

**NORTHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JUNE 14, 2011**

Present: Sel. Bluhm, Sel. Swancott, Sel. Ziminsky
Also Present Neva Foley, Mary Lee, Greg Hill, Sally Robert, Sara Robert, Paul Auger, Tom Beaulieu, George Flanders, Paul Tierny, Burr Phillips, Ed Ferguson, Robert Showman, Scott Bosvert, Wayne Crowley, Dave Court, Kevin Waldron, Brian Brown, Nancy Brown, Bob Southworth, Chief Adams, Glenn Smith

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.

1. Public Appointments

The Vice Chair recognized Burr Phillips, representative of Amerigas. Mr. Phillips explained that the company needs to install a drainage swale but due to past development that cannot be done on their property without removing existing paving. Amerigas would like to know if the town would be open to the idea of granting them an easement that will allow them to install the swale on the Forrest Road ROW. If so, they will proceed with designing such a swale and return with a more formal proposal at a later meeting. Board members discussed the proposal, including the anticipated dimensions of the swale, its capacity and what compensation can be expected from Amerigas for this consideration. After discussion Board members indicated that they were not opposed to the idea in concept.

Mr. Phillips also inquired as to the status of Amerigas' driveway permit. Bob outlined the situation for the Board, which discussed the various requirements. Board members advised Mr. Phillips to get together with Bob and Chief Adams to work out any remaining differences so the permits may be issued.

The Vice-Chair recognized Paul Tierney, Superintendent of the Northfield Sewer District. Mr. Tierney outlined the proposed sewer improvements for View Street and inquired as to whether the town would be open to sharing the cost of the project it would result in an overall improvement to the street and its maintenance. Board members discussed the potential improvements to the paving and the removal of trees from the ROW that would help with plowing. At the conclusion of the discussion Board members indicated that they would need to review the budget to determine if funds are available for this project.

Neva Foley, representing Senator Ayotte's office, introduced herself and invited comments from the public. Glenn Smith expressed a concern about possible reductions in federal safety net programs, which would substantially increase local welfare budgets. Rep. Hill and Mary Lee discussed opposition to the Northern Pass project and asked that the Senator become more active in helping to stop the project.

The Chair recognized Kevin Waldron who asked if he had specifications for road reconstruction when another entity such as the Sewer District needed to tear up a town road for one of their projects. Selectmen asked Glenn to work on this.

2. Highway and Sanitation Department

Bob Southworth reported that the grader is operating again and the crew has been regrading town

roads. He reported an incident on Bean Hill Road where Roger Goodine, a resident of Bean Hill Road, used his vehicle to block the road because the crew refused to dump ditching material on the Class VI portion of the road, as the resident requested. Chief Adams was called and resolved the situation.

Bob reported that next week the crew will be repairing problems at the end of Bay Hill Ext. and on Bay Hill Road. He also updated the Board that he has posted Fiske Road with a 6 ton weight limit this morning, reporting that because of this year's rains the road is especially vulnerable to damage by heavy vehicles.

Bob and Board members reviewed the bids for a new lawn tractor to replace the existing 48" Massey Ferguson unit which is at the end of its lifespan. The unit originally proposed last fall is no longer available and Bob reported that he had been asked by Sel. Knowlton to look into upgrading the proposal to obtain a more durable model. Prices for these models are \$800 - \$1,500 over what was budgeted. Bob noted that he saved \$1,500 on street sweeping by shopping the bid around. Board members asked Bob to get more information on the Hustler Sport model that was included in one of the bids.

Bob presented the Board with purchase requisitions.

Bob and Glenn reviewed the situation with Chase Road. Research indicates that this is not a town road and should not be maintained by the town. Glenn was asked to draft a letter to the residents informing them of this and inviting them present any information they may have to the Board.

3. Police Department

Board members discussed donations from citizens for a 2011 motorcycle lease. **Bluhm/Swancott** moved to accept the donations in the amount needed for the lease, with the excess donations to be returned to the donors as proposed in the June 10th memo. **Motion passed.**

Chief Adams presented the Board with purchase requisitions. Board members confirmed that he was authorized to accept the new cruiser on behalf of the town. He also presented the Board with a revised highway safety grant form for signature and a report showing mileage for each of the cruisers as requested by the Board at the last meeting, which Board members reviewed.

