

**Town of Northumberland
Board of Selectmen
Public Hearings (2)
OHRV Snow Travel - Riverside Drive (1)
Acceptance of Un-Anticipated Funds (2)
Business Meeting Minutes
Date: Monday, November 7th, 2016
Place: Town Meeting Room – 10 Station Square
Time: 6:00 P.M.**

Board Members present: Michael Phillips, Jim Tierney, Jim Weagle
Others present: Jim Morse, Andrew Cote, Sam Oakes, Glenn Cassady, Edmund Robinson, Oliva & Geraldine Tetreault, Doug & Gloria White, Teri & Reggie Charron, Robert Ward, Al Rossetto, John Collier, Tina Robinson-Collier, Joseph Kennett, Deborah Montgomery, Jim Hebert, Susie Batchelder, M. Stirling, Evelyn Hopkins, Al Beland, Norm Cotter, Pete Marshall, Rebecca St. Cyr - Recorder

1. Chairman opens Public Hearing (1):

J. Weagle opened Public Hearing at 6:00 pm

- a. Discuss, receive public comment/questions, decide on opening Riverside Drive for OHRV snow travel.

J. Kennett asked who brought this matter to the Boards attention. J. Tierney said it was requested by the Trail Blazers. Kennett said he attended a meeting that was about 4 wheelers on Lost Nation Rd and are we going to get into the same mess there. J. Tierney said this a not about Lost Nation Road, but about the residents on Riverside Drive having any objections with the snow machines from last year. J. Weagle said one of the comments from last year was the snow machines going over their property. We talked with the club, they agreed to put up snow fencing, if the owner wants it. We are hoping (with Glenn's help) to put a snow trail on the side of the street for them to run on.

E. Robinson said he has lived on Riverside Dr. for 42 years, it's looks the best it ever has. He doesn't think the snow machines should be using it. He is concerned about the studs and skis digging up the new tar. He didn't like the side trail, because it didn't leave enough room to back out of his driveway and then you have to wait if another vehicle is coming. He asked where the trail connects to, J. Hebert said it connects to Corridor 5, Hebert reviewed the trail location. J. Weagle said they used to use the RR bridge and no longer can. They need a trail connector and this is a proposal to keep that open. Robinson is against them using Riverside Dr.

J. Tierney said the Covered Bridge is closed to ATV and snow machine traffic until the water line is completed. It's now under the river, but not connected. The snow machines create as much vibration as the ATV's and if the pipe breaks in the middle of the bridge, there won't be any water on the Route 110 side of the bridge. We haven't talked about opening the bridge until it's complete.

Gloria White thought the bridge was closed because the studs were digging up the wood. She asked who will keep it up? J. Weagle said the club was going to put new planks down.

John Richard and Angela Call (residents on Riverside Dr.) are in favor of opening the street, they feel it will help the local economy.

M. Phillips asked about the snow lane and how wide it is, he's concerned about when the snow gets thin. Can we temporarily close it? G. Cassidy commented they probably need at least 6'. When surfacing it, there were marks from the skis, studs.

Al Beland said he has 2 properties on Riverside Drive. When he goes up there with his trucks, he needs 2 lanes. He wondered why they can't use the State road and make a permanent access. J. Weagle said when they approached the State about the bridge, they were against using the road. Beland said a permanent access would take care of the problem. J. Tierney said the Board would write a letter of support, if necessary. J. Hebert will check with the State about that option. He said it could be expensive to put up a retaining wall, etc. J. Weagle said they wouldn't let the snow machines use the sidewalk on the Route 3 bridge due to an issue with the line of sight. S. Batchelder mentioned took out 3 lights on the bridge. J. Weagle further discussed.

Al Rossetto said approx. 1/3 of the paving budget went to Riverside Drive. He has seen the damage on a paved road that the groomer makes. It will take the money we've put into the road and ruin the new pavement. As a one lane street, there could be liability issue unless it's made into a one-way street. Rossetto doesn't have a problem with the snow machines. Corridor 5 runs up through the entire State, if we have a good year there will be a lot of traffic up and down the street. The taxpayers will be paying for the snow machines enjoyment.

