



NORTHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

Minutes of the meeting of February 15, 2022

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

Town Staff Present: Town Administrator Ken Robichaud, Police Lieutenant Mike Hutchinson and DPW Director Justin Bernier.

Also Present: Ken Tomlin, Kristen Vaughn, Will Perez, Mark Hebert, David and Nancy Court, Heather Durgin and Victoria Charter

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Payroll for week ending 2/19/2022 is \$15,714.00 and A/P is \$40,768.00.

Police Department Update

Lt. Hutchinson reported that the new cruiser is at Global getting outfitted for emergency lighting, it is scheduled to be worked on next week. We should have the vehicle here by the end of this month.

Lt. Hutchinson reported to the Selectmen that the Town of Bristol will purchase a vest from Northfield for our former officer who left and went to work for Bristol.

Also reported was Northfield Police Officer Anna Doherty, is at the NH Police Academy and doing well. she did have a slight mishap while running but is okay and will remain in the Academy.

Department of Public Works Update

Director Bernier has been busy with snow removal and is getting things ready for this week's rainstorm on Friday.

Discussion on "pushing snow across the road" was brought back up again this week. The Town Administrator passed out an ordinance from 1993 that spoke to this action already. He also crafted another policy that spoke to the same action. Both policies were reviewed and discussed. Also found was a current Highway Ordinance from 2006, that has Article II "Deposit of Materials in Road" which was also briefly discussed. It was decided that the Town Administrator would look back to see if the 1993 Ordinance is still in effect.

Director Bernier discussed with the Selectmen, road paving plans for this summer. Discussed was overlay of Cross Mill Road & Hodgdon Road. Grind and Pave Bay Hill Road, Shaker Road, Keyser Road from Bean Hill to Turnpike Road, and Union Road. Discussion and costs were discussed and do we need to put out an RFP. After the discussion it was decided to put the project out for RFP and get the costs on each road so that we may have more than one paving company providing the service.

Director Bernier brought up engineering for stormwater on the roads for next year's work. It was decided to get pricing from local companies if we send the measurements of the roads.

Selectman Hubbell brought up the GIS mapping that we are currently building. This will be a 3–5-year project of building the mapping systems. Once completed the maps could show streetlights, culverts, road drainage systems, water piping, sewer piping all located underground, but mapped out from GPS points. Selectman Hubbell wanted to ensure that we keep track of our projects; so that when this mapping goes online we ensure that this data gets uploaded to the mapping software.

Administration Update

The Town Administrator presented the new purchasing policy to the Selectmen for signatures. There was discussion on this as Selectmen Waldron was not in attendance last week when this was discussed. Selectmen Hubbell stated that this was voted on and approved last week, but he would be willing to discuss it again. Selectman Waldron said that he would make a statement once we get to other business. Selectmen Hubbell and Durgin signed the policy.

Administrator Robichaud informed the Selectmen that Waypoint child and Family Services has received a \$17,000.00 donation from NH Chronicle, which is a WMUR show, which sold 20th anniversary Christmas ornaments and donated the proceeds to Waypoint Services. Waypoint is an outside agency that requested money from the Town each year. Waypoint requested \$3,500.00 in 2021, and again in 2022. The Selectmen and the Budget Committee did not fund this agency in the 2022 budget.

Lakes Region Planning Commission informed the Selectmen that a Board of Directors position is due to expire in 2022 around election time. The Selectmen will review all Board appointments at their organizational meeting on March 15th, 2022.

6 PM Selectman Waldron opens up the Public Hearing on a Petioned Warrant Article per NH RSA 41:8-c.

Selectman Waldron asks Town Administrator Robichaud to read into the record **NH RSA 41:8-e Effective Date and Manner of Increase or Decrease.** – If a town votes to enlarge or to decrease its board of selectmen the change does not take effect in either case until the first annual meeting following the meeting at which the questions were acted upon. If the town votes to enlarge the board to 5 members, at the first annual meeting following the meeting when the action was taken the town shall elect 2 members for a 3-year term and one member for a one-year term. At the next succeeding annual meeting 2 members shall be elected for a 3-year term, at the next following annual meeting one member shall be elected for a 3-year term, and at succeeding annual meetings members shall be elected to fill the vacancies regularly occurring. If a town votes to decrease its board to 3 members, at the annual meeting following the meeting at which it so voted, the terms of office of all members of the board of selectmen shall end and the town shall elect 3 members of the board of selectmen, one for one year, one for 2 years, one for 3 years and at all succeeding annual meetings shall elect a member to the board for a 3-year term.

The Selectmen discuss their opinions on increasing the Board of Selectmen to 5. All three Selectmen were against doing this for many different reasons.

Selectman Waldron opened it up to the public to speak on the Article. He invited Victoria Charter to speak to her Petioned Warrant Article first.

Victoria Charter- Stated that we need 5 Selectmen as they would have more opinions on discussions. Ms. Charter named 5 towns that have 5 Selectmen currently. And the current board had only 2 for most of the summer.

Heather Durgin-Wanted to know the populations of the Towns that Ms. Charter named. She also stated that she doesn't believe we need 5 members.

Nancy Court- Does not think that Northfield needs 5 Selectmen either. We are a small Town 3 is enough.

Will Perez- Would like to know the issue surrounding the need for 5 Selectmen.

Mark Hebert- Believes that we need more research on the subject. Also, would like to know Selectman Waldron's thoughts on the issue.

Kristen Vaughn- asks what the current vacancies on the Town Boards are.

David Court- Would like to know if there is a drive behind the Petioned Warrant Article for anyone.

Selectman Waldron closed the Public Hearing at 6:56 pm.

Selectman Waldron Recessed the meeting at 7:01pm.

Selectman Waldron reconvened the meeting at 7:07pm

Selectman Waldron open public input- There was no input from the public at this time.

Other Business

Selectman Waldron spoke to last week's meeting. He stated that he had asked the Selectmen to not make any big decisions while he was out. These motions that were made last week, did not need to have occurred last week, they were not emergencies and therefore could have waited until this week's meeting. He felt that this was done too quickly and that he could have come in, but did not, out of respect for the other Selectmen. The Selectmen discussed what happened last week and the other two Selectmen felt that this needed to happen last week.

The Town Administrator asked the Selectmen if it would be appropriate for him to comment on the Petitioned Warrant Article to increase the Board of Selectmen to 5 members. The Selectmen said "yes". As the Town Administrator I have worked the last 20 years with Boards that consist of only 3 members. It would be a challenge to have 5 members on the Selectmen as it would create more work as the Administrator, and people don't realize how much time it takes to perform this job. As Selectmen you meet each week for 4-6 hours, as well as spending additional hours, reading material throughout the week, preparing for the weekly meeting. The job is more than just Tuesday night, it's a big-time commitment. I believe that 5 would slow everything down and there would longer discussions on items that are before the Selectmen. It would all depend on the personalities on the Board, it would be more of a hindrance than a benefit for this Town.

Selectman Hubbell/Durgin motioned to accept the minutes of February 8th, 2022, meeting as presented, all in favor, motion passed.

Sel. Waldron made a motion at 7:22 pm to go into nonpublic session under NH RSA 91a; 3-II, (B,C& L) seconded by Sel. Durgin. Roll call vote–Selectman Hubbell–Yes, Selectman Durgin-Yes, and Selectman Waldron- Yes.

Waldron/Hubbell moved to reconvene the public session at 9:34 pm. Roll Call Vote, Selectman Hubbell-Yes, Selectman Durgin -Yes, and Selectman Waldron-Yes, Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

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

Other Business

Next week's meeting Tuesday February 22nd will be at 5pm.

With no further business to come before the Board of Selectmen, this meeting was adjourned at 9:35 pm.

Minutes Recorded by Town Administrator-Ken Robichaud

Minutes voted and approved on February 22, 2022.