

**NORTHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF OCTOBER 25, 2011**

Present: Sel. Ziminsky, Sel. Bluhm, Sel. Swancott
Also Present Eric Stephen, Donna Rhodes, Greg Hill, Doris Perkins, Terry Tilley, Brian Tilley, Sara Robert, Sally Robert, Nancy Brown, Brian Brown, David Bacon, Ginny Timmons, Judy Huckins, Frank Riley, Lynne Hebert, Beverly Cullen, Christine Raffaelly, Jim Goss, Eliza Conde, Gretchen Wilder, Shane Dow, Jill Flanders, Candice Weingartner, Melinda Brown, Bruce Brown, Wayne Crowley, Fred Shepard, Jr., George Flanders, Jon Cilley, Dennis Allen, Polly M. Fife, Cory Burton, Bob Southworth, Glenn Smith

1. Public Hearing – Pay-as-you-throw proposal

The Chair opened the public hearing on PAYT and recognized Sel. Swancott who explained that at town meeting 2011 the voters asked that a recycling program be developed. In response the Selectboard appointed a four member working group to develop the proposal consisting of Sel. Swancott, Highway Superintendent Bob Southworth, Town Administrator Glenn Smith and Administrative Assistant Peg Shepard. Sel. Swancott outlined the working group proposal and noted that the group is recommending PAYT/Transfer Station recycling and only presenting PAYT/Curbside recycling as an alternative.

Judy Huckins inquired as to the cost of the bags, Sel. Swancott responded that a 15 gallon bag would cost \$.75 and a 30 gallon bag would cost \$1.50. She said she was in favor of the proposal.

A citizen inquired as to where bags would be available. Sel. Swancott responded that they would be available in local stores. Dennis Allen asked where the bags would be stored and was told they would be kept and distributed at the Highway Department. He also asked if the stores had been contacted yet, and was told that they have not been approached yet.

Peg Shepard noted that she only made one meeting of the working group. She and Deb Shepard questioned the accuracy of the numbers developed by the recycling working group.

Deb Shepard asked for confirmation that the PAYT/curbside recycling option included elimination of one position at the transfer station. Sel. Swancott confirmed that this is true. Peg Shepard expressed her opinion that staffing at the transfer station should be kept at current levels even if the voters adopt curbside recycling. Sel. Swancott explained that if the voters choose the curbside recycling option then most of the work done at the transfer station would be eliminated, resulting in a decrease in needed staffing. She also emphasized that the working group is not recommending the curbside recycling option, it is included only because the voters asked for it at the last town meeting.

Brian Brown asked about transfer station hours of operation.

Sel. Ziminsky explained that given the reduced workload at the transfer station under the curbside recycling option it is anticipated that the days of operation of the transfer station would be reduced from 5 per week to 2 per week.

Peg Shepard said that she thought that the \$180,000 annual revenue from the sale of trash bags

should not be deposited in the general fund; it should be placed in a special fund established to support the transfer station. Deb Shepard concurred. Sel. Bluhm noted that it is a wash, noting that since the transfer station is funded through the general fund and monies deposited into that fund already support that facility.

A citizen seconded the opinion that no proposal that calls for reduced town staffing should be adopted, noting that they loved the transfer station. Several other citizens concurred.

A member of the audience inquired as to the intent of the proposal since it is almost cost neutral. Sel. Swancott stated that the intent is to increase recycling tonnage and decrease trash tonnage. Glenn Smith noted that although the proposal is cost neutral now the town is looking forward to the time when tipping fees will be dramatically higher than they are now, at which time the savings will be greater.

Dennis Allen asked where the single stream recyclable collections will go. Sel. Swancott reported that the town has a proposal from CM Witcher to take these materials at a cost of \$15/ton. Once the CRSW single stream facility comes on line the recyclables will be taken to that facility.

A citizen from Fellows Hill Road noted that it would be very inconvenient for him to take his recyclables to the transfer station. He would prefer curbside recycling. Sel. Swancott noted that the proposal calls for increased evening hours to accommodate working people.

Dennis Allen inquired as to the current collection contract and the possibility of requiring that he obtain a split collection vehicle for collection of trash and recyclables at the same time. Glenn Smith responded that the current contractor doesn't have this equipment.

Sally Robert inquired as to whether CM Witcher could notify town employees of recyclables left at the roadside now. She was told that this was impractical under the terms of our current contract.

Gretchen Wilder stated that we need to support recycling in Northfield.

Several residents stated that the town should be more involved in picking up recyclables at schools.

Glenn entered into the record a written communication from Kevin Waldron stating his opposition to PAYT and in support of mandatory recycling.

The Chair closed the public hearing at 7:30 pm

Chair recessed the meeting at 7:30

Chair reconvened the meeting at 7:40 pm

2. Highway and Sanitation Department

Bob Southworth updated the Board grader repairs and efforts to ensure that all equipment is ready for winter. He reported that the View Street project is finished except that repaving will

not take place until next spring, after material has had a chance to settle.

3. Town Administration

Board members discussed the request from the American Legion for town funding of new Veteran's memorial. After reviewing the request the Board decided to include funding in the amount of \$1,500 in the 2012 budget for this project.

Board members discussed the schedule for reviewing 2012 budget request from outside agencies.

Glenn reported that Rep. Hill had asked that he contact Secretary of State Gardner in relation to the Town's concern about getting reimbursed for excessive LGC Health Trust billings for the period of 2004-2009. Board members discussed the request and instructed Glenn to contact Secretary Gardner.

Glenn updated the Board on a recent discussion he, Sel. Bluhm and Bob Southworth had with Mr. and Mrs. Tilley concerning drainage on Cornerstone Road and presented a draft letter outlining the agreements resulting from that discussion, which the Board members reviewed and signed.

Board members discussed the cleanup of 250 Concord Road.

Glenn reported that Northfield's Annual Report won 3rd place within our population range in LGC's annual competition.

Glenn provided the Board with an update of the Bean Hill Road project.

4. Non-public session RSA 91A-3e

Swancott/Bluhm moved to enter into non-public session under the provisions of RSA 91-A3IIa,c,e at 8:20 pm. **Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.** Present at the non-public session were Bob Southworth, Glenn Smith. **Swancott/Bluhm** moved that the minutes of the non-public session be sealed. **Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.** **Bluhm/Swancott** moved to reconvene the public session at 9:00 pm. **Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.**

5. General Business

Board members reviewed general correspondence and payroll & accounts payable manifests. **Bluhm/ Swancott** moved to approve the minutes of the meetings of October 11, 2011 and October 14, 2011. **Motion passed.**

Board members reviewed the evening's discussion concerning PAYT.

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 9:15pm

APPROVED BY THE NORTHFIELD SELECTBOARD ON NOVEMBER 1, 2011