S. Batchelder said she would like to see the snow mobiles come, her business is on that side of the river. She feels it's not in the best interest of the Town if you allow the residents on Riverside Dr. determine whether the road should be used or not. J. Tierney said this meeting was posted as a public hearing. S. Batchelder said if they don't allow it to connect, we will lose a lot of revenue from tourism.

The State has been working on tourism for 12 years and now it's come and we are going to say, don't come! She put a business in Town to benefit the residents of Groveton, you need to look at both sides of the issue. J. Tierney said this Public Hearing was to hear if there were any objections and that into consideration. The other problem is the covered bridge is closed and he is not in favor of allowing traffic on it now. If the water pipe breaks, no one on that side of the river will have water. S. Batchelder said she spoke with Paul Crane about the problem.

R. Charron – in their defense, they tried to stay on Town property, we were lucky enough to have Mr. Chapman agree to have it go through his property. The water

pipe is in and needs to be connected, but it's not going to happen over the next few weeks. Once the connections are made, use of the bridge might be an option.

M. Phillips asked J. Hebert about the club doing repairs on the bridge, Hebert said they replaced some of the planks a few years ago. Phillips asked if there are options with using mats or other materials to protect the road. Hebert said using mats could be a problem. R. Charron and G. Cassady said the State put down a polymer down on Route 3 by the Legion and on Brown Rd., which has helped. O. Tetreault said they used to go up the hill on the power line and doesn't know if that's still feasible. Hebert said that's Tom Dittman's property, which he shut off.

Deb Montgomery (Riverside Dr. resident) commented that currently they can't get across the covered bridge, so where can they get to. Hebert explained the route from Route 110, but we can't cross the bridge. They could get to Stark and hit the main trail from there.

R. Charron discussed the problems with repairing the pipe on the bridge. J. Kennett asked who is responsible for making the water line connections. Is it DBU, the Town, Paul Crane? J. Tierney reviewed; the pipe is under the river, but the drilling isn't finished on either side. There are 2 more drills that need to get done. J. Weagle said the contractor has lost money on this project, but they have stayed with us. They could have walked away. No payment will be made until there is water flowing through the lines.

M. Phillips asked J. Hebert if he has talked with Tom Dittman. Hebert said he has been away, but he's been trying to work with him to get access on his land.

E. Robinson asked about the old trail and using that. They have had plenty of time to build a bridge or find an alternate route, but they haven't. J. Kennett said we used to cross the river on the ice. Hebert said they have talked with Mr. Chapman about using the foot bridge, but there is an issue with the ownership.

Al Beland said Lancaster has a similar problem, they built a trail bridge off the side of Rogers Rangers bridge. Why can't that be done on the trestle bridge. Hebert said they went through the scenario of putting in a baily bridge, but it was going to cost over \$200,000. No one has that kind of money.

J. Tierney asked if they could talk with Jim Wemyss about the possibility of crossing near Red Dam. Hebert said the RR trestle could be an issue. S. Batchelder said called Concord about the trestle, some areas are pulling the tracks where they aren't using them. The Selectmen could make a call to find out if that is an option for Groveton.

M. Phillips asked M. Stirling about the RR. The St. Lawrence and Atlantic may start coming in if he can put in a spur at the end of West St. He further discussed.

J. Tierney asked Batchelder if she has a name and phone # of a person in Concord. She doesn't, but they are supposed to come up to visit her regarding an issue on her property. Further discussed the SLA and route's.

Ed Jefferies has a 10-year lease on the trestle with the State and has told the club they won't be able to use it this year. The trestle needs to be decked for the snow machines to use it, the train wouldn't be able to get through. The groomer would also use Riverside Drive. Hebert reviewed other options for getting across the river.

Deb Montgomery commented the distance approved by the State on Route 110 is about the same as what would be needed on Route 3. Montgomery is a new resident on Riverside Dr. She agrees with E. Robinson and it's beautiful now. It's not just about the residents but the taxpayers also. She would hate to see it ruined. If there is another option, that still brings business into Groveton, she feels it would make sense.

J. Tierney said the Board will make some calls to the Trail Bureau and tabled this until the next meeting. If they would just allow them to pass in the breakdown lane for right now, that would help alleviate the problem. J. Weagle said we can check with the State about using it. The trails don't open until Dec. 15th.

N. Cotter commented about the State requiring the registrations, but they won't allow them to use the road. John Collier commented about Berlin. J. Tierney said we don't own Route 3 – the State does. Berlin owes Route 16 where it passes through the city. The State claims a right-of-way of approx. 27' from the center line.

M. Phillips commented on State government, if the word on this is that Corridor 5 is closed – it could be a political issue.

Tabled until the next meeting.

- b. Adjournment of first Public Hearing.
J. Weagle closed the Public Hearing at 6:47 pm.

2. Chairman opens Public Hearing (2):

J. Weagle opened Public Hearing #2 at 6:47 pm

- a. Discuss, receive public comment/questions, regarding acceptance of receiving un-anticipated funds

J. Tierney – Phase II of the W/S project cost was \$1,000,000, we put in for an EDA grant for \$600,000. At Town Meeting, we approved \$400,000 for of the W/S project. We said we would put in for other grants. We put in for an NBRC grant for \$200,000 and got it. Now we have \$1,200,000 for the project. The accountant recommended having a Public Hearing about anticipated funds, rather than spending it and have the State come back saying that we didn't have a Public

Hearing and having to pay it. It wasn't anticipated because we applied for the grant and got it. We are having the Public Hearing to see what to do with the \$200,000. We have no plans for it and if nothing is done with it by December 31, it stays in the General Fund. R. Charron didn't agree with that, he said it was approved with the notion of getting other grants to offset the \$400,000. J. Tierney said EDA has come back and said if we do that the Town didn't put in \$400,000 and they will re-look at the amount EDA gave to us.

J. Tierney said the best option is to put in the General Fund and use it where we need it. If Eversource wins their abatement case in January, it could be approx. \$250,000 we would owe to them. Tierney recommended leaving the \$200,000 in the General Fund until this is settled. M. Phillips said if we don't have to pay Eversource, it could help with the TAN note situation or we will have the option of using it for paving, etc. The way to spend the money would be put on the Warrant for Town Meeting.

J. Kennett asked how we got into a 3-year abatement. J. Weagle said it's been in court that long. J. Tierney reviewed the process with the courts, there are several Towns involved in this case – 80 – 100 towns in NH against Eversource.

b. Adjournment of second public hearing.

J. Weagle closed the second public hearing at 6:53 pm.

3. Chairman opens regular business meeting:

J. Weagle opened the regular business meeting at 6:53 pm

4. Acceptance of Minutes:

Motion to approve the October 17, 2016 minutes by: J. Tierney
2nd by: M. Phillips, All in Favor 3-0

5. Selectmen Business:

a. Department Head Business: Highway and Water/Sewer

Reggie Charron – Water / Sewer:

Water - Getting ready for winter, finished up the scheduled water projects, working on the mill project and dealing with a couple other issues in Town. We have been trying to catch up.

Sewer – the plant is back to normal, accepting sewage from residents, the #'s are down. We replaced 40' of the sewer line on Maple St. with PVC. Beattie is coming to do the lagoons (for the dam permit). They will clean out the ponds of cat tails. The cat tails deplete the oxygen. We found out that we can build a building for the tractor. We are getting the pad ready for the Meunier boys to put it up.

Had to replace a motor at the Water Treatment Plant and found out the motors are obsolete – companies are going out of business. Fay Electric out of Manchester can re-build for approx. 1/3 of the cost. They can re-build for approx. \$700.00 and new one is around \$1800.00.

Charron said we will be pulling the Brooklyn St. pump 11/8/16. He thinks there is something in it. It's a system pump, hopefully we don't have to replace it.

We have a meeting on 11/9/16 re: the drilling. DBU told us 3 weeks ago Wednesday that they would be back. They have a lot of work to do, there are 2 critical drills to be done. Charron is concerned, he wants the water up and running and the bridge open. There are a lot of projects going on.

Glenn Cassady:

Worked on curb stops, graveling on the W/S roads. Randy Potter has been prepping the equipment for winter. The crew has been cleaning up, taking care of the flower pots, garbage cans, etc. The grader came in for Lost Nation in August, with all the rain recently, there are a lot of pot holes again. They went out and put some gravel down and will work on the backside of the river road also.

