

**NORTHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF November 23, 2010**

Present: Sel. Bluhm, Sel. Knowlton, Sel. Ziminsky
Also Present Cindy Caveney, Katherine Dawson, Sandy Plessner, Norm Boudreau, Pat Consentino, Maureen Bouchet, Gretchen Wilder, Bill Wilder, Paul Auger, Kevin Waldron, Chief Adams, Mike Summersett, Glenn Smith, Donna Rhodes, Anthony Stracqualursi.

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm

1. Public Appointments

The Chair recognized members of the Tilton Selectboard. He reviewed the agreement concerning the management of the resources shared by the two towns that had been proposed by Northfield Selectmen and which prompted the Tilton Selectboard to attend the meeting. Katherine Dawson stated that The Pines is a non-profit organization and that it is her belief that Northfield is violating the New Hampshire constitution by plowing their driveway and parking area. She also expressed an opinion that the two towns do not share the Pines. Norm Boudreau expressed his opinion that Northfield Selectmen need to stop plowing the Pines and let them hire their own plowing services. Sel. Ziminsky reviewed the terms of the informal agreement under which Northfield provides winter maintenance of The Pines and Hall Memorial Library and in exchange Tilton provides summer maintenance of Island Park. Pat Consentino said that such an agreement never existed, and that the towns of Northfield and Tilton do not share the Community Center or a Library. Norm Boudreau stated that it was his understanding that the informal agreement did exist as it was outlined by the Northfield Board. Sel. Ziminsky noted that there is disagreement on the history of the issue and suggested that the two towns focus on where we want to go from here. Katherine Dawson inquired as to why the towns should try to outthink the Library Trustees and expressed frustration that for several years Tilton has performed summer maintenance of Island Park without financial help from Northfield.

Sel. Ziminsky repeated his belief that while there is disagreement about the past we should concentrate on moving forward. Katherine Dawson stated that the two Boards should talk about nothing other than Island Park. Sel. Ziminsky noted that it was the opinion of the Northfield Board that the day-to-day issues should not be handled by the Selectboards, they should be delegated to a committee. Pat Consentino noted that Tilton has a Parks Commission. Sel. Ziminsky noted that Northfield wants a committee that is accountable for making recommendations and that personally he feels comfortable sharing financial responsibility for the maintenance of Island Park with Tilton. Pat Consentino noted that the towns have worked together in the past on these issues. Norm Boudreau advised Northfield to look into establishing a Parks Commission. Katherine Dawson reminded people that citizens can report problems at Island Park. Members of both boards agreed that instead of forming a committee to manage shared resources the Northfield Highway Superintendent and the Tilton Public Works Director will work together to develop a list of what is needed for Island maintenance and report to their respective Selectboards. Sel. Knowlton inquired as to who establishes rules for the use of Island Park. Katherine Dawson stated that the rules are established by deed. Board members discussed rules for the use of the park and how Island Park is scheduled. Chief Adams noted that that Tilton police officers routinely patrol Island Park in spite of the fact that they have no jurisdiction there as the park is located in Northfield. Norm Boudreau reminded the Northfield

Selectboard that the only land access to the park was through Tilton. After discussion, Sel Bluhm suggested that the Police Chiefs of the two towns would work together to work on this issue. Members of both boards agreed.

Sel. Ziminsky inquired as to whether there was any disagreement as to who owns Cannon Bridge. Katherine Dawson replied that there was not, the bridge is co-owned by the towns. Sel. Bluhm noted that Cannon Bridge is in need of work and will soon need major work, noting that state assistance programs for such work are currently committed through 2020. Members of both Boards agreed that the Northfield Highway Superintendent and the Tilton Public Works Director will work together to monitor the repair needs of Cannon Bridge, develop recommendations and bring those recommendations to their respective Selectboards.

Sel. Ziminsky suggested that the two Town Administrators work to document the items of agreement that had been reached during the discussion for presentation to both Boards. Members of both Selectboards agreed.

Glenn noted that the rules and procedures established by the Tilton Parks Commission may open the Town of Northfield to increased liability.

Gretchen Wilder reminded member of both Boards that the TNRC leases the Pines premises from the Town of Northfield.

Sel. Knowlton inquired of the Tilton Selectmen if they were happy with the services being provided by the Tilton Northfield Recreation Council, noting that he was unhappy with budget and capital improvement plans. Katherine Dawson responded that she wasn't satisfied either. Norm Boudreau responded that he was dissatisfied with the lack of grantwriting done by TNRC. Members of both Boards expressed dissatisfaction with the types of programs offered and the revenue forecasts presented by TNRC for 2011. Pat Consentino stated that she felt hopeful that the new Executive Director could improve the situation. Board members discussed working together on Pines funding.

Sel Bluhm moved on to the second discussion item. He noted that the Tilton Selectboard had recently asked the TNFD Commissioners to review the formula by which District costs are divided between the two towns and suggesting that cost be divided according to factors other than valuation, including road miles and demographics. He inquired as to whether the Tilton Board members have a problem with the current formula. Katherine Dawson responded that they do not, saying they asked for the review simply because the formula had not been done for a while. Sel. Ziminsky asked if there was anything the Northfield Board could do to help in this regard. Katherine Dawson inquired as to whether the Northfield Board would accept a 50/50 split of TNFD costs.

Tilton Selectmen left the meeting at this time.

The Chair recognized Kevin Waldron who asked about the membership of the budget committee.

Gretchen Wilder noted the difficulty she and others have faced in getting participation in middle and high school level recreation programs.

Kevin Waldron stated his belief that we do not need Island Park.

2. Highway Department

Bob Southworth updated the Board on the recruitment of on-call snow plow operators and efforts to sell the sander.

3. 2011 Budget Preparation

Board members reviewed the 2011 Town Clerk/Tax Collector budget request in detail.

Board members reviewed the 2011 General Government budget request in detail.

Board members reviewed the 2011 budget requests of the Tilton/Northfield Recreation Council, Hall Memorial Library, Project TNS and Child and Family Resources.

Knowlton/Ziminsky moved that the town will no longer plow the Pines parking lot effective December 30, 2010. **Motion passed.**

4. Non-public session *RSA 91A-3a,e*

Ziminsky/Knowlton moved to enter into non-public session under the provisions of RSA 91-A3II a,e at 9:20pm. **Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.** Present at the non-public session were Chief Adams, Glenn Smith. **Ziminsky/Knowlton** moved that the minutes of the non-public session be sealed. **Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.** **Ziminsky/Knowlton** moved to reconvene the public session at 10:25pm. **Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.**

5. General Business

Board members reviewed general correspondence and weekly payroll and accounts payable manifests. **Ziminsky/Knowlton** moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of November 23, 2010. **Motion passed.**

Glenn reviewed a proposal to switch dental insurance providers from LGC to Schoolcare for a savings of several hundred dollars annually. The two organizations provide identical coverage. **Ziminsky/Knowlton** moved to contract with Schoolcare for dental insurance effective January 1, 2011. **Motion passed.**

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 10:40 pm

APPROVED BY THE NORTHFIELD SELECTBOARD ON DECEMBER 7, 2010