



NORTHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

Minutes of the meeting of January 19, 2021

Present: Selectman Kevin Waldron, Selectman Scott Haskins and Selectman Glen Brown

Also Present: Town Administrator Ken Robichaud, Interim Public Works Director Justin Bernier and Northfield resident Carl Bartlett.

Zoom Attendance: None

The 2021 Budget meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm by Chairman Waldron.

The Selectmen reviewed the Cemetery budget. Discussion revolved around what was spent on the Cemetery approx. \$6,000.00. Is the Cemetery an outside agency, it is managed by the Park Cemetery Association. It was found that the Town gives the Park Cemetery Associations funds to help maintain the Cemetery. The Selectmen approved the request of \$6,000.00.

Cemetery repair was next on the list to discuss. This line has been used in the past to repair the cemetery behind the Town Hall. Selectmen asked to put in \$1.00 to use if repairs are needed.

DPW budget was revisited on the Engineering Services line in particular. Discussion revolved around needing to do engineering prior to repaving the roads. The Selectmen need to get a budget number to put in the line. Interim DPW Director Justin Bernier will call around and attempt to get some sort of a dollar amount to work with on these projects before road construction can start. Selectmen will wait until next week to put a budget amount in the line.

Solid Waste was discussed as our curbside contract is coming up for renewal at the end of March. Discussed was options that the town has, and what we should do with them. It was decided to invite our current provider of Solid Waste removal in for a discussion. Also discussed was going out to bid or a contract renewal for 1, 2 or 3 years. The costs for solid waste continues to rise and the Selectmen need to find a way to reduce that cost and try to prevent a huge tax spike due to the rise in costs. Casella has been very responsive to the Towns calls from residents on service.

Next Budget was Animal Control. This contract is split into two different portions, containment and control. The cost is \$10,950.00 for both portions. Discussion turned to splitting up the cost and containment portions. Discussion turned to charging back the fees to the dog owner of the animal that is picked up. Also discussed was the town taking the control part of the contract and putting it on the Police Department. There will be more discussion on this later. The current contract ends in June of 2021. The Selectmen left the cost of \$10,950.00 in the budget.

Next budget discussed was VNA of Franklin with a budget request of \$5,000.00. Selectmen agreed to leave the \$5,000.00 in the budget as the cost was minimal for the service received.

Child and Family Services (Waypoint) requested \$3,500.00 for budget year 2021. The Selectmen discussed this in great detail but in the end decided to not fund this agency this year. The Selectmen stated that this agency according to their financials seem to not need the \$3,500.00. The Selectmen declined to fund this agency.

Community Action Program (CAP) requested \$11,000.00 for the 2021 budget year. All financial information was received and that it seems CAP has a healthy bank account and after all was said and done the Selectmen decided to fund CAP at \$7,000.00, one half of the requested amount.

The next budget discussed was Welfare Administration. The Selectmen discussed wages and if they should increase the salary. The T/A stated that it should be done with the other employees from the Merit Pool line item. The selectmen were okay with this budget as well as the Welfare Vendor Payment budget at \$20,389.00 and \$27,910.00 respectively.

Parks and Recreation Budgets were discussed and the Selectmen asked question on this budget Island Park was brought down to zero, as the Park is being given to Tilton. This budget was reduced from \$14,500 to \$9,000.00 due to removing of some items from last year.

Library Budget was discussed next the Selectmen discussed this in great detail and left the budget request at \$131,950.00.

Old Home Day line item of \$3,000.00 came up for discussion, due to COVID it was not utilized for 2020 and it is unsure if it will materialize in 2021 as well. The Selectmen agreed to leave it in but if it doesn't happen or if Tilton does not put in their match, Northfield will not spend this money. It was discussed and agreed that no DPW paid personnel will be used to help setup or breakdown the event.

Island Concert series request of \$2,000.00 was removed from this line by the Selectmen.

Tilton- Northfield Recreation Council budget request of \$69,750.00 was discussed and Selectmen Haskins stated that he would not vote on this as he is a current Board Member for this organization. Discussion was on grants that they received and a paycheck protection grant of \$33,500.00. It was decided to have the Director come in next week to discuss the program.

Conservation budget was left intact at \$1,850.00 the Selectmen agreed.

Tax Anticipation Note Budget was discussed and in 2020 the Town spent \$11,780.00 in interest for borrowing \$700,000.00 for Town operations. The T/A suggested to put in \$15,000.00 as interest rates may go up by next December when it is paid back.

Selectmen Waldron moved the meeting into the regular Selectmen's work session meeting at 5:19.

The Pledge of Allegiance was performed

Selectmen Waldron stated that we are replacing a cruiser that a few weeks ago was involved in an accident and has been ruled a total loss by insurance. All of our current cruisers are keyed alike and the new one needs to also be keyed the same as the other vehicles, this is an additional cost of \$250.00. The selectmen agreed to have that done at the cost specified.

The T/A gave to the Selectmen a chart which outlines the amount of tonnage per month and the cost per ton per month over the last 6 years. The information will help as we move forward with a new contract for residential curbside.

The T/A discussed with the Selectmen sample warrants for next week. The Selectmen will finalize the list next week.

The Selectmen discussed road projects and the need for road engineering prior to resurfacing the roads. The Selectmen need to come up with a budget number for engineering by next week. The Selectmen discussed with the Interim Director of DPW a new Backhoe for 2021. They decided on some specifications for the new piece of equipment and what the cost will be for that backhoe.

The T/A informed the Selectmen on a discussion he had with Eversource on changing out our current street lights with LED lights what the cost will be and what the saving is after the payback. The incentive from Eversource is \$100.00 per LED light. The cost to purchase the new light is \$250.00, which the \$100.00 will offset that cost. The Town would have to contract with someone to install the lights. The savings on energy from one LED light is a 40% savings of the operating cost.

Selectman Waldron informed the Board that Atlantic Broadband town agreement for franchise fees expires at the end of 2022. The Town can look for other vendors at that point.

- **NON PUBLIC**

Sel. Waldron made a motion at 7:44 pm to go into nonpublic session under NH RSA 91a;3-II, (a) seconded by Sel. Brown, Roll call vote Selectman Brown- Yes, Selectmen Haskins– Yes and Selectman Waldron- Yes. **Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.**

Waldron/Haskins moved to reconvene the public session at 8:05 pm. Roll Call Vote, Selectman Haskins –Yes, Selectman Waldron-Yes, **Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.**

Waldron/Haskins moved to seal the minutes of the non-public session because divulgence of the information likely would affect adversely the reputation of any person other than a member of the board, or render the proposed action of the board ineffective.

Roll call vote, Selectman Haskins-Yes, Selectman Waldron-Yes, Selectman Brown- Yes. **Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote and the minutes are sealed.**

Waldron/Brown motioned to accept the minutes of January 12, 2021 as printed. Motion passed all in favor.

Waldron/Brown motioned to accept the minutes of January 15, 2021 as printed. Motion passed all in favor.

- **Other Business**

No other business to come before the Selectmen, the meeting adjourned at 8:09 pm.

Minutes Recorded by T/A Ken Robichaud

Minutes Approved on February 4, 2021