The window wells at the Library will be started 11/8/16. Will try to get 3 of them done this fall. If weather permits we may be able to do more. The sand pile has been put up. Since we bought the new sander, we've saved on sand usage by approx. 70 tons. We saved approx. \$5,500 on salt this year. Cassady reviewed some of the budget numbers.

The Beautification Committee would like the benches in front of the Town Office moved over by the gazebo. Cassady thought they should be put in the basement and feels they could be in the way for plowing. J. Tierney thought the benches at the gazebo should be regular park benches. T. Charron said they wanted to move the ones by the Town Office to the gazebo and the person that made them would make some new ones for the Town Office to put out in the Spring. Gloria White mentioned the property belongs to Keith Young, (the Town has a lease on the property) is he ok with what's going there. J. Tierney said it's a no smoking zone, Young doesn't want to see any cigarette butts.

A. Cote commented that Brooklyn St. is very rough right now. Charron said he will see about getting it smoothed up.

- b. Water on common line with 2 separate meters on Marshall Lane -
R. Charron reviewed, we found out the water is going through Carols meter and up to Linda's. When the meters came in there was some exploratory work done. We stop at Route 3; this is a landowner issue. When the water lines were put in we were not using meters.

For billing purposes - Linda's should be subtracted from Carol's and then Carols meter reading should be split. J. Tierney said what comes off from Carols would be just the water usage, then she would pay what's left. Linda would pay what shows on her bill. It doesn't take care of the problem. Discussed a rebate and how far we can go back. The meter fee stays, it's the usage that gets deducted. P. Marshall said at some point it needs to be corrected, but it's too late for this year.

We will find out from the Lawyer how far we can go back. P. Marshall said it's been approx. 9 years since the meters were put in.

- c. Implementation of a work order system – J. Weagle said we have been working on this for some time. When a call comes in a ticket will be generated and passed on the department involved. We are trying to make things more efficient.
- d. Cash Summary Report – M. Phillips – October – beginning balance: \$654,100; \$175,000 in payments, the usual payroll. Ending balance: \$412,000. We owe \$525,000 on the TAN – last year it was \$625,000 – 2 years ago it was \$850,000.
- e. Discussion of Tax Rate – The tax rate has been set and the bills have been mailed. The rate is up. From 2015, the Towns portion is down .13; School-Town portion is up \$2.15; School-State portion is down .08; the County is up .17; the Precinct is down .16. This is \$1.95 more than last year, mostly due to the School.

Al Rossetto feels the Board has done an excellent job keeping the Town's rate down. J. Tierney said the overall grand list of the Town increased by \$1,000,000 (approx. 1%), which could be why the Towns portion is down. The Board did a good job to keep the budget in line.

- f. Discussion of Planning Board vacancy – Tim Sutherland has resigned from the Planning Board, due to moving away from the area. Jeffrey St. Cyr has submitted a letter of interest for the full-time position. He is currently part time. He is also an alternate on the Zoning Board, which is not a conflict.

Motion to appoint Jeffrey St. Cyr as a full-time member on the Planning Board by: J. Tierney, 2nd by: M. Phillips, All in Favor 3-0

- g. Prima America fire suppression – D. White said they did a fire test in the tower, there was an issue, which immediately closed some valves. Most of the suppression system is going to be looking at pressure. If they open their lines, someone needs to turn the pumps on before we see enough pressure to do what they need to. White asked if we could consider something to monitor the pumps, so if there is a serious drop in pressure the pumps would automatically come on.

This was a test, if there is a real fire and it could shut down the water system. R. Charron explained what happened during the test. Lisa and Greg Marshall live on the corner of the road to the water plant and they were without water. Charron went up, the sprinkler people were at Prima America and he knew what happened; it took all the water out – we are lucky the valve worked properly. When Wausau Carriers was there and tested their systems – this happen then also. Once energized it's regulates itself, but the pumps need to be on. White said they did 3 tests that day, the 3rd one went smooth.

J. Tierney suggested going ahead and do additional testing. D. White, R. Charron, G. Cassady and the Board further discussed the issue. There is some research that needs to be done and we need look at the alternatives. Prima America doesn't have any true fire suppression as it is now. The tower is 86' to the floor. R. Charron wanted the Board to be aware of the issue.

