



NORTHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

Minutes of the meeting of February 16, 2021

Present: Selectman Kevin Waldron, Selectman Scott Haskins and Selectman Glen Brown on Zoom.

Also Present: Town Administrator Ken Robichaud, Interim Public Works Director Justin Bernier, and Police Chief John Raffaely. Resident attending this meeting in person was David Bacon

Selectmen Waldron opened the meeting for the Selectmen's work session at 2 pm.

- **Police Department Update**

The Chief stated that cruiser #19 is in the shop for noise coming from the rear stabilizer unit. The Chief says that it will be out of service for a few days waiting for parts and it is covered under the manufactures warranty.

The Chief updated the Selectmen on an applicant that is certified but is on the Laurie List currently. The Chief will speak with the applicant further on this.

Selectmen Waldron asked if the Town received a reimbursement check for the repair to the Police Chiefs vehicle due to the Police Chief colliding with a Deer. The answer was yes to receiving a check.

- **Public Works Update**

Interim Public Works Director Justin Bernier informed the Selectmen that the 2014 International truck has issues with a leak with the intercooler air line for the Turbo unit. The rubber line keeps blowing off and will not stay on the unit. The DPW mechanic is looking into the issue.

Steve Partridge stopped by and spoke with DPW Interim Director Bernier on some work the Tilton/Northfield Sewer Department will be doing this summer on Vine Street. They will be replacing about 700 feet of drainage pipe and will be digging up a portion of the road to accomplish this task. Director Bernier stated that he is under the impression that in the past, the town provided one third of the funding for repaving the street. Selectman Waldron stated that only if the road was scheduled to be repaved as part of the road repaving plan in that particular year, then yes, as we have done in the past the Town would work with the Water and Sewer Departments to do the job all at once. But this road is not scheduled for repaving or reworking in 2021 according to the road repaving plan that was discussed as part of the budget process.

The Town Administrator asked that if the Tilton/Northfield Water and Sewer Departments would meet with the DPW and the Town each October before we craft the following year's budget, the Town could possibly work with those agencies and come up with some funding for repaving of roads at the time of construction.

Director Bernier told the Selectmen that he has received a resume from another applicant for the assistant position but this applicant is not qualified. He will keep the position open until filled.

Selectmen Haskins asked Director Bernier if we have a quote from JCB equipment for a backhoe. Director Bernier stated that he currently has a quote for a John Deere and Caterpillar, he met with the Salesmen for JCB but currently does not have a quote as of yet. Haskins stated that he heard from a friend of a friend of the Salesmen for JCB that Selectman Waldron stated he did not want any equipment from JCB.

Selectman Waldron stated that he never said that he would not accept a quote from JCB.

Waldron said that he prefers John Deere or Caterpillar over JCB, but never stated in public that he would not accept a quote. He is only one vote and the entire Board of Selectmen vote on who the Town buys from and there are many factors that go into purchasing any equipment, price, quality, reliability, and service. If someone has something to say to me I

would prefer them to come and say it to me personally instead of going around me. Waldron also stated that if anyone has questions they come and see me.

Waldron stated that he knows nothing of what Selectman Haskins is speaking about.

The Selectmen will wait for a quote from JCB and also town meeting to approve the budget before moving forward on a backhoe purchase.

- **Administration Update**

The Town Administrator told the Selectmen that the 2020 Annual Report is done and ready to send to the printers. It will be put up on the website as soon as possible.

The T/A asked about candidates night. He received an email from Jason Gerhard who is running for Selectman and will be attending Candidates night on Thursday February 18th at 6:30 pm. Mr. Gerhard asked the question if the candidates themselves could ask the other candidates questions. The T/A stated to Mr. Gerhard that the forum is for the Residents to ask the candidates questions as this is not a debate type of forum. We will not be allowing candidates to question other candidates, besides there are 6 people running for Selectman this year there is not enough time to have a debate type of forum at this time.

