



NORTHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

Minutes of the meeting of April 20, 2021

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

Also Present: Town Administrator Ken Robichaud, Public Works Director Justin Bernier, Police Chief John Raffaelli and Stephanie Giovannucci. Northfield Residents Theodore Evangelo, Maureen Bouchet, Pat Riutta, Carl Bartlett, Samantha Magoon, Brittini Stewart and Kaitlin Lounsbury.

Present on Zoom- Denny French, Aimee Dearborn.

Selectmen Waldron opened the meeting for the Selectmen's work session at 4:00 pm.

The Pledge of Allegiance was conducted.

- **Nonpublic Session:**

Sel. Waldron made a motion at 4:01 pm to go into nonpublic session under NH RSA 91a:3-II, (A,C,E&L) seconded by Sel. Haskins, 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 5:35 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.

Selectmen Waldron continued the Selectmen's public meeting at 5:38 pm. Waldron noted that if there are any residents who are present here today and wish to speak to the Selectmen on curbside trash to please step up to the microphone and state your name and your questions for the record.

Maureen Bouchet was first and asked what if you can't find a container by June 1st what is the Town going to do? Residents have over one month to find a container. Lids blowing around, cans were strewn around the neighborhood. Recycling issues, numbers on cans, costs for this restriction.

Chairman Waldron stated that Tilton-Northfield Recreation Center (TNRC) has a 5:30 pm appointment with the Selectmen so will leave curbside pickup discussion and will return to curbside pickup after the discussion with TNRC.

Brittini Stewart and Samantha Magoon updated the Selectmen on the TNRC operation since they last spoke to the Selectmen back in January and Selectman Hubble would like to understand this organization.

Covid has continued to cause reductions in revenue with fund raising amounts. This year TNRC is having its annual golf tournament fund raiser since last year it was cancelled due to Covid. TNRC hopes it will be a success. Since TNRC is nonprofit community center which rely on grants, donations, fundraisers, and fees for their revenue. TNRC is also a state licensed childcare provider, which provides child programs like before school care, after school care, full day summer care, vacation camps, junior counselors training camps and sports camps. Because of Covid they have only been allowed to have 50% capacity in the building, and also have not been able to rent out the space for after hour functions as they have in the past. TNRC has had to do updates to the building and upgrading of services as providing better internet connections, faster connection speeds.

TNRC has received grants for Covid in 2020, the paycheck protection program 1st round (PPP) \$36,555.00, a child care recovery stabilization program (CCRSP) \$56,000.00 to help with revenue loss. The budget does have increases in salaries due to the State of NH new requirement of staff needing to have more certifications with being around children. Ms. Stewart stated that TNRC needs to pay more for hourly workers to attract the certified staff needed. The other childcare centers in the area have raised their hourly rates so TNRC needed to raise the rates in order to attract the workers. The State of NH mandates certain child to teacher ratios based on ages of the child, so we may need two teachers per group of children depending on the age instead of the one needed a few years ago. Discussion continued on what TNRC offers Northfield as well as Tilton and the costs that are associated with this organization. The budget amount for Northfield funding of TNRC is \$69,750.00 for 2021, and the ratio of Northfield children that attend TNRC is about 60% to Tiltons 40% in some years. Other years it is Northfield 40% to Tilton 60%, which varies from year to year.

Chairman Waldron thanked MS, Stewart and Ms. Magoon for the update, and returned to discussion on curbside collection for solid waste with Mr. Theodore Angelo who lives on Oak Street addressed the Selectmen.

Mr. Angelo discussed the fairness of the new restrictions to curbside as he has a three family unit building on Oak Street which is very close to the road and he has been getting town subsidized trash removal for years. But with the new restrictions as of June 1st 2021, he will then be considered a commercial residence as he has more than 2 units, as he does receive income from the rental of his apartments. Mr. Angelo stated that he has been in town for 26 years and pays taxes and he believes he should receive the curbside collection and not have to pay extra for a service. Mr. Angelo stated that he didn't think this was fair and that he has also not been receiving payment from his tenants because of Covid, so the Selectmen should reconsider their decision. The Selectmen stated that they sympathize with him and all residents of Northfield, but the contract has been executed and it is a done deal.

Mr. Pat Riutta discussed with the Selectmen that he pays the highest taxes in the town and he thinks he should be able to put out more than two containers per week. He stated that the selectmen just picked a date and that we have to follow that date. It just isn't fair; no one knew that this was even discussed prior to this. The Selectmen were sympathetic to his situation but said that he must follow the restrictions or have a private company provide trash removal at his residence or find alternative ways for disposal of solid waste. Selectmen Hubbell addressed Mr. Riutta statement of not knowing that this was going to happen, Hubbell stated that he had discussed this with Mr. Riutta when Hubbell was campaigning for Selectmen so that was not entirely true. Mr. Riutta also stated that he is a hobby farmer and lives in a home with eight other members so it will be difficult with only 2 trash containers. The Selectmen again were sympathetic to his situation as well but the contract has been signed.

Mr. Carl Bartlett addressed the Selectmen on workers comp rates and reducing the curbside collection will affect him as he feeds his pigs bread from the food pantry and stuffs the bread wrappers into grain bags and this will be more than 2 barrels. He feels that these restrictions will not reduce the tonnage.

Maureen Bouchet approached the Selectmen for a second time with another question. She wanted to know if Casella came up with the two barrel restriction. Chairman Waldron stated that Casella did assist the town with ideas on how to reduce tonnage. Casella also has towns where this is a common restriction and some towns have more or less restrictions than in Northfield.

Selectmen Waldron wrapped up the public input on Curbside Collection and continued with the regular meeting.

- **Police Department**

Discussion ensued on any individual wishing to discuss an issue with the Selectmen of great length shall file a request with the Town Administrator to be put on the agenda for that discussion. The Selectmen have allowed and will continue to allow individuals a public comment section on the agenda. Although; for individuals that wish to address the Selectmen on an issue or a comment and wants to engage in a two way discussion then they shall request to be placed on the agenda with the Town Administrator and scheduled as time permits.

The cruiser at OME is not yet ready and maybe ready on Friday or Monday of next week, the Chief checked up on it this morning.

The Chief is waiting for the signs to come in on the Union Sanborn school traffic change. The signs are coming from the NH State Prison and the Chief will get with DPW to put them up when they arrive. The School is informing all parents of the new one way street change.

Chairman Waldron asked about a crosswalk from the school/library area to Surrrette Park. The Chief will check into that next week as Park Street is a State owned road and we will need to ask them about it.

- **Public Works Update**

Interim DPW Director Justin Bernier presented the Selectmen with a quote from New England Kenworth on a repair for the 2010 Peterbuilt truck at a cost of \$13,401.58 for parts and labor. The Selectmen asked the DPW Director if he really needed this truck or if they could sell it off. Discussion ensued and will come back to this next week.

Director Bernier created and distributed a spreadsheet on the current conditions of all the Town roads in Northfield with how long the road is and the current condition of the road. Also; passed out is a spreadsheet of all current equipment/vehicles that the DPW has with the condition/mileage, year and the current replacement cost.

Director Bernier asked about the drainage work that is needed on Bay Hill and also Shaker Road. Bernier asked if the Selectmen would want the work to be included in the project bid or the DPW could do the drainage work. The Selectmen said that he should include it in the entire project bid and let someone else do it.

Selectman Waldron asked if the DPW Director would look at what it would take to install a sidewalk on Dearborn Avenue. Director Bernier stated that he would.

Director Bernier updated the Selectman on the JCB Backhoe he looked at last week. The Boom is over 13'6" which is too high and it may cause accidental damage because of the boom being so high. The John Deere that is currently being built at the factory is what the Town has specified and it will be at the John Deere Dealer by the end of May.

Administration Update

The Selectmen signed the Quitclaim Deed for the Island property which now belongs to Tilton.

The T/A received the first quarterly payment request from the TNRC for the quarterly payment of \$17,437.50. The Selectmen discussed it and agreed to pay \$13,187.50, which is \$4,250.00 less than the request.

The Town Administrator presented the Selectmen with a Solid Waste Amendment for Curbside Collection. Selectman Waldron would like to see the word Condominium removed. Also to check what they mean Private road. The T/A will have it corrected and will bring back next week.

The T/A presented the Selectmen with the completed Emergency Operations Plan for their signature. This is an update to our current plan, and this will help with obtaining grants and when the Town experiences an emergency, in which the Town opens its Emergency Operations Center. Chairman Waldron asked who the Deputy Emergency Director is. We will review again next week.

The T/A asked the Selectmen if they wanted him to respond to a letter from Resident Karen Woodward on the curbside collection letter from the Town in which Ms. Woodward was incorrect in some of her assumptions on the new restrictions.

There was a question on the New Hampshire Electric Cooperative organization is now teaming up with New Hampshire Broadband in which they will bring fiber optic service to northern communities who currently do not have broadband service. The Selectmen wanted to make sure that NH Broadband needed to have a license with the town if they attempt to come to Northfield. The T/A assured them that they are only serving Towns without internet at this time.

The T/A gave the Selectmen information on revenue that the town receives from building permits. The Selectmen at their last meeting discussed the current fees with building permits and a possible reduction in those fees.

Other Business:

The Selectmen announced that Interim DPW Director Justin Bernier has lost the "Interim" off of his title. The Selectmen told Director Bernier that he has proved himself as the Director, and they have made it official.

The Selectmen will meet next week at 5pm.

Selectmen liaisons were discussed as had happened in the past. Each Selectman was assigned a department to work with, and that Department Head could discuss their needs with their Selectman Liaison Representative. Selectmen Haskins did not like this idea and wanted it to remain as is.

Selectmen Haskins will be gone next week, so the remaining two Selectmen will meet next Tuesday at 5pm.

Selectman Waldron read a letter from Resident Mike Barnett about the new Curbside Collection. Discussion ensued on all other misinformed remarks on Facebook and other media outlets in which people either did not read the letter from the Town or are spreading misinformation from others.

Selectmen Waldron wanted to discuss how to the Selectmen receive emails and letters via email. The discussion revolved around the Selectmen responding to emails and letters as individuals and those responses should not be representative as appearing to be coming from the full board of Selectmen. Selectmen should not be answering emails as a Selectman, but as a resident/taxpayer.

Selectmen Haskin/Hubbell motioned to approve the minutes from April 6, 2021. All in favor, motion passed. Minutes are approved as changed.

Selectmen Hubbell/Haskins motioned to approve the minutes from April 13th, 2021. All in favor, motion passed. Minutes are approved as changed.

- **Nonpublic Session:**

Sel. Waldron made a motion at 9:01 pm to go into nonpublic session under NH RSA 91a;3-II, (A&C) seconded by Sel. Haskins, 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 10:04 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.

The Selectmen adjourned the meeting at 10:05 pm.

Minutes were approved and accepted on May 4th.

Minutes Recorded by T/A Ken Robichaud