

NORTHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
Minutes of the Meeting of January 7, 2014

Present: Sel. Bluhm, Sel. Shepard, Sel. Waldron

Also Present: Rick Silverberg, Eliza Conde, Iris Ianno, Bob Southworth, Crystal Southworth,
Jeff Kantorowski.

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 pm

1. Public Appointments

The Chair recognized Rick Silverberg who spoke of the ability of the Winnepesaukee River Trail Association to provide the expected \$212,000 match for design and construction of the final phase of the Winnepesaukee River Trail project. He stated that the organization has already raised \$150,000 for this project and is confident that they can raise the remaining \$61,000 by 2015, with half of that amount being raised by September 2014. Board members acknowledged that the group has successfully raised funds for prior phases of this project but noted that the amount needed for this phase is significantly higher than prior portions.

The Chair recognized Bob Southworth who requested that the residents be allowed to take 5 five gallon pails from resident sand pile instead of 2 five gallon pails, noting that sand is inexpensive and more than 2 five gallon pails are needed for long driveways. Sel. Bluhm noted that the restriction was put in place to reduce the chances that people would take sand to use in sanding businesses, he feels the policy needs to be tightened up. Sel. Waldron noted that the policy is unclear as to whether the 2 pail limit applies per storm, per visit or per season. Sel. Shepard said that the intent is that people would be allowed 2 pails per storm but there is also a realization that during a severe ice storm people may take a bit more and that currently we are relying on the honor system. After discussion the Board decided not to modify this practice at this time.

Bob asked the Board if it had removed the no parking restriction on Elm Street between Granite Street and Elm Street. He was told that they had not. Bob reported that he has seen a car parked on the sidewalk close to the Bridge and he has seen pedestrians enter into the roadway to go around this car. Chief Raffaely said he was familiar with this situation and has already ticketed this car twice.

Bob noted that the sidewalks have not been treated since the rain/ice storm earlier in the week. Highway Superintendent Johnny Van Tassel responded that his crew had started treating the sidewalks earlier in the day but that the sander had broken and was being worked on.

Bob noted that the Town had started using 3/8 inch stone mixed with sand. He said that he didn't think we should do this and that it is a waste of money. Johnny Van Tassel said that the stone is mixed with sand only at low temperatures when salt is ineffective and it is done to help

vehicles retain traction in icy conditions.

Bob inquired as to whether the town car was still working as he hasn't seen it on the road. He was told that it is still operational. He stated that he thinks the Highway Superintendent should take the town car home instead of a town truck. Board members said that the reason the Highway Superintendent takes a town vehicle home is so he can report directly to the scene when called out at night and the truck is better suited for this as it has a plow, radio and other equipment.

Sel. Bluhm polled Board members about adding the Winnepesaukee River Trail article to the warrant and proposed budget for voting on at town meeting, stating his opinion that the matter deserves to be brought before the voters. Sel. Shepard agreed. Sel. Waldron said that he would like to investigate the possibility of WRTA obtaining a performance bond.

2. Highway Department

Johnny Van Tassel reported that breakdowns during recent storms have been minimal and that the frequency of the storms has kept the crew from focusing on other priorities. He presented an invoice for diagnosing problems with the pressure washer which Board member reviewed. After discussion Board members approved the expense. Sel. Waldron noted that it was only the heating element that was not functioning and the washer was largely useful as it is.

Johnny presented a quote for a new angle broom, noting that the town can't do grader ditching without this unit. Board members asked for specs on the unit. Johnny will continue to investigate options.

Board members discussed the request of Spaulding Youth Center to repaint a crosswalk on Shedd Road. Johnny was asked to let them know that this will be considered as part of next year's line painting projects.

Sel. Bluhm reminded Johnny that the sidewalks need to be treated.

3. Police

Chief Raffaely reported that car 11 has severe electrical problems; he has called Gary Bouchet to diagnose the problem.

Bluhm/Shepard moved to enter into non-public session under the provisions of RSA 91-A3IIa,b at 8:30pm. **Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.** Present at the non-public session were Chief Raffaely and Glenn Smith. **Bluhm/Shepard** moved to reconvene the public session at 9:31pm. **Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.**

4. Administration

Town Administrator Glenn Smith presented a proposed welfare lien which Board members signed. He also presented a request from a citizen to waive penalty and interest on late property taxes, which Board members discussed and declined to approve.

Board members reviewed and declined to grant a requested reimbursement of motor vehicle registration fees. Glenn reviewed the schedule for making an Employee of the Year award, Board members approved soliciting nominations from Department Heads.

Board members reviewed the proposed policy on updating the town website. **Bluhm/Shepard** moved to adopt the proposed policy relating to maintenance of the town website as presented. **Motion passed.**

Board members reviewed their report for the annual report.

Board members reviewed the bequest of David Cheever, who has left the town a 35 acre parcel off of Bean Hill Road in his will. Glenn noted that the parcel is landlocked, it has no legal or deeded access and if the town accepts this gift the access issues will have to be dealt with. After discussion, Board members expressed their appreciation for Mr. Cheever's generosity but declined the offer due to the lack of access to the parcel.

5. General Business

Board members reviewed accounts payable, payroll manifests and general correspondence. Bluhm/Shepard moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of December 10, 2013 as presented. **Motion passed.** **Bluhm/Shepard** moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of December 17, 2013 as amended. **Motion passed**

APPROVED BY THE NORTHFIELD SELECTMEN ON JANUARY 21, 2014