



NORTHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

Minutes of the meeting of December 6, 2022

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

Town Staff Present: Town Administrator Ken Robichaud, Asst. Town Administrator Stephanie Giovannucci and DPW Director Justin Bernier.

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Payroll for this week is \$15,146.00 and A/P is \$21,549.00

Administration

Asst. Town Administrator Stephanie Giovannucci informed the Selectmen that she has received many phone calls as well as personnel visits from elderly residents of Northfield on the tax increase due to the reassessment of the Town since 2022 was our 5-year cyclical reassessment of all properties in town. The Town currently has approx. 62 residents receiving an elderly exemption based on age and total assets of the resident. These residents are usually on a fixed income and receive reductions on taxes based on assets and age requirements. Because of the revaluation they may not be able to pay their taxes. The Selectmen were asked to allow the Town to waive interest on any resident currently on this program as long as they make payments towards the taxes that are owed. **The Selectmen agreed to allow this on a case-by-case basis and the resident must continue to make their agreed upon payment each month in order to waive the interest penalty.**

Department of Public Works

Director Bernier requested that the Boot reimbursement allowance be raised from \$100.00 to \$200.00 per DPW employee. The reason is that the employee needs a strong, steel toe reinforced boot and those boot prices are rising in costs. Selectman Waldron asked what does the written policy state. The Administrator answered that there is no written policy for this. It was agreed that there should be a written policy for this, and the Town Administrator will bring something to the Selectmen as soon as possible. Selectmen Hubbell and Durgin agreed on raising the reimbursement amount from \$100.00 to \$200.00 per employee, per year. Selectman Waldron stated that he thought the Fire Department receives \$150.00 per employee so that is where he is on this.

Town Administrator Robichaud informed the Selectmen that he met with Merrimack County Administrator Ross Cunningham on the possibility that the Town may not be able to make its payment commitment of county taxes by December 19th as stipulated in NH Revised Statute Annotated. He will keep Administrator Cunningham updated to the Towns progress with this payment.

Robichaud updated the Selectmen on the Police Chief Search Committee progress.

Budget Review

Selectman Waldron asked questions on the DPW Salary line, Diesel Fuel line, Radio Maintenance line, and the Contract Line Painting. After receiving the answers to his questions from Director Bernier and Administrator Robichaud, the Selectmen changed the line to, Line Painting and reduced that line to \$1,500.00 from \$2,000.00.

Selectman Waldron asked questions on the Town Clerk Salary, and New Equipment, after receiving answers the Selectmen reduced this line to \$1.00 from \$1,400.00. There were further discussions on Planning and Zoning Legal line, LRPC line, as well as the Towns Legal Line, Park Cemetery and Youth Assistance Program, there were no other reviews or changes made.

Review Minutes

Durgin/Hubbell motioned to accept the minutes of November 22, 2022, all in favor, motioned passed as amended.

Other Business

Selectman Hubbell asked the Town Administrator if he would reach out to his Electric Coop contact to see where they are with the buildout of High-Speed Broadband.

Selectman Hubbell asked the Town Administrator if he has received quotes on replacing the roof shingles on the Town Hall roof. Robichaud stated that he has not yet received anything but will reach out to the Companies.

Selectman Hubbell opened up Public Input at 6:24 pm

Public Input

Representative Jason Gerhard- spoke to the State of Iowa **gives** High school students credit for mowing the elderly's lawn and such. Also, wanted to help with legislation on not allowing Districts to slow the tax rate setting process of a Town.

Chairman Hubbell closed public input at 6:26 pm

The Town Administrator announced that he was the recipient of the 2022 New Hampshire Municipal Association's "Advocate of the Year" Award. This award is given to a municipal employee that goes above and beyond while advocating for the municipality's best interests. There are over 231 Towns and Cities in NH and award it to only one individual. He received this award at the NHMA annual conference in November. The Selectmen congratulated Administrator Robichaud for this achievement.

Selectman Hubbell adjourned the meeting at 6:30 pm

Minutes Recorded by Town Administrator-Ken Robichaud

Minutes approved December 13, 2022