



## **NORTHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING**

Minutes of the meeting of January 17th, 2023

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

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

**Others Present:** Ken Tomlin, Kristen Vaughn.

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Payroll for this week is \$23,286.00 and A/P is \$40,970.00.

### **Police Department Update**

Chief Raffaely informed the Selectmen that he is getting quotes for the bathrooms at the Police Department as they need updating.

The Chief would like to swear in the new officer at next week's meeting.

Selectmen Waldron asked about the progress on the Barracuda. The Town Administrator answered that the Lt. is still getting quotes and he will be here next week to discuss this. The Chief added that if the Selectmen have more questions after the presentation they should direct them to the IT provider, as he is a Police Officer and not an IT professional.

### **Department of Public Works**

Director Bernier stated that he is still waiting for two more quotes on the culvert repair for Industrial Way.

### **Administration**

Administrator Robichaud and Finance Director Giovannucci reviewed the upcoming Warrant Articles with the Selectmen. Selectmen Waldron asked where these amounts come from. Administrator Robichaud explained that he and Giovannucci put them together from past meeting discussions, discussion from last weeks meeting as well as overall review of the proposed tax increase that these articles will have on the tax rate and from the amount in the fund balance. The Warrant was reviewed with some questions on some of the Articles, but the most discussion was on Article 21. This Article is on increasing the elderly and disability exemptions. In 2022 the Town went through a townwide revaluation which increased the property values in Town. While the values increased this would put the elderly and disabled persons with a large tax increase.

Finance Director Giovannucci explained that she created a spreadsheet with a formula that would bring the elderly and disabled almost back to where they were prior to the revaluation, this in turn allowed some to remain with no increase and others are looking at a \$400-\$500.00 increase on their tax bill. Giovannucci stated that most are on fixed incomes, and some went without heat or had to give up other things so they could pay their taxes. The Selectmen discussed this Article at great length with no changes made to this article.

## **Review Minutes**

**Hubbell/Durgin motioned to accept the minutes of January 10, 2023, all in favor, motioned passed.**

## **Other Business**

Selectmen Hubbell asked Director Bernier if he knew anything about a cemetery on Stevens Road. Bernier stated he did not, but it may be a private cemetery. Hubbell stated that it needed to be cared for as it was in rough shape.

Chairman Hubbell announced that the New Hampshire Association of Police Chiefs (NHACOP) has been hired to conduct a search for a new Police Chief. The agency will conduct a national search conduct preliminary review of all resumes submitted, ensure that all minimal qualifications are met, as well as provide a board of 3 Chiefs of Police to conduct oral board interviews, and then will submit to the Selectmen the top 3-5 choices for the Selectmen to conduct interviews. Once the top applicant is offered a “Conditional offer of employment” NHACOP will conduct background investigations, polygraph test, psychological exam as well as a fitness test.

The Selectmen also added new language to the Police Chief advertisement as well.

**Durgin/Hubbell motioned to sign the contract for NHACOP to conduct a search for a new Police Chief, discussion was Selectmen Waldron was opposed to having only one Selectmen sign the agreement. Selectman Durgin stated that there were many times the Chairman signed a contract as the only signature. Motioned passed by a vote of 2-1.**

## **Public Input 6:15 pm**

**Ken Tomlin- How long will the Police Chief search take? Can we put money aside for Body Cam’s?**

**Kristen Vaughn- Is there an end date to the ad? Is the contract a public document?**

Selectman Hubbell closed public input at 6:18pm

Selectman Hubbell recessed the meeting at 6:19pm

Selectman Hubbell reconvened the meeting at 6:26 pm

**Sel. Hubbell made a motion at 6:26 pm to go into nonpublic session under NH RSA 91a; 3-II, ( B ) seconded by Sel. Waldron. Roll call vote–Selectman Waldron–Yes, Selectman Hubbell- Yes. Selectman Durgin – Yes. Motion passed by a 3-0 vote.**

**Hubbell/Waldron motioned to reconvene the public session at 6:50 pm. Roll Call Vote, Selectman Waldron-Yes, and Selectman Hubbell-Yes, Selectman Durgin – Yes. Motion passed by a 3-0 roll call vote.**

**Hubbell/Waldron 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–Yes, Selectman Durgin – Yes, and Selectman Hubbell -Yes. Motion passed by a 3-0 roll call vote and the minutes are hereby sealed.**

Selectmen Waldron spoke to an email that he received about 4.45 billion dollars to be used for underserved and unserved communities for broadband internet.

Chairman Hubbell adjourned the meeting at 6:56 pm.

**Minutes Recorded by Town Administrator-Ken Robichaud**

**Minutes voted and approved on January 31, 2023.**