

**NORTHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF TUESDAY, APRIL 17, 2012**

Present: Sel. Bluhm, Sel. Shepard, Sel. Ziminsky

Also present: Tracy Sheehan, Bill Woodbury, Jeff Stevens, Keith Murray, Nancy Brown, Alan Brown, Dick Stevens, Maureen Bouchet, Robert Loranger, Chief Adams, Bob Southworth, Glenn Smith

1. Public Appointments

The Chair recognized Tracy Sheehan who discussed recycling. She proposed that the town invest in its own compactor and three roll off bins and eliminate curbside trash pickup. The cost of the new equipment would be approximately \$46K, which is less expensive than curbside pickup. She believes people should be responsible for disposal of their own trash and that if people are responsible then we may not need PAYT. She suggested that we could institute a process to assist the elderly and also give people a tax break if they recycle as an incentive. She reviewed the benefits of recycling. Sel. Shepard noted that if we were to purchase scales and a compactor then our transfer station will be subjected to greater state regulation. Sel. Bluhm stated that it would be hard to convince the taxpayers to eliminate curbside trash pickup. Sel. Ziminsky noted that the town will continue to investigate means of increasing recycling rates over the next year and advised Mrs. Sheehan to follow these efforts.

The Chair recognized Keith Murray, president of the Northfield Economic Development Corporation, who distributed the Strategic Plan for Economic Development recently commissioned by NEDC. He reviewed various elements of the plan, including the survey of Northfield business and community leaders and the assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of our local economy. Keith outlined the recent activities of the NEDC and its focus for future projects. He noted that the organization is investigating the establishment of a small business revolving loan fund.

Sel. Ziminsky asked that the NEDC Strategic Plan for Economic Development be posted on the town website. Mr. Murray asked the Board to release \$2,000 of the \$5,000 in the town budget for economic development. **Bluhm/Shepard** moved to allocate \$2,000 to the Northfield Economic Development Corporation to support their activities to revitalize Northfield's economy. **Motion passed.**

Chair recognized Bob Loranger who reported that in recent years he has seen a greater flow of water on his Forrest Road property. He believes that there are two causes of this. First, water that was diverted to Bert Southwick's property from the Zion Hill Road project is ending up on his property and second, several years ago Mike Summerset did work on the Class VI section of Forrest Road that made the road impassable and diverted water onto Mr. Loranger's property. Board members discussed the situation and possible solutions with Mr. Loranger and Bob Southworth, who said that we may need to get an engineer to solve the problem. Board members decided to visit the property before deciding on a possible solution.

The Chair recognized Rev. Jeff Stevens and discussed the proposed agreement between the town

and the Awakening Spirit Christian Church concerning the use of Union Church. After Rev. Stevens had had time to review the agreement he discussed various aspects with the Board, including insurance and responsibility for paying for fuel when other organizations use the facility. **Ziminsky/Shepard** moved to approve the agreement with the understanding that it may need to be amended in the future to accommodate these issues. **Motion passed.**

2. Highway and Sanitation Department

Bob Southworth introduced the letter he proposes to give to Canterbury concerning splitting the cost of maintaining Ayers Road. He also reported that Carlson's Lock and Key can install deadbolts on Union Church \$285.00 and change the locks at the Highway Garage for \$135.00; the Board approved both proposals.

Bob presented purchase requisitions for signature and discussed the carrying over of one vacation day by an employee, which the Board approved. He reported that Truck 7 is still down, George Flanders will come in to work on it.

Bob asked the Board to approve the start of summer hours on April 30th this year, given the early spring. Board members approved. He also discussed hours at the transfer station, noting that last Friday only four cars showed up to use the facility all day; the Friday before only six cars showed up. He would like to close the Transfer Station on Fridays and use the staff for other tasks. Board members approved on the condition that citizens be given two weeks notice of the change.

3. Police Department

Chief Adams filed purchase requisitions for training and vehicle repair items. He informed the Board that officers would be returning to an eight hour per day schedule in two weeks, that a benefit is being planned for former Northfield Police Officer Don Sullivan and that three officers will be attending the funeral of the Greenland Police Chief.

4. Administration

Glenn Smith reviewed the list of appointees whose terms expire in 2012; all those contacted have expressed a willingness to be reappointed, but that he has not contacted Brian Brown concerning his appointment to the ZBA at this time. Board members asked that he do so. Dick Stevens has expressed a willingness to serve on the Capital Improvement Program Committee. **Ziminsky/Shepard** moved to appoint and reappoint the board and committee members whose term expires in 2012 as indicated on the material presented, with the exception of Mr. Brown, whose reappointment will be considered after Glenn has contacted him. **Motion passed.**

Glenn reviewed the schedule for 2012 tax deed properties. He also reviewed the proposed letters for entry and construction relating to the Bean Hill Road project. These letters would authorize the contractor, on behalf of the town, to enter upon people's property for the purpose of adjusting their driveways in conjunction with the project. **Ziminsky/Bluhm** moved to authorize the Town Administrator to sign the completed Agreements for Entry and Construction for the Town. **Motion passed.**

5. Non-Public Session RSA 91A-3e

Ziminsky/Bluhm moved to enter into non-public session under the provisions of RSA 91-A3IIe at 7:10 pm. **Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.** Present at the non-public session were Bart Mayer and Glenn Smith. **Ziminsky/Shepard** 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 9:25pm. **Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.**

Ziminsky/Bluhm moved to accept the employment agreement for the Town Administrator. **Motion passed.**

6. General Business

Due to scheduling conflicts with the normal Tuesday meeting date, the next meeting date was set for Wednesday, May 2, 2012 at 6:30pm.

Board members reviewed general correspondence and payroll & accounts payable manifests. **Bluhm/Ziminsky** moved to approve the minutes of the meetings of April 3, 2012. **Motion passed.**

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 9:27pm

APPROVED BY THE NORTHFIELD SELECTBOARD ON MAY 15, 2012