Covid testing and quarantining came up for discussion. In 2020 the government allowed persons who had Coronavirus symptoms and tested positive to quarantine for up to 14 days and they would receive pay and testing was also covered by the employer. Some employees who contracted the virus were tested and the Town paid for testing and up to two weeks of pay for the employee.

The T/A asked if it was the intention of the Selectmen in 2021 to continue this practice as some employees benefitted from this emergency order and some who did not contract the virus as of yet will they receive the same benefit. There was much discussion over this and it was decided to bring this back up next week to discuss more of this important issue.

Selectman Haskins asked if the town was all set for using Southwick School for Town Meeting. The T/A answered that he sent emails to Rob Berry from the SAU, but has not heard back from him as of yet, and the T/A filled out the request form for using school property. Haskins said that he attended the School Board Meeting last night and no one knew anything about it. The T/A asked the Assistant Town Administrator to reach out to Rob Berry and see if he received any emails. The AT/A responded several minutes later that the emails were going to Mr. Berry's spam folder. The AT/A stated that Mr. Berry called a few moments ago and stated that he would consult with the School Board on Wednesday night but said it would not be a problem as the Town of Tilton is using the High School for their Town Meeting.

The T/A asked the Selectmen if he could take some vacation time the week of February 22nd. He will be here for Tuesday's meeting regardless. The Selectmen gave the T/A the okay for vacation time. The T/A will be off on Monday, Thursday and Friday of next week.

Selectman Waldron asked if the Code Enforcement Officer has responded to a complaint on Zion Hill about some sort of liquid leaking onto Zion Hill. The AT/A responded that he did and it was water coming off the wetland area around those homes.

Selectman Waldron asked another question about an old email that he has in his folder that talks about an issue on Glines Park Road off of Sandogardy Road where a resident has asked the Town to use a small piece of property that the Town owns near Glines Park Beach, so that the resident could replace or enlarge her leach field and septic tank, as it may be failing. The AT/A spoke to this and said that this Property was given to the Town so that a small park could be made with it. Picnic tables and a picnic area were discussed in the past for that piece of property. The AT/A stated that she will find out about the resident and her leach field and septic tanks condition to date. The Conservation Commission has been looking at the properties around Sandogardy Pond and the septic systems currently in place and also testing the pond during the summer for elevated levels Ecoli and other contaminates in the pond.

The T/A handed out to the Selectmen; the Town of Northfield Employee Manual with the Town Administrators recommended updates and changes to the sections. Items that have been added are in yellow highlighter, and deletions or

omissions are struck through and highlighted as well. The Town Administrator has asked that the Selectmen review it over the next week and will speak to the changes and additions at the next meeting. Discussion came to the Bereavement Leave section and added was if an employee's dog passes away that would qualify for bereavement leave, Selectmen Brown and Waldron agreed to this change. It will be reviewed next week.

- **Other Business:**

Selectmen Waldron/Haskins motioned to approve and discussed the minutes from February 4, 2021 meeting with a roll call vote. Brown-yes, Haskins-yes, Waldron-yes. Minutes are approved as changed.

Selectman Brown stated that he was leaving the meeting at 3:48 pm. Selectman Waldron asked Selectman Brown if he minded if the Selectmen continued with the meeting without Selectman Brown, with no objection from Selectmen Brown.

Selectmen Waldron asked Resident David Bacon what he thought of the Selectmen Meeting. Mr. Bacon is running for Selectmen in March and he stated that it's impressive on the many different facets that the Selectmen may handle at any given meeting. He didn't realize that so many different issues are handled by the Selectmen. He is excited to be running for this position.

- **Nonpublic Session:**

Sel. Waldron made a motion at 3:55 pm to go into nonpublic session under NH RSA 91a;3-II, (A&C) seconded by Sel. Haskins, Roll call vote Selectmen Haskins-Yes and Selectman Waldron- Yes. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Waldron/Haskins moved to reconvene the public session at 4:50 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. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote and the minutes are sealed.

Nothing else to come before the Selectmen at this time, this meeting is adjourned at 4:53 pm.

Minutes Recorded by T/A Ken Robichaud

Minutes approved February 23, 2021