Stirling's thought was to approach the Select Board as a whole and didn't mean to step on any toes. M. Phillips feels the carrot already dangles – he recognized what the intent is and is willing to sign the form when the name of the business can be put onto it.

Stirling asked if it can be a Non-Public subject.

M. Phillips said it's important that it be a mutual trust relationship. He wants to help the businesses that want to come to this community. Stirling said one of the companies is waiting for his call in anticipation that he could go to them with the Select Board signatures. It is an urgent item! Phillips is willing to hear him during Non-Public.

N. Merrow asked about Planning and Zoning, how do we know if they will meet their requirements. How do you agree to something when we don't have any plans for? J. Tierney further explained RSA 72:76, there is no exemption until the building is completed. They can't start the building until they go through Planning and Zoning. The exemption has to be applied for prior to construction.

N. Merrow asked the Board to clarify these are new structures that will be put up. J. Tierney said it can also be an addition. J. Kennett asked if we are going to give Bob Chapman an exemption, do we give the company an exemption too. J. Tierney further explained gave an example – the blue buildings valuation is approx. \$300,000. If it changes under a re-evaluation, the exemption would be on whatever they add to it and not for the building that's currently there.

Al Rossetto commented he understands the tax deed goes with the owner, who applies for the exemption. When did we get the authority to tell someone what they can do with their property. Is it our business to tell someone what they will bring to their property? J. Tierney said this applies to only Coos County; the State didn't have an application. Berlin developed one and Elaine has been working to create one for us. The exemption is for the physical property and not for the jobs. Rossetto feels the Board needs to sign this form, we need to be proactive for business.

M. Phillips commented business is great, but thinks it matters what business comes and doesn't feel the Town is obligated to do a property tax exemption if it's something that isn't good for the community.

Rick Samson commented that you might want to consider going into Non Public with M. Stirling and sealing the minutes until resolved.

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

c. Petition and Pole License

J. Weagle read the license to maintain an underground conduit. This is for one pole at 6 Spring St.

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

d. Discussion Police Hiring Schedule

M. Phillips - this has been an ongoing discussion. We have a new item, there is a court case scheduled for July 27th. Ultimately Town Meeting may need to make a

decision. There might not be a final answer at the July 27th hearing. J. Weagle said we were trying to get at least one into the Police Academy for the fall session. Currently we have 4 part-time officers that are working regularly and 3 more that are in need of training.

Kayla Audit clarified the schedule for the Police Academy.

If there isn't anyone hired – it will be January. Rossetto asked about Mario Audit being the Acting Chief. J. Tierney said he is the temporary Administrative OIC.

4. Applications/Permits and Warrants:

a. Housekeeping Abatement-Water (2)

1. Lori McGregor – she was charged a turn on fee that shouldn't have been charged.

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

2. Arthur and Linda Hunt – this was an over-billing.

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

b. Meeting Room Application (1)

1. 5/17 – 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm – GREAT Annual Meeting, they are non-profit, no fee will be charged.

Motion to approve by: M. Phillips

2nd by: J. Weagle, 2 in Favor, 1 abstained.

c. Non-Resident Transfer Station Permit Application (2)

1. Joe Christian, 9 Pinette St. - renewal
2. Wesley Hicks, Lost Nation - renewal

Motion to sign both renewals by: J. Tierney

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

d. State Dealer Retail Vehicle Application – Chris Caron applied for a Dealer License so that he can sell vehicles at his business

Motion to approve and have the Chairman sign by: M. Phillips

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

e. Building Permit Application (1)

1. Northern Human Services, 69 Brooklyn St., replacing a steel shed. T. Bedell has signed. They would like the \$100.00 fee waived.

Motion to waive the fee and sign by: J. Tierney

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

2. Brian and Elaine Greenville, Ray Road – building a new home. T. Bedell has not signed. The \$250.00 fee is paid.

Motion to sign pending T. Bedell signing by: J. Tierney

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

5. Public Matters To Be Addressed By The Board:

- a. Announcements: Kelly Ayotte hours at Town Office, Friday 5/13/16 from 1-2 pm at Town Office 19 Main St.
- b. Waste Collection Day – AVRRDD Saturday, June 4th, 2016 8-1pm
- c. Planning Board Meeting - Wednesday, May 4th, 2016 7 pm
- d. Zoning Board Meeting – Monday, May 9th at 7 pm
- e. Rick Samson – thanked the Board for sending a letter to DOT regarding repairs on a road up north. He asked the Board if they had any update on the Morse Mtn. cell tower. J. Weagle said there was a violation between the suppliers and they are working on it.

Samson appreciated the updates on the mill sight.

Eversource has been pressuring communities to vote to go neutral for Northern Pass. The County Commissioners have not taken a stand on it. Samson asked if the Board had heard anything from them. The Board has not heard from them.

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

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

Into Non-Public session at 7:10 pm

Out of Non-Public Session at 8:45

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

Into Regular session at 8:45 pm

Motion to "Seal" Section A1 – Personnel matter – until employee is no longer employed by the Town by: J. Tierney
2nd by: M. Phillips, All in Favor 3-0

Motion to "Seal" Section B (Stirling) until resolved by: J. Tierney
2nd by: M. Phillips, All in Favor 3-0

Motion to "Seal" Section C-2 until matter is resolved by: J. Tierney
2nd by: M. Phillips, All in Favor 3-0

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 8:50 pm.

Posted 4/29/16 @ 1:45 pm @ Town Office, SAU Office and Public Library
This institution is an equal opportunity provider, and employer.