



# **NORTHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING**

Minutes of the meeting of February 16th, 2023

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

**Town Staff Present:** Town Administrator Ken Robichaud, DPW Director Justin Bernier.

**Others Present:** Ken Tomlin, Gretchen Wilder, Ross Cunningham, Anita Hernandez, and Scott Haskins.

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Payroll for this week is \$24,287.00 and A/P is \$446,094.00

## **Department of Public Works**

Director Bernier informed the Selectmen that truck #17 was picked up by the salvage company today. They needed to sign off on the title and send the title and the keys to Insurance Auto Company once they receive it. Primex will cut the check for replacement.

Selectman Hubbell brought up the sander hanger at the DPW. This hanger is in dire need of replacement. Discussion on a new sander hanger began as this has been in disrepair for several years now. Selectman Durgin brought up that we should look into a steel building as we need more room at the DPW, and my idea is that we would build a 40x60 steel building and have on one side an overhang where we could put the sanders under it. We could adjust the size of the building larger or smaller as we discuss this, steel buildings are less costly than traditional buildings. Also, we could have it on a slab or floating slab, it is just a thought for further discussion. Selectman Hubbell asked for pricing on these buildings if we spend \$65,000.00 or \$80,000.00 on a sander hanger we can probably buy a steel building and incorporate a sander hanger within the building.

Administrator Robichaud brought up the culvert replacement engineering plans and costs. Director Bernier said that he is still waiting for HEB quote.

## **Administration**

Robichaud stated that he has updated the Selectmen's budget sheets from the last Budget Committee meeting, and he has given those to the Selectmen.

Selectmen Waldron asked what the cost to the tax rate if all the warrant articles pass. The Town Administrator said the cost would be \$.80 cents per \$1,000. Selectman Waldron discussed with the Selectmen what are savings to the budget for unfilled positions.

Selectmen Hubbell asked for people to look at the School and Fire Districts for huge increases to our taxes.

## **Review Minutes**

**Durgin/Hubbell** motioned to accept the minutes of February 7<sup>th</sup> 2023 there was no discussion, **all in favor, motioned passed.**

## **Other Business**

Last week we heard from Standard Power on community power agreements, in which residents can save on their electric bills by aggregating everyone's kilowatt hours and to purchase electricity in larger blocks which in theory will cost less by buying in bulk. The Selectmen will continue to look at this moving forward.

With the cold blast of arctic air last weekend, the Emergency Shelter was opened at the Pines Community Center, no one went to the shