



# TOWN OF NORTHFIELD



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## NORTHFIELD BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING Minutes of the meeting of January 22, 2015

Present: George Corliss, Dennis Allen, Lisa Swancott, Keith Murray, Kevin Waldron, Leif Martinson.

Also Present: Representatives of agencies seeking town funding in 2015, Wayne Crowley, Glenn Smith

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm

The Chair recognized Judy Huckins and Tony Cross, representing Park Cemetery. Committee members reviewed the organization's 2015 budget request, discussion topics included the rising cost of operating the cemetery.

The Chair recognized Jim Doane, representing Tilton/Northfield Recreation Council. Mr. Doane distributed a report detailing the requested 2015 increase for his organization, noting that increases are focused in the areas of salaries and the increasing cost of building maintenance as the structure ages. Committee members reviewed the material and questioned Mr. Doane concerning the recent reduction in hours of operation, fee increases and the cost effectiveness of programs.

The Chair recognized Chris Meinhold, representing the Hartwell Concert Series. Committee members reviewed the proposed budget and the Selectmen's recommended funding level. Mr. Meinhold stated that the concerts were a local institution that residents appreciate. Sel. Waldron asked why no effort is made to collect funds from attendees, noting that the Old Home Day does this at the annual fireworks show. Lisa Swancott advised placing this item on the warrant at town meeting. Leif Martinson expressed reservations about putting such a small amount as a separate warrant article, stating that the series draws the two towns together. **Martinson/Swancott** moved to recommend funding the Hartwell Concert series in the amount of \$2,000 in 2015. **Motion passed.**

The Chair recognized Jane White who introduced Barbara Normandin as the new Executive Director of the Visiting Nurse Association. Ms. White explained that the organization was requesting an increase this year as they try to achieve equity in what they request from all their member towns. She also noted that VNA is expecting a decrease in medicare reimbursements this year. Committee members noted that VNA posted a profit last year and has sizable reserves.

The Chair recognized Dawn Schimberg, Director of the Youth Assistance Program. She and Sheriff Hilliard reviewed the Selectmen's recommendation that town funding be reduced by 25% with the hope that YAP will start collecting fees from those families who can pay for their services. Sheriff Hilliard stated that many families cannot pay for the service and that YAP provides a cost effective alternative to the juvenile court system. Sel. Waldron stated that the Selectmen do not question the value of the program, they just do not believe that 100% of its clients are unable to pay for the service. Sgt. Adams said that the value of the program is that it is free and available to those who need the services.

**Murray/Martinson** moved to recommend funding the Youth Assistance Program at a level of \$56,348 in 2015. **Motion passed.**

The Chair recognized Gail Lyman of the Belknap/Merrimack Community Action Program. Committee members reviewed materials submitted and had no questions for Ms. Lyman.

The Chair recognized Ruth Zax, representing Child and Family Services. Ms. Zax noted that her organization provides the most affordable mental health services to needy families in the area. The requested increase is due to increases in numbers of people served. She reviewed the programs offered within the community.

Review of the Hall Memorial Library budget was deferred to the meeting of January 29, 2015.

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm