



NORTHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

Minutes of the meeting of October 25, 2022

Present: Selectman Mark Hubbell, Selectman Jason Durgin and Selectman Kevin Waldron.

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

Selectmen Durgin opened the Selectmen's Work Session at 5:00 pm.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Payroll for this week is \$20,903.00 and A/P is \$39,083.00.

Police Department Update

Chief Raffaely informed the Selectmen on the garage doors at the Police Department. It appears that the doors open on their own at times, or with a garage door opener from someone's garage door that is not associated with the Police Department. Laurent Doors are looking into the problem.

The Fire Department did an inspection of the Police Station and did not like what they saw. There are multiple issues that need correction. There is simple thing that need to be corrected for instance, batteries in the exit signs are dead and need to be replaced. Wiring in the basement needs to be moved, so the Chief is starting to address these issues. He will inform the Selectmen at a later date of the entire list that needs to be addressed.

There is interest from a certified officer who would like to come to Northfield to work, Chief Raffaely will meet with him next week to discuss this further.

Department of Public Works

Director Bernier is not in attendance this week as he will be having oral surgery early on Wednesday. But Selectman Durgin would like to provide an update to the Board. United Parcel Service is putting up a \$50,000.00 bond for repairs to the road on South Park Drive. As stated at last week's meeting, the contractor hired by UPS, opened up the road without a permit. Last week Hiltz Construction, dug a trench across the road and installed water lines and then filled in the cut with gravel. In the town of Northfield, a permit is required, in order to dig in the towns right of way and or road. This did not happen, as the contractor thought that a UPS representative had pulled the permits needed to make the cut in the road. UPS representative Dan Girsh, told the Selectmen at last week's meeting that they, will do whatever is needed, to make things right. Mr. Girsh informed Director Bernier that UPS will provide the Town with a \$50,000.00 insurance bond and will make the repairs in the spring of 2023.

The Town Administrator brought up municipal leases as was discussed last week. Franklin Savings Bank came back with a 5.6% interest rate on a \$450,000.00 lease for two 6-wheel dump trucks and a pickup truck all outfitted with plows, wings, and sanders. The payment would be around \$120,000.00 per year.

Administration

The Town Administrator brought up to the Selectmen that he just returned from a full day of training for Town Health Officers, and he got a lot out of that training. The topics were Junkyards vs. Junky Yards, Conflict Management and De-escalation, Asbestos in Schools, and Meth Labs and Health Inspections, what to look for. It was good training and glad he wants to it.

The Administrator informed the Selectmen that because of the Water District and the TN Fire Department water issues and costs, the setting of the tax rate will be behind this year. Because of the lack of appropriate funding of water for hydrants. Because of this we will have to draw on a Tax Anticipation Note or TAN probably in early November. We hope to send out tax bills before the end of November as we need 30 days for the return of tax money it also needs to be before January of 2023.

The Administrator updated the Selectmen on the 2023 budget. He is almost completed and is reviewing the budget prior to sending it to the Selectmen. The Administrator hopes to have it ready for next Tuesday, if not then by the following week.

The Town is almost completed in switching the email address from www.northfieldnh.org to www.northfieldnh.gov. This gives the town a more secure portal for the Town.

Durgin/Waldron motioned to accept the minutes of October 18th, 2022, with the corrections, all in favor, Motion passed.

Other Business

Selectman Waldron brought up a letter that he found on Facebook and asked Selectman Durgin if he had seen the letter. Durgin responded that he knew it existed but had not yet seen the letter. Waldron asked how did he find out about it? Durgin explained, John told me about it. Waldron wondered why he did not know about it. It was addressed to the Selectmen. Police Chief John Raffaelly explained that he told the Selectmen about the letter. Waldron stated that he was not told about it. Selectman Waldron asked the Town Administrator if he had received the letter. The Administrator stated that he would not answer any questions about this in public, they would have to go into nonpublic for any answers from him. More discussion on this continued on 91-A, and where did the letter go? Selectman Waldron read out loud the 91-A It was decided to wait for Selectman

Public Input

Kristen Vaughn- Is surprised that the letter was not received. Update on the hiring of the Police Chief.

Ken Tomlin- Letter passed along to others. You should have had a copy of the letter.

Selectman Hubbell came into the meeting at this time and took the Chairman seat.

Selectman Hubbell explained the letter that is being discussed. He stated that the Town Administrator brought this up to me a week ago Monday, and I wanted to bring it up to the board last Tuesday, but I forgot because we got sidetracked with the ARPA discussion. More discussion went on about the path of the letter.

Second Public Input

Kristen Vaughn- Feels that the letter sat here is horrific and not passed on. Nothing is being considered for a new Police Chief.

Ken Tomlins- The letter was received 3 weeks ago I find that horrible. It looks rotten to the core.

Selectman Hubbell recesses the meeting at 6:04 pm.

Selectman Hubbell reconvenes the meeting at 6:08 pm.

Other Business

Sel. Hubbell made a motion at 6:12 pm to go into nonpublic session under NH RSA 91a; 3-II, (A, C) seconded by Sel. Durgin. Roll call vote–Selectman Waldron–No, Selectman Hubbell- Yes. Selectman Durgin – Yes. Motion passed by a 2-1 vote.

Hubbell/Durgin motioned to reconvene the public session at 7:14 pm. Roll Call Vote, Selectman Waldron-Yes, and Selectman Hubbell-Yes, Selectman Durgin – Yes. Motion passed by a 3-0 roll call vote.

Hubbell/Durgin 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 Waldron–No, Selectman Durgin – Yes, and Selectman Hubbell -Yes. Motion passed by a 2-1 roll call vote and the minutes are hereby sealed.

Selectman Hubbell adjourned the meeting at 7:16 pm

Minutes Recorded by Town Administrator-Ken Robichaud

Minutes voted and approved on November 1, 2022 by a unanimous vote.