Chief Adams reported that Highland Mountain Park is planning an event for old home day weekend expecting 1,500 people and are asking for 2 special detail officers.

4. Town Administration

Glenn reviewed the proposed restoration of the 148 year old Arch Hill Cemetery fence and outlined his discussions with David Court. Glenn is asking the Board to waive the requirement that this work be put out to bid due to the specialized nature of the work and the amount of uncertainty in the first phase of the project. Mr. Court said that he has spent a lot of time examining the fence. He proposes that in the first stage of the project the fence be stabilized: Over the years the iron fence has separated from its granite posts and is resting on the ground; in some places it is buried. The fence needs to be lifted back onto the granite posts, at which point we will be able to better determine which sections need to be replaced, which can be repaired

and which can be left as is. He will also replace gaps in the fence using sections from the back of the cemetery. Board members discussed the project its budget and the need to maintain this town property. Board members agreed by consensus to waive bid requirement for this project due to the specialized nature of the work and asked Glenn to draft a contract.

The Vice Chair opened the first hearing to ascertain the future cable related needs and interests of Northfield to begin the process of renewing the cable television franchise with MetroCast. The hearing begins the public ascertainment process to gather information for the negotiations that we will soon engage in with MetroCast. The floor was opened for initial public comments. The Vice Chair noted that the town will conduct at least one more hearing on Northfield's future cable related needs, to be held later this year or early next year. He informed the public that the record for this hearing will be held open until the next hearing.

Glenn reviewed recent communication received from the Northfield/Tilton Economic Development Corporation and town efforts to establish an economic development effort. Board members discussed the information presented and asked Glenn to invite Dick Maher to the next meeting to discuss this issue.

Bluhm/Swancott moved to approve the Resolution to enter Primex Membership Agreement, the Resolution to enter Primex Property & Liability 5% Multi Year Discount Program, and the Primex Loss Mitigation Agreement Discount Resolution as presented and authorize the Chair to sign the resolutions on behalf of the Town. **Motion passed.**

Sel. Ziminsky reviewed the proposed MOU for maintenance, police services and utilities for Island Park as amended by the Tilton Selectboard. **Swancott/Bluhm** moved to approve the MOU as presented. **Motion passed.**

Glenn reminded the Board that the TNFD Commissioners had extended an invitation to meet on June 29th to discuss the distribution of dispatch fees. Board members indicated that they could attend the meeting and asked Glenn to so notify the Commissioners.

Board members considered reorganization in light of recent changes on the Board. **Bluhm/Swancott** moved to appoint Sel. Ziminsky as Chair until the next election. **Motion passed.** **Swancott/Ziminsky** moved to appoint Sel. Bluhm as Vice Chair until the next election. **Motion passed.** Board members agreed by consensus that Sel. Swancott would be the Board representative to the Budget Committee and Planning Board as well as liaison to the Police Department. Sel. Bluhm would remain the Board representative to the CIP Committee and the ZBA and liaison to Highway Department and Sel. Ziminsky would be liaison to Administration. **Bluhm/Swancott** moved to appoint Mike Murphy as the alternate for the Selectboard representative to the Planning Board. **Motion passed.**

5. General Business

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

Dave Court reported on an incident involving a snapping turtle on Shaker Road.

Mary Lee addressed the Board on the Northern Pass project. She feels the project will adversely

impact Northfield and that the Town has not done enough to inform citizens of this potential impact. She asked that the Board take a position against the project. Sel. Bluhm said that he could not do that until he has heard from more residents. Glenn was asked to publicize the issue through the town website and mailing list.

Bluhm/Swancott moved to enter into non-public session under the provisions of RSA 91-A3II b at 9:20 pm. Present at the non-public session were Bob Southworth and Glenn Smith. **Bluhm/Ziminsky** 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 10:15 pm. **Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.**

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 pm

APPROVED BY THE NORTHFIELD SELECTBOARD ON JUNE 29, 2011