



## NORTHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

Minutes of the meeting of April 6, 2021

**Present:** Selectman Kevin Waldron, Selectman Scott Haskins and Selectman Mark Hubbell.

**Also Present:** Town Administrator Ken Robichaud, & Interim Public Works Director Justin Bernier, Police Chief Raffaely and Northfield residents; Carl Bartlett and Scott Polish.

**Present on Zoom-** None

**Selectmen Waldron opened the meeting for the Selectmen's work session at 4:02 pm to specifically review The Surplus Property Policy, the Equipment List and the Road Repair List for 2021-2022.**

The Selectmen reviewed the surplus policy and made some changes to it. The Selectmen removed the third paragraph as follows "Department Heads are authorized to dispose of surplus items valued at less than \$100.00 without prior approval of the Board of Selectmen." The word "other" on the first sentence of the 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph was also removed under the review of the policy.

**Waldron/Hubbell motioned to accept the revised Surplus Property Policy as changed. All in favor, motion passed 3-0. The policy revision is now adopted on April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021.**

The Police Chief asked the Selectmen for permission to put (8) old mobile radio's identified as PX-7000 for surplus equipment. The Chief stated that the PD received these radios years ago through a grant. Some questions discussed relevant to the radios were, is there any value to these? The Chief states "no". Discussion revolved around giving the radios to Loudon Police Department as they expressed some interest in this now surplus equipment. Two of the Selectmen were in agreement with giving the radios to Loudon.

There was some discussion on the Police Motorcycle possibly becoming surplus equipment. The Chief asked if the PD could keep it for one more year so he could evaluate the appropriate usefulness of it before the Selectmen consider it surplus equipment. The Selectmen agreed to the Chiefs request.

The Selectmen discussed the Road List for 2021. The Selectmen discussed drainage work from Bay Road to the four corners, as well as Bay Road to Twin Bridge. These roads would be scheduled in 2022 to grind and pave. Shaker Road from Bay Extension to Fisk Road is scheduled to grind and pave in 2021. There is funding for road engineering in this year's budget.

**Selectmen Waldron began the regular Selectmen meeting at 5:09 pm.**

**The Pledge of Allegiance was conducted.**

**Public Input-** Mr. Scott Polish approached the Selectmen on last week's discussion on the new Backhoe. Mr. Polish is in the construction equipment business and represents JCB Equipment. He stated to the board that the equipment specification on certain backhoes that has been discussed in past meetings is not correct. He explained that what the Town received for specifications were not apples to apples in comparison. The Case backhoe was not the same engine horsepower as the JCB and that if the town is looking at this many backhoes, they should be comparing machines with the same or close to the same specifications to make it fair. He also stated that the Town should give the DPW Director the machine he wants, as Mr. Polish believes that it will be taken better care of then a machine he doesn't like. Selectman Hubbell spoke in disagreement with what Mr. Polish was speaking to on the equipment. Selectman Hubbell spoke to his duty as a Selectman to what is best for the Town in his opinion is usually price, quality and service is what he looks for in a machine. The Selectmen will continue to look at comparable machines until they are satisfied with the results. Selectman Waldron thanked Mr. Polish for his input and discussion.

Mr. Carl Bartlett addressed the Selectmen as well but on a different topic. Mr. Bartlett presented the Selectmen with a letter on the Old Home Day Celebration that was discussed at a past Selectmen's meeting. At the March 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting the Selectmen received a request from the Old Home Day Committee for their \$3,000.00 yearly appropriation. In the request it was decided at an old home day committee meeting, that instead of having the yearly event, because of Covid, they would hold a fireworks display instead. They requested the full appropriation of \$3,000.00, but the Selectmen voted to only fund the full event and not any other event in its place. Mr. Bartlett stated that he felt the Selectmen should fund the event. The Selectmen stood by their former vote and to not release the funds unless the Old Home Day Committee decided to hold the full event at which time the Selectmen could reconsider their decision. Selectman Haskins recused himself from the discussions and vote due to a conflict.

- **Police Department**

The Chief updated the Selectmen on the department's laundry service as they are closing their doors next week. The Chief will find another service ASAP. The Selectmen were shocked on the news as they have been in business for over 30 years and have serviced the town well over the years without complaint and at a good cost.

The Chief passed out to the Selectmen a sketch on a proposed one-way plan for student drop off and student pickup at the Sanborn Union School on Vine Street. The chief stated that just past the school entrance between the hours of 8am-4pm (5) days a week, a small short portion of Vine Street would become one way. The Chief has already met with the school administration and they are on board with the plan. The Chief will have signs made to inform the general public on this change and will have police officers present the first several weeks to help with traffic flow.

**Selectmen Waldron/Haskins moved to approve the plan as submitted by the Chief of Police to make a small portion of Vine Street, one way during school days, between the hours of 8am-4pm, Monday through Friday. All in favor, motion passed.**

Selectmen Hubbell asked the Chief about traffic issues on Hodgdon Road as cars are racing up and down the road. The Chief informed him that there is always an officer usually in that area.

- **Public Works Update**

Interim DPW Director Justin Bernier told the Selectmen that the Peterbuilt truck is having issues with the turbo. They have tried smoke testing it as well as other tests and it has a high-pitched squeal when it is idling, and it goes away when you rev it up. He will bring it to the Peterbuilt dealer in Bow for repair.

Director Bernier updated the Selectmen on storm water drain on Granite Street at PCC that collapsed last week due to the pipes not aligning with one another and one pipe being blocked that was jetted and is now cleared up.

- **Administration Update**

The T/A asked the Selectmen if they are ready for using laptops for their meetings. The Selectmen put money in the budget to purchase laptops instead of making copies each week for the meetings. This will help in reducing costs with copies.

T/A informed the Selectmen on the meeting with the NH Emergency Management on the two generators on placement as well as their might be some reimbursement funding for the camera update project scheduled for May.

The Selectmen asked about broadband for the Pines as this is scheduled to be a shelter as part of our EMC plan. The T/A will review this further.

The T/A asked the Selectmen if there were going to participate in the yearly Hazardous Waste Disposal Day this year. The Selectmen stated No, not this year.

The T/A asked the Selectmen if they would be willing to share some costs that were associated with the sale of a Tax Lien property on Stevens Road. It would be a 50/50 split of \$500.00, or \$250.00 for the town. The Selectmen declined to pay the 50 percent costs.

The Town Administrator discussed with the Selectmen a proposed quote for the cleaning of Town Hall and the Police Department. The cost quoted were \$65.00 per week for the PD and \$75.00 per week for the Town Hall.

The Selectmen discussed possible appointments to some town volunteer boards as follows-

**Hubbell/Haskins motioned to appoint Heather Durgin and Mark Chaffee from an alternate position to full member status, vote of 2-0, motion passed.**

**Hubbell/Haskins motioned to reappoint Charlie Page to a full member position, with a 2-0 vote, motion passed.**

**Haskins/Hubbell motion to reappoint Jason Durgin to the Planning Board, all in favor, motion passed.**

**Haskin/Hubbell motion to appoint Jesse Garland to the alternate position on the Planning Board, all in favor, motion passed.**

**Hubbell/Haskins motioned to appoint Manny Pimentel to a full member position on the Zoning Board, motion passed on a 2-0 vote.**

**Hubbell/Haskins motioned to reappoint Kaitlin Lounsbury to a full member of the Zoning Board, all in favor, motion passed.**

**Hubbell/Haskins motioned to reappoint Lisa Thorne to a full member of the Zoning Board, vote of 2-1, motion passed.**

**Waldron/Haskins motioned to appoint DPW Director Justin Bernier as a full member for a 1 year appointment to the CRSW/RRC Board, all in favor, motion passed.**

The Selectmen discussed the Capital Improvement Committee membership for this year at great length. There was no interest last year, so the Selectmen asked the T/A to put this out to the public until June 1<sup>st</sup>. They will revisit this after June 1<sup>st</sup>.

The Selectmen reviewed a letter to the residents on the new curbside trash pickup contract to be initiated on June 1<sup>st</sup> 2021. Selectman Hubbell requested to add some pertinent information on how the Selectmen came to this change. The Selectmen weighed many options on reducing the cost, including eliminating curbside altogether. Instead to ensure only resident trash was being picked up, the Selectmen had to change the parameters in order to keep curbside pickup. This is not something that was taken lightly by the Selectmen but a change had to occur to keep the curbside pickup intact. Lids were discussed on being on all the trash cans, and that is part of the contract, although it may be a challenge for Casella and the Resident to keep the lids from being thrown or blown by the wind into the woods.

Last week's meeting minutes were not reviewed as to a point of order on the way the Selectmen accept the minutes from week to week. Chairman Waldron asked the Town Administrator to get guidance on the acceptance of meeting minutes from the legal department of the NH Municipal Association.

- **Nonpublic Session:**

**Sel. Waldron made a motion at 7:39 pm to go into nonpublic session under NH RSA 91a;3-II, (AB&C) seconded by Sel. Hubbell, Roll call vote Selectmen Haskins-Yes Selectman Hubbell-Yes and Selectman Waldron- Yes.**

**Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.**

**Waldron/Hubbell moved to reconvene the public session at 9:19 pm. Roll Call Vote, Selectman Haskins –Yes, Selectman Hubbell- Yes and 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 Hubbell –Yes and Selectman Waldron-Yes. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote and the minutes are hereby sealed.**

**Other Business:**

The Selectmen will meet next week at 4pm. Selectman Haskins questioned the meeting time if we meet at 4pm and go directly into a non-public session, will the regular meeting begin at 5:00 pm or directly after the non-public? Selectman Waldron stated that the meeting starts at 4pm and as such we will come out of non-public which then we will go directly into the work session of the meeting.

**The Selectmen adjourned the meeting at 9:25 pm.**

**Minutes were approved on April 20<sup>th</sup> 2021**

**Minutes Recorded by T/A Ken Robichaud**