6. Applications/Permits and Warrants:

a. Abatement-Water/Sewer –

1. Bissonnette property – this was done earlier, but the paperwork wasn't signed and they received a tax bill.

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

2. 753 Lancaster Rd. water abatement – should have been \$98.50, they were charged \$651.00 total.

Motion to sign the abatement by: J. Tierney

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

b. Meeting Room Request – November 14, 2016 – 8:00 am – 4:00 pm - NSA for training.

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

c. Building Permit (3)

1. Jamie and Monique Hand – 1180 Lost Nation Rd. – putting on an addition for a bedroom. They have paid the fees and T. Bedell has signed.

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

2. Chris Caron, Lancaster Rd. – putting an addition on side of building – 14' x 40'. The fee has been paid and T. Bedell has signed.

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

3. Town of Northumberland – for a 12' x 15' storage shed, T. Bedell has signed.

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

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

d. Abatements-Tax (1)

1. Marcus Perry – over paid by \$37.76, which will be refunded.

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

e. Supplemental Warrants (3)

1. Harry Rice & Deb Weeks –

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

2. Long View Estates

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

John Jaworowski

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

3. Public Matters To Be Addressed By The Board:

- a. Veteran's Day Holiday Notice – Town Office closed on November 11, 2016, will reopen on November 14, 2016.

- b. Winter Parking Restrictions Notice – No parking November 1, 2016 – 12:00 am – 7:00 am. G. Cassidy asked about enforcement this winter. J. Weagle said the

Board is looking in to it. N. Cotter asked if there is an officer on call, J. Weagle said yes and if not the State police cover.

c. Budget Work Session schedule -

Nov 22 – 6:00 pm - W/S, Police (M. Audit) and Cemetery.

Nov 29 – 6:00 pm - Ambulance, Emergency Mgt, Health Admin, Highway and Solid Waste.

Nov 30 – 6:00 pm – Executive financial admin, Town Clerk/Tax Collector, Welfare, Planning & Zoning, General Gov., Culture, Recreation, Library and Conservation.

d. We have settled the court case with the Chief; he will be coming back Dec 1 – Dec 31 and will then retire. He will be receiving the wages that he's lost. J. Tierney further discussed the wages.

J. Kennett asked if before we dismiss him from his duties, did we speak with a lawyer. Yes, the case was settled through a lawyer. Chief Platt said at a Select Board meeting that he wanted to retire and then decided not to, but it wasn't noted in the minutes and it wasn't in writing. He had the right to change his mind. The settlement was negotiated with the lawyers.

Some of the public at this meeting feel it's setting the Town up for a liability. J. Kennett asked about the 2 officers that we hired earlier this year. J. Tierney said they both resigned for personal reasons. N. Cotter commented if he comes back for 30 days, can the Board direct what he will be doing? They will look into that option.

e. J. Kennett asked about the phone system, it's been a problem. J. Tierney said there is another company that wants to talk to the Board. He agreed it's been a problem. J. Weagle said they have responded quickly when it's been down.

f. Gloria White asked about the trailer that has gone in at the corner of Crow Hill and First St. It's huge and is going to get wiped out by the plow. J. Weagle said we were given the dimensions and knew the setbacks were met. J. Tierney reviewed other property setbacks in the area that are close to the road. Older homes are grand fathered. G. White hopes the Town doesn't end up paying for damage. Further discussed the set-back requirements.

g. J. Tierney said a suggestion was made to rearrange the Select Board to cover different departments. J. Weagle will be working with the Ambulance as a driver. J. Tierney proposed: Police and Ambulance (J. Tierney); Town Office and W/S (J. Weagle); Highway and Sanitation (M. Phillips).

Motion to rearrange the Department responsibilities of the Select Board as shown above by: J. Tierney, 2nd by: M. Phillips, All in Favor 3-0

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

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

Into Non-Public Session at 8:03 pm.

Out of Non-Public Session at 8:44 pm

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

Into Regular Session at 8:44 pm

Motion to Seal "section e" of the Non-Public Session by: J. Tierney
2nd by: M. Phillips, All in Favor 3-0

Briefly reviewed Police Department budget.

5. Adjournment:

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:47 pm

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