

NORTHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday, January 10, 2017

Present: Sel. Crowley, Sel. Southworth, Sel. Allen
Also Present: Mary Lee, Andy Buteau, Glenn Smith

The meeting was called to order at 5:00pm

1. Public Input

The Chair recognized Mary Lee who outlined her concerns with efforts by Northern Pass to bypass towns in the use of town right of ways. She is asking the Town endorse a petition filed by Pittsburgh in relation to fears that the utility would not seek town approvals before burying lines in town rights of way. Board members reviewed the protections the town has in place to prevent damage to town roads and stated that they did not feel that additional action was needed. Mary informed the Board that the Public Utility Committee hearing on this matter will be held on January 11th. Mary invited the Board members to file comments in relation to this matter.

2. Public Works Department

Public Works Director Andy Buteau reported that the repairs on the truck damaged in the recent accident will be completed by the middle of next week.

3. Administration

Town Administrator Glenn Smith thanked Sel. Crowley and Andy for delivering the items recently received from federal surplus. He also noted that Casella has approached the town with two requests, that they be allowed to change the Wednesday pickup day to Thursday and that they be allowed to comingle residential and school district waste. Also, that they may have a compactor that the town can use at the transfer station. Board members asked that representatives from Casella attend their next meeting to discuss the proposed route change and the compactor, but that they were not in favor of comingling trash.

Glenn reported that Dan Durgin has offered to remove the bell from the Union Church belfry free of charge. The bell will be put in storage until a space can be created for displaying it.

Glenn presented a proposed amendment to the existing Tax Increment Financing Plan which board members reviewed and discussed. Board members asked that the matter be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

Sel. Crowley said that he would like to institute a series of listening sessions for town employees. Board members discussed the idea and agreed to start these in July.

Board members discussed the request that the town assume ownership of the south park development access road and agreed in concept to do so if the following criteria are met:

1. The total combined assessed valuation of the five lots exceeds \$1.5 million. The current value of the parcel is \$107,353 so effectively this means that acceptance of the road would depend on the addition of \$1.4 million in value added in the subdivision.
2. At least two of the five lots are sold to different unrelated owners.

3. A bond is received sufficient to cover the cost of adding the top coat to the existing road, the exact amount required to be determined at a future date.
4. It be mutually agreed that by accepting the right of way the town does not accept ownership of any utilities sharing the right of way.

Glenn was asked to convey this information to Kip Cormier.

Andy inquired as to whether there was a need to review the recent Budget Committee discussion concerning the 2017 Public Works budget.

Glenn reported that Jason Durgin has started work as the new Code Enforcement Officer, all is going well.

Board members reviewed a letter received from the company contracted to perform the title search for the sale of the Reservoir Road property. The search uncovered irregularities in the chain of title that should be resolved before the sale as well as an uncertainty concerning a boundary line. Glenn was asked to review these issues with the potential buyer and begin the process of resolving these issues.

Board members reviewed the proposed 2017 town warrant in detail.

4. General Business

Board members reviewed accounts payable, payroll manifests and general correspondence. **Crowley/Allen** moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of January 3, 2017 as amended. **Motion passed.**

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 8:07pm

APPROVED BY THE NORTHFIELD SELECTBOARD ON JANUARY 25, 2017