



NORTHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

Minutes of the meeting of October 12, 2021

Present: Selectman Kevin Waldron and Selectman Mark Hubbell.

Town Staff Present: Town Administrator Ken Robichaud, Police Chief John Raffaely, and DPW Director, Justin Bernier.

Zoom Attendees-Andrew Tiebout, Cassidy Brennen Angel Segarra and Jen Hubbell

Also Present: Ken Tomlins, Jason Durgin, Kristen Vaughan, Ryan Vaughn and Carl Bartlett.

Selectmen Waldron opened the Selectmen's Work Session at 4:00 pm.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mr. Andrew Tiebout, Angel Segarra, and Ms. Cassidy Brennen of Affinity LED lighting presented to the Selectmen the results of the Town Streetlight GIS audit. In May of this year the Selectmen voted to switch our street lights over from old outdated pressure sodium lights to more energy efficient LED streetlights. This will save the Town over 65% in energy operational costs per year.

The presentation consisted of a GIS mapping of all of the Towns streetlights compared to the Eversource ledger which is about 25 years old. The GIS mapping will allow the Town to see each lights location as well as description, wattage and pole number. The mapping showed that the Eversource list was very outdated as (5) five streetlight locations were found to have no streetlights present. At one time there were street lights there but over time they were either removed by Eversouce or the Town and they were never put back up. The Selectmen opted that the Town will receive a 6 month rebate as opposed to replacement of the lights from Eversource on these missing lights. The Town of Northfield owns the lights currently and with the replacement they will continue to own the lights.

Also discussed is that with 5 streetlights removed from the rooster, the project cost now will be reduced from \$30,396.37 to \$28,877.01. The Town will keep 3 spare lights in stock in case of an issue with a new LED light. The warranty for the lights is 10 years and 1 year for labor. Mr. Tiebout stated that these lights are made right here in NH by their company and have a replacement rate for failure at 1%. The Town does not anticipate any issues with these lights. The Town will also receive an incentive from Eversource of about \$9,000.00 which when applied will bring the total cost for the project to about \$19,877.00. Also; there is an operational reduction cost of about \$8,000.00 with a payback of about 2.5 years. Mr. Tiebout stated that the project will take about 3-5 days for installation and should be completed by Thanksgiving. The Selectmen thanked Affinity for the presentation and are excited to begin this project.

Police Department Update

The Chief informed the Selectmen that the Lieutenants cruiser is at Irwin Ford in Laconia due to an issue with loss of power while driving it. They are currently investigating the issue.

Public Works Department Update

Director Bernier informed the Selectmen that the State of NH Railroad Department informed him that they will only be doing one railroad crossing this year. Sargent Street will be completed this year and the remaining two

will be done in 2022. Selectmen Hubbell had an issue with this as the State continues to force the Town to pay for things that they should not have to pay for. It's their railroad not ours we should not have to fork over our tax dollars for their upgrades.

Director Bernier updated the Selectmen as he would like to purchase 8 tires for two trucks for approx. \$2,645.44. This amount is only for the tires not mounted and balanced, as we can do that later.

Director Bernier informed the Selectmen on the recent asphalt shimming projects that have occurred on Blueberry Lane, Shaker Road and Knowles Pond Road.

The Tilt bucket on the Backhoe has been installed and John Deere Service Department has been very responsive to the DPW needs.

Administration Update

Town Administrator Robichaud informed the Selectmen that he received the 2022 rates for Dental, Short Term Disability, Long Term Disability, and Life Insurance from HealthTrust. The Selectmen agreed to continue with the program and the current providers.

The Town Administrator informed the Selectmen that he has received the Return of Surplus from HealthTrust our provider for Dental and Short Term Disability Insurance. The Town will receive \$2,020.01 from the return of surplus.

The Administrator informed the Selectmen that the grant requirements for the Emergency Management Center (EMC) generator can be changed but only minor changes can occur. A change of wattage from 60 KWH to 45 KWH is a major change, therefore may not occur. The Selectmen will leave the size as is.

Selectman Hubbell stated that the Town Administrator put together a document for the Selectmen to review on having a Committee for Pines Park. The Selectmen agreed to have no more than 5 members and members must be residents of the Town to join. The Selectmen also would like to encourage all to give input to the changes at the Park.

The Selectmen discussed the current makeup of Old Home Day Committee and they agree that a change in the makeup of the committee must happen before they will be on board next year. They have asked the Town Administrator to prepare a letter for next week's meeting. The Selectmen discussed Northfield having their own day in the fall as well as a joint day with Tilton in June, but the Selectmen need to have some oversight of this committee.

Selectman Hubbell asked if they could move other business and Public Input to before non-public so that people are not waiting around after the nonpublic portion of the meeting. Selectmen Waldron stated that the agenda is a fluid document and we can move items around as needed.

Public Input

Jason Durgin- would like to be able to pass on information during the meeting either by a raise of hand or some other opportunity. Thinks that the Town should have their own day in the fall, as well.

Ken Tomlins- spoke to the opening of Mill City Kayak Park in Franklin and the possibility of large impact on Cross Mill Road in Northfield.

Kristen Vaughn- She would like to have a fall old home day as well but not totally separating from Tilton because of funding for fireworks, and although she is a taxpayer she doesn't live in Northfield yet and would like to be on the committee.

Other Business:

The Selectmen brought up the web page of Mills Falls Park and what the impact may be on Cross Mill Falls Road.

Internet access was brought up again and what if any underserved may be in Northfield and what that might look like, and trying to get other towns involved to make it more cost affordable. There is currently NH Electric Cooperative and Live Free NH who are looking at increasing Broadband access to underserved people as well as increasing internet speeds and access to it. We will continue to review all options in the coming months.

Selectman Hubbell discussed an asphalt sidewalk from Summer Street going down Dearborn Ave. to Park Street and the cost would not be astronomical it should be fairly inexpensive.

The Town Administrator asked if we could look at paving from the beginning of Shaker Road to Fiske Road as we will pave Fiske Road to Twin Bridge as it is already scheduled so if we could add that piece as well.

The Selectmen will look at Capital Items next week for the 2022 budget.

Sel. Waldron made a motion at 5:41 pm to go into nonpublic session under NH RSA 91a; 3-II, (A,C) seconded by Sel. Hubbell. Roll call vote–Selectman Hubbell–Yes and Selectman Waldron- Yes.

Waldron/Hubbell moved to reconvene the public session at 6:22 pm. Roll Call Vote, 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 Hubbell –Yes and Selectman Waldron-Yes. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote and the minutes are hereby sealed.

Approval of Minutes-

Selectman Waldron/Hubbell motioned to approve the minutes of September 28, 2021 as presented. All in favor, motion passed.

Selectman Waldron/Hubbell motioned to approve the minutes of October 5th 2021 as presented. All in favor, motion passed.

With no further business to come before the Board of Selectmen this Meeting was adjourned at 6:25 pm.

Minutes Recorded by Town Administrator-Ken Robichaud

Minutes voted and approved on 10/19/2021.