



## NORTHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

Minutes of the meeting of August 11, 2020

**Present:** Selectman Glen Brown, Selectman Scott Haskins, Selectman Kevin Waldron  
**Also Present:** Town Administrator Ken Robichaud, Asst. Town Administrator Stephanie Giovannucci, Police Chief John Raffaelli, Public Works Director Andy Buteau, with Mark Chaffee and Charles Page.  
**Present on Zoom:** None

The meeting was called to order at 5:00pm by Chairman Waldron.

- **Public Input**

No public in attendance or on Zoom.

- **Police Department**

Chief Raffaelli informed the Selectmen that his officer currently at the Police Academy will be graduating next week.

Chairman Waldron read a letter aloud from a resident to the police department thanking them for being compassionate and professional during an incident where the police assisted this resident.

Discussion on the Fireworks Ordinance in the "Village District" was done with the Selectmen wanting Mr. Robichaud to make some changes to the ordinance. Changes included redefining the Village District with naming the streets in the "Village District" and adding a permitting processes for Old Home Day and the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

Also discussed was a public hearing on this ordinance in the near future.

- **Public Works**

### **Department Updates:**

Mr. Buteau informed the Board that construction is starting on Sandogardy Road on 8/12 through 8/21 and that the road will be closed to traffic from 7am-5pm Monday through Friday.

Mr. Buteau informed the Board that the trees on Shaker Road by in front of Durgin's property are now down and the stumps have been removed.

Mr. Buteau discussed the Diana drive culverts, Board agreed that the resident will pay for the cost of the culvert and the Town will install them.

Mr. Buteau stated that he is changing out the light behind the shed and replacing it with an LED light.

Excessive rain water is breaking up the ditches on the side of the road on Knowles Pond Road, which if left unattended will damage the road in the future. Need to work on the ditches across from Blueberry Road to Knowles Farm Extension.

Sel. Haskins would like the letter from Andy to the residents of Northfield informing them who is responsible for broken mailboxes and culvert cleaning and maintenance before winter plowing begins.

Sel. Haskins asked how things went with the storm last week. Mr. Buteau informed him that they had no real issues.

Sel. Waldron asked about removal of the pine trees at the Pines, Mr. Buteau responded that the logger has not reached out to him again. Ms. Giovannucci responded that she will do some more research on local loggers.

- **Administration**

**Department Updates:**

Town Administrator Ken Robichaud requested permission from the Board of Selectmen to begin the process of utilizing town land for a solar farm project.

Sel. Brown wanted to bring up the solar proposal from a few weeks ago with Mr. Chris Knight. He believes that the board has to make a decision, if it wants to enter into a PILOT agreement with Mr. Knight, or not. The (PILOT) payment in lieu of taxes is for 20 years and will be for the solar array only. The discussion will continue after the 6pm public session.

- **Public Hearing Continuation at 6:00 pm**

Sel. Waldron reconvened the public hearing on the use of conservation properties changes to Knowles Pond area, Richard P Smart area, Sotir area, and the Granite Mills conservation area.

Mr. Charlie Page and Mr. Mark Chaffee from the Northfield Conservation Commission spoke to the Selectmen on some of the proposed changes. Mr. Page stated that wheeled vehicles, Jeeps and ATV's are ruining the trails on the Conservation areas and would like to disallow them on the trails and surrounding areas. They may have access to the frozen ponds in the winter via the boat launch as they cannot control access to the water, which is enforced by NH Fish and Game.

Sel. Waldron opened the public comment at 6:23 pm. No public comment was given; Sel. Waldron closed the public comment at 6:23 pm.

**Sel. Brown made a motion to accept the recommended changes provided by the Conservation Commission seconded by Sel. Haskins. Motion Passed with a vote of 2-1 in favor of the amended ordinances.**

**Sel. Waldron closed the public hearing on the use of conservation properties ordinances at 6:26.**

- **Continuation of Administration Update:**

Discussion continued on the PILOT agreement between the town of Northfield and Mr. Chris Knight.

**Sel. Brown** made a motion to enter into the PILOT with Mr. Knight, **seconded by Sel. Haskins**. Discussion ensued and Motion Passed with a vote of 2-1 in favor of the agreement.

The Selectmen gave the Mr. Robichaud permission to investigate utilizing town property to put in a solar field and he will begin discussions with a company he has used in the past on other solar projects.

**Sel. Waldron made a motion at 7:06 pm to go into nonpublic session under NH RSA 91a 3-II A & D, seconded by Sel. Haskins,**

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

Also present- Andy Buteau, Stephanie Giovannucci and Ken Robichaud

**Waldron/Brown** moved to reconvene the public session at 8:45 pm. **Motion passed by unanimous 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. **Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.**

- **Continuation of Administration Update:**

Mr. Robichaud informed the board that a second quote has come in from Legend Interiors on the Town Hall renovations due to the pandemic. This Proposal of \$32,750.00 is \$9,346.00 less than the proposal from Anything and Everything Home Improvement that was submitted on July 27<sup>th</sup>.

Sel. Waldron recused himself from any discussion or vote on this proposal as the owner of Legend Interiors, Mr. Mike Lemay is a close personal friend of his. Further discussion was between Sel. Brown and Sel. Haskins.

**Sel. Brown** made a motion to accept the proposal from Legend Interiors for a grand total of \$32,750.00. **Sel. Haskins** seconded the motion. **Motion passed with a 2-0 vote, Waldron abstained.**

Sel. Haskins wanted to make sure that the contractor disposed of the demo material at no cost to the town. Mr. Robichaud is to contact Mr. Lemay about the demo removal prior to construction beginning, and that there was no additional cost to the town.

Mr. Robichaud informed the Board that he wanted to put out an RFP for Janitorial Services for the Town Hall, the Police Dept. and the office and break area of the Public Works Dept. as the current person providing the services can no longer provide these services. Ad will be placed for RFP in the appropriate places.

Mr. Robichaud advised the Board of Selectmen that the Town of Belmont in partnership with Casella Waste is having a curbside bulky item pickup for residential property owners one day per month. A request for pickup must be made and paid for in advance by contacting the Belmont Town Hall. Mr. Robichaud will provide more information to the Selectmen at a future meeting, once more information is obtained.

Mrs. Giovannucci was informed by Jennie Forrester the Town Administrator from Tilton that they would like to erect two signs on the Island Bridge, one at the beginning and the second one at the opposite side, and they would like Northfield to pay one half of the cost. Discussion was and determined that Tilton can put the signs up but Northfield is not interested in paying for half of the cost.

Mrs. Giovannucci requests that The Northfield News goes from weekly online publication to a monthly online publication. The selectmen agree.

Mrs. Giovannucci requests that the Selectmen go to a one check system. This will enable residents to write one check to the town the State of NH for motor vehicle, boat and OHRV registrations, making it more convenient. The Selectmen agreed

Mrs. Giovannucci informed the Selectmen that the Planning Board is requesting the selectmen get 3 quotes for an engineering firm to assist with the Cross Mill Village development. The board has been informed previously and agrees to get the quotes.

Sel. Waldron would like Mrs. Giovannucci to look at an alternative way for town employees to accumulate and take earned time. Mrs. Giovannucci is to bring back several different scenarios at a future meeting.

- **Minutes Review**

**Haskins/Brown** moved to approve the minutes of July 28, 2020 as written. **Motion Passed.**

**Brown/Haskins** moved to approve the minutes of August 7, 2020 as written. **Motion Passed.**

There being no other business the meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.

**Minutes Approved August 18, 2020**