



NORTHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

Minutes of the meeting of June 29, 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 Raffaely, Amanda Latulippe, Kristen Vaughn, Lisa Thorne, Laura Seavey, Carl Bartlett, Ken Thomlinson, Gary Andrews, Phil Ryan, Randy Barclay,

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

We recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Waldron recognized Lieutenant Mike Hutchinson of the Northfield Police Department for his 20 years of service with the Northfield Police Department. Lt. Hutchinson started full time with the NPD on June 24, 2001. The Lt. was presented with a check for \$2,000.00 for his years of service with Northfield Police.

Sel. Waldron made a motion at 4:06pm to go into nonpublic session under NH RSA 91a;3-II, (A,C&L) seconded by Sel. Hubbell, Roll call vote Selectmen Haskins–Yes Selectman Hubbell–Yes and Selectman Waldron- Yes.

Waldron/Haskins moved to reconvene the public session at 4:54pm. Roll Call Vote, Selectman Haskins – Yes, Selectman Hubbell- Yes and Selectman Waldron-Yes, Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Waldron/Hubbell 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 Winnisquam Regional School Board (WRSB) met with the Selectmen to discuss the closing of Union-Sanborn Elementary School, (USES) in Northfield. Chairman of the WRSB Jason Stock, introduced the other members of the WRSB, present was Jon Cilley, Lance Turgeon and Christina Flanders. Mr. Stock and Mr. Cilley discussed many reasons why the school had to be closed. The WRSB began looking at the long term costs of operating the schools in the district back in 2013. In years 2016-17, they conducted an internal analysis which showed that a reduction of buildings and personnel needed to be accomplished. In 2017 a committee recommended an updated demographic study. In early 2018 a public forum on possible options, questions and concerns were addressed. Between late 2018 and early 2019 a committee recommends conducting a facility analysis of USES. In 2020 Committee recommends/board approves moving forward with the sale of USES. From February 2021 to March 2022 the WRSD will develop clear plans, schedules handbooks and procedures for moving forward. Develop a remote learning academy and expand CTE opportunity as part of the future pathways program. The Capital Improvement Committee (CIP) will begin working on a full presentation for the public includes a bond, working drawings, plans etc. for the future 2022 plan for the annual district meeting in March 2022.

There was discussion on the sale of USES as it is too costly to keep it operating. The sale of the building according to a new NH law, it must be offered to a school or a Charter school first as they would have first refusal. The WRSB would like to sell the entire building and not be in the landlord business. There was some rumors that the Town of Northfield would purchase the building for a New Town Hall, but that is only rumor, the Selectmen have no desire to purchase the building.

By the fall of 2022 the 5th grade will move over to WRMS, grade 1-8 will be five sections each, Pre-Kindergarten will be at WRHS and USS will be closed. School Ayer 2021-2022 will be the last year at USES.

If a bond is approved, capital projects from 2022-2024 will include- expanding Southwick by four classrooms, expand SCS with a small addition, also provide secure entrances for all four buildings, upgrade roofs, siding, pavement, etc. at all buildings, expand the AG program into a CTE program.

The overall plan for WRSD is to have four buildings with significant upgrades, better space utilization, and lower annual operating costs for taxpayers.

The Selectmen thanked the Winnisquam Regional School Board for joining them in discussing Union Sanborn Elementary School and the plans for Northfield.

- **Police Department Update:**

Chief Raffaelli discussed with the Selectmen the recent damage to Cruiser #19 due to an individual who slammed his head into the side of the cruiser as he was being arrested. The damage is \$1,500.00 and it will be repaired at Hanser's auto body.

The Chief asked the Selectmen if he could strip the Police Motorcycle of its emergency equipment if the Town was going to sell it. Selectman Waldron asked the Chief if he had an estimate on the value of the motorcycle, the Chief responded a few minutes later with a blue book value of \$7,000-\$10,000. The Selectmen discussed how to sell the 2010 Electra Glide; they will receive sealed bids that are most advantageous to the Town of Northfield.

- **Department of Public Works Update:**

Director Bernier discussed the backhoe that John Deere dropped off last Thursday. He asked the Selectmen if they could sign the documents, which after review of the documents Selectmen Haskins signed off on the Purchase. The John Deere Backhoe will receive a 500 hour service and the Town has a 5 year extended warranty on the machine. The Broom and tilt bucket will come later once they are received by the dealer as they are on back order, also the front fenders will be installed at the same time as well

There was discussion on the trees at Pines Park. Director Bernier received a quote from Burl Land Clearing Company for removing the trees at the park. The Park has been closed for the past week by the Selectmen as the trees are a danger. Burl quoted that they could clear most of the trees with a feller buncher which is a powerful machine that uses hydraulics to grab the tree and at the same time a saw cuts the tree then the machine lowers the tree to the ground. That quote was \$13,500.00; there will be approx. 1-2 days where a crane will be used to remove the most dangerous trees at a day rate of \$5,500.00. The total cost will be approx. \$25,000.00. The trees will be chipped by whole tree chippers and the stumps will be cut as low to the ground as possible.

