

NORTHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes of the Meeting of August 20, 2013

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

Also Present: Jim DeCormier and family, Senator Hosmer, Greg Hill Mark Geremia, Jeff Roy, Arnold Adams, Edythe Adams, Dick Stevens, Ron Moreau, Aaron Chapple, Abe Gilman, Acting Chief Raffaelly, Bob Southworth, Glenn Smith.

The Chair opened the meeting at 6:31pm

1. Public Appointments

Town Clerk Cindy Caveney administered the oath of office to Jim DeCormier as a full-time police officer.

The Chair recognized Senator Hosmer who provided the Board with a legislative update. Sen. Hosmer identified downshifting as an item of concern and cited the legislature's ability to work together to pass a balanced budget as an accomplishment of the last session. He noted that civility has returned to the legislature. Sen. Hosmer identified three major issues for the next session: Medicaid expansion, funding roads and bridges and gambling. Sel. Bluhm said that the town will be working on a list of items for the legislative delegation. Personally he is worried that the state will increase the gas tax by \$0.15 as a means of funding road repairs, he also noted that the Highway Block Grant has been reduced by \$4,000 this year and that funds are being diverted to the southern part of the state. Glenn Smith said he had heard that the highway block grant program will disappear soon and asked if Sen. Hosmer could confirm or dispel this rumor. Sen. Hosmer replied that he had no information on this.

The Chair recognized Jeff Roy who spoke about his concerns with the no parking zone on Elm Street. Mr. Roy said he did not attend an earlier meeting as he did not know of it, he thought the residents of Elm Street would be given personal notification. He is concerned about the vagueness of existing signs and a perceived lack of speed enforcement. Acting Chief Raffaelly noted that he had performed speed enforcement on this street many times in recent weeks. Mr. Roy asked the Board if they were concerned about safety then why don't they install a raised sidewalk. Sel. Bluhm noted that there are so many driveway entrances in this area that there would be extensive cuts into a raised sidewalk, making it ineffective. Also, he noted that there was not enough space in the area next to Cannon Bridge to create a sidewalk wide enough to meet ADA standards. Sel. Shepard noted that cost is a factor but that the primary concern is safety. Mr. Adams expressed concern that without striping people are using the shoulder of Elm Street as a travel lane. Bob noted that road striping is due to be done tomorrow. Greg Hill asked if there were any signs on Summer Street warning drivers of an upcoming sharp turn. Bob will look into the options and report back to the Board.

The Chair recognized Mark Geremia who informed the Board that the DMV is discontinuing issuance of bonded licenses and that in the future he must be licensed through the town. Board

members asked that he bring in paperwork explaining this change and they will examine it.

2. Highway Department

Highway Superintendent Bob Southworth informed the Board that there are three trees in Island Park that need to be removed and that Dan Durgin has volunteered to remove them for free. Board members approved on the condition that Dan file a certificate of insurance before work is done.

Bob distributed specs for purchase of the new welder, recommending purchase of the Hobart model. Sel. Waldron noted that he had found the same unit offered at \$100 less. Board members approved the purchase and signed the purchase req for this item.

Bob reviewed proposed updates to driveway regulations and driveway construction and alteration/paving permits. **Bluhm/Waldron** moved to amend the town driveway regulations as amended. **Motion passed.**

Bob informed the Board that the new truck is being customized and will be ready in about 6 weeks. He also informed the Board that catch basin cleaning will begin on Sept. 9th and that the work on 30 Sargent Street was completed today. Board members asked that catch basin cleaning be done earlier next year.

3. Police Department

Acting John Chief Raffaely reported that he had done motorcycle runs as approved by Board. Sel. Waldron thanked him for his participation, noting that this is great PR for the town and is done for a worthy cause. John said that the Town vehicle should be done by this week.

As requested by the Board, John presented a proposed update to Employee Handbook concerning use of the town vehicle. Board members reviewed the proposal. **Waldron/Shepard** moved to accept the proposed update to section 12.4 of the Employee Handbook as amended. **Motion passed.**

4. Administration

Town Administrator Glenn Smith noted that the town had run out of recycling signs, Board members authorized reordering these signs, changing "I Recycle, I lower taxes" to "We recycle, We lower taxes" Sel. Bluhm noted that Transfer Station employees had told him that they had received requests from residents they did not recognize. Board members discussed the distribution of signs.

Bluhm/Shepard moved to appoint Sterling Blackey as a full member of the Conservation Commission. **Motion passed.** Glenn presented an abatement request from the Tax Collector, needed to remove an obligation from the books that does not exist. Board members signed the

abatement request. Glenn informed the Board that Metrocast had laid fiber optic cable today between the town hall, PD and Highway Garage, but he had still not heard from Certified Computer Services concerning the equipment needed to make use of this new network.

Glenn distributed a proposed Employee Handbook revision dealing with disciplinary procedures. Board members reviewed the proposal and deferred action until the next meeting.

Glenn reviewed the proposal to participate in the Contribution Assurance Program through Primex relating to property and liability insurance and workers compensation insurance. Board members discussed the proposal and asked Glenn to obtain additional quotes.

5. Non-Public Session

Waldron/Shepard moved to enter into non-public session under the provisions of RSA 91-A3IIb,e at 7:40pm. **Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.** Present at the non-public session were John Raffaely, Bob Southworth, Ron Moreau, James Lavery, Glenn Smith. **Bluhm/Shepard** moved that the minutes of the non-public session be sealed. **Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.** **Bluhm/Shepard** moved to reconvene the public session at 10:25pm. **Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.**

6. General Business

Board members reviewed general correspondence and payroll & accounts payable manifests. **Bluhm/Shepard** moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of August 6, 2013 as amended. **Motion passed.**

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 10:25pm.

**APPROVED BY THE NORTHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN ON
SEPTEMBER 3, 2013**