

NORTHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
Minutes of the Meeting of January 29, 2013

Present: Sel. Ziminsky, Sel. Bluhm

Also Present: Don Stevens, Dick Stevens, Gretchen Wilder, Bill Wilder, Kevin Waldron, Leigh Webb, George Flanders, Paul St. Hiliare, Jerry Tweedy, Bob Southworth, Chief Adams, Glenn Smith

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm

1. Public Appointments

The Chair recognized Don Stevens who expressed his belief that the Road Agent has trouble telling fact from fiction and lied to all the Selectmen at the last meeting but that the Selectmen didn't know it yet. Mr. Stevens asked if the Board has discussed the matter of the letter sent to him earlier. Sel. Bluhm noted that the Board hadn't met since then to discuss it due to medical issues. Don expressed his desire to resolve the issue before the March election. Sel. Ziminsky asked that Don put his concerns in writing so that when the Board does discuss the issue all parties can be on the same page. Don responded that his earlier comments had been recorded. Sel. Ziminsky repeated his preference that his concerns be put in writing. Mr. Stevens agreed to do so and also said that he would like to discuss the matter now and would like a copy of all letters from employees on this subject. He also updated the Board on conversations he has had with his neighbor concerning the neighbor's driveway since the last meeting. Sel. Bluhm reminded Don that if his neighbor has a complaint he needs to work with the town directly, not through Don. He also noted that both Bob and the Town Administrator have talked with the neighbor about his driveway concerns. Mr. Stevens noted again that he thought the letter sent by the town was threatening in nature and which was an out and out lie. Sel. Bluhm noted that the investigation is on-going and asked Mr. Stevens to put his allegations, such as his accusation that the Highway Superintendent lied to the Selectmen, in writing so they can be addressed. Mr. Stevens accused the Board of taking a lackadaisical approach to this matter. Sel. Bluhm noted that this was the first time Mr. Stevens had accused the Highway Superintendent of lying.

Mr. Stevens asked which Board how many letters had been written. Glenn advised that this was moving toward a personnel matter and we should consult with counsel before proceeding.

2. Highway and Sanitation Department

Highway Superintendent Bob Southworth presented purchase requisitions for review and signature.

3. Police Department

Chief Adams presented a sketch of how the patrol room would look with new items that the police association wants to donate. Sel. Ziminsky asked for a letter from police association what materials are being donated, costs, installation costs, etc.

Board members discussed a proposal to switch out departmental cell phones for new phones under the Verizon government plan. The proposal would include 6 phones, 3 iphones and three Samsung Convoy. Board members discussed the type of phone, the cost per month and data plans. In response to questions Chief Adams noted that he, Lt. Raffaely and Sgt. Dow would receive iphones at no cost for the phone and a monthly expense of \$48.07. Cpl. Gilman, Det. Adams and Patrol would receive Samsung Convoy phones at a monthly cost of \$28.85 per month. The advantage of the Convoy phones is that they will be replaced free of charge if damaged. The advantage of the iphones is that they are free. Chief Adams also noted that the data plan included in the bid was free of charge. Sel. Ziminsky offered to speak with the vendor about this.

4. Administration

Board members reviewed and signed a contract for deed research services and a reconsideration of a waiver of a tax deed.

Town Administrator Glenn Smith reviewed a proposal from the Town Clerk to increase the Municipal Agent Fee from \$2.50 to \$3.00 to cover the increased costs borne by the town now that the state requires us to use our own printers and printer supplies for the state portion of vehicle registrations. Statues allow the Town Clerk to raise this fee unilaterally but she doesn't want to take this step without the concurrence of the Selectboard. Selectboard members indicated they had no problem with the proposed increase.

Glenn outlined proposed legislation expanding tax credits for veterans. He emphasized that he does not see an issue with these proposed bills but they do point to a related problem: Under current law when a veteran sells a home to a non-veteran the veteran's credit stays on the property until the following April 1st, giving the new taxpayer a veteran's credit that he/she may not be entitled to and increasing the tax burden for the remaining taxpayers. After discussion, Glenn was asked to work with Rep. Webb on this matter.

Glenn summarized the community planning grant application he has been working on with LRPC to obtain funds to develop a village district for the Northfield Village area. **Bluhm/Ziminsky** moved to approve the project outlined in the Community Planning Grant application for development of a village district and authorize submission of the application. **Motion passed.** Board members also signed a letter of support for the project.

Board members reviewed the annual town meeting warrant and Selectmen's report for the annual report. Sel. Bluhm will work on revising the draft Selectmen's report.

Board members reviewed Dave Krause's report concerning the location of the end of Ledge Road. **Bluhm/Ziminsky** moved to accept the recommendation of Dave Krause concerning the location of the end of Ledge Road. **Motion passed.**

Glenn outlined a proposed change to the Employee Handbook, replacing the blanket prohibition against using the town email system to transmit confidential information with a provision that would allow for such use as long as security precautions were taken. **Bluhm/Ziminsky** moved to accept the proposed revision to the Employee Handbook as presented. **Motion passed.**

5. Non-Public Session

Bluhm/Ziminsky moved to enter into non-public session under the provisions of RSA 91-A3IIa,c at 7:08pm. **Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.** Present at the non-public session were Bob Southworth, Chief Adams, Glenn Smith. **Ziminsky/Bluhm** moved that the minutes of the non-public session be sealed. **Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.** **Bluhm/Ziminsky** moved to reconvene the public session at 7:28pm. **Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.**

Sel. Bluhm stated that the Board had reviewed the bids for trash collection and transfer station services from all vendors, had discussed the changes noted by representatives from Bestway at the previous meeting and had consulted with the town attorney concerning issues relating to the reinterpretation of the bid as proposed by Bestway. With all this information the Board had decided to review all bids as originally filed and presented. Sel. Ziminsky noted that with this information he was leaning toward awarding the contract to CM Whitcher. Sel. Bluhm concurred. In response to a question from Sel. Ziminsky, Glenn informed the Board that earlier in the day he had reviewed this material with Sel. Shepard and she had indicated that she was inclined to award the bid to CM Whitcher also. **Bluhm/Ziminsky** moved to accept the bid from CM Whitcher for trash collection and transfer station services as submitted. **Motion passed.**

6. General Business

Board members reviewed general correspondence and payroll & accounts payable manifests. **Bluhm/Ziminsky** moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of January 8 as amended. **Motion passed.**

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 7:35pm

APPROVED BY THE NORTHFIELD SELECTBOARD ON FEBRUARY 18, 2013