The T/A reviewed with the Selectmen the costs expended so far on this project, the cost of this quote and the overall funds available for this project. The majority of the Selectmen agreed to move forward with this proposal due to the situation at Pines Park.

Justin also informed the Selectmen that tree work on Bay Hill Road will begin on July 7th and will last for several days. Traffic will be reduced to one lane from the 4 corners at Fiske Road to an area near Blueberry Hill Road.

Tree work on Shaker Road is scheduled to begin on July 12th 2021 and will cause Shaker Road to be closed from Wethersfield Road to Twin Bridge Road for several days to possibly a week. Drivers can detour the closed portion by using Fiske Road to Bay Hill Road to access the upper portion of Shaker for the week that it will be closed.

Director Bernier gave the Selectmen an updated quote on culvert pipe from Ferguson Waterworks for \$80,815.40 due to changing the type of pipe that the Town will be using on the Shaker and Bay Hill Road Projects. Piping will still take approx. 7-10 weeks to receive depending on the type of pipe, solid or perforated piping.

- **Administration Update**

Code Enforcement Report– Inspector Russ Wheeler updated the Selectmen on his duties for the month of June. Code enforcement activities were notable at 8 building inspections, 2 occupancy permits for 2 new homes, 1 new addition, 1 alteration, 2 new pools, 1 new storage building. 7 electrical permits and 5 plumbing permits were issued. CEO Wheeler spoke with 9 individuals on the phone, met with 1 individual in person and received 1 reported violation.

Health Inspector Report- Inspector Ken Robichaud updated the Selectmen on health issues in Northfield. Health activities in town were as follows- follow-up on a septic issue on Bean Hill Road revealed septic being pumped out on the ground, H.I. notified NH DES, handled a report on Glines Park about a failing septic system, addressed trash issue on Diana Road. H.I. also informed the Board of Selectmen on a new RSA that all H.I. must receive 3 hours of training and the Board of Selectmen who are the Towns Health Board must meet once per year and review the health concerns of the Town. Prior to this law the H.I. did not need any training and the Board of Health for the Town never had to meet.

The T/A presented the Selectmen the final draft of the Police Special Detail Policy for approval. This was held over from last week to give the Selectmen another week to think about the additional change. The Board of Selectmen voted to adopt the policy as presented by a 2-1 vote.

The T/A brought up for final review a Right to Know Policy as well as a RTK Request form. This was discussed last week as well and the Selectmen unanimously voted to adopt the policy and request form as presented.

The T/A presented the Solid Waste Regulations policy for review. The Selectmen discussed the violation level amount and on whose authority the violation will be issued. The Selectmen would like to see two changes; the violation amount and the Selectmen would be the appeals process so they would be removed from the enforcement section of the regulations.

The T/A informed the Selectmen that the camera security system is mostly installed and needs to be programmed with user codes. It should be ready to roll out by the end of this week.

Chairman Waldron opened Public Input @ 7PM.

Randy Barclay- would like to use two 30 gallon trash bags in place of containers.

Laura Seavey- Reconsider the 45 gallon container rule.

Phil Ryan- Would like to be able to throw away more trash.

Gary Andrews- Is requesting that DPW trim trees along the road so that he can drive his RV without damage to it.

Lisa Thorne- Question was related to the increase cost to the trash contract and what the increase was in taxes.

Kristen Vaughn- Question to the draft trash regulations and a legal review of the police detail policy.

With no more input Chairman Waldron closed the public input at 7:38 pm.

Other Business:

The T/A discussed with the Selectmen the LED conversion of streetlights in Town. This was discussed in March and The Selectmen wanted to wait until summer to discuss this. The T/A will get an updated estimate of costs for next week's meeting. Initial discussions on the total cost was around \$32,000 for total replacement of 93 streetlights, there would be a rebate from Eversource of about \$7,000.00 and a reduction in energy costs of about 50% which would be \$8,000. The cost to the Town would be \$23,000, for full streetlight replacement with a yearly savings in electricity of \$8,000.00; Payback would be in 2.3 years and the Selectmen could add or delete lights as needed. The T/A will update as he receives more information.

Discussion occurred on the stolen crosswalk sign in front of Town Hall. Should it be replaced, should the Town install rumble strips, a different type of sign or nothing at all? It was decided to install a smaller sign and permanently install it into the road.

The sign for one way travel during school hours was discussed as it is taking too long to get it from the State Department of Corrections. If it is not in production the Selectmen would like to cancel and reorder with another company. The T/A will research this.

Selectman Hubbell asked the T/A if he has contacted Comcast yet to discuss future expansion into Northfield. The T/A responded that he has not.

No further business to come before the Selectmen,

Meeting was adjourned at 8:07 pm

Minutes Recorded by T/A Ken Robichaud

Minutes were approved on July 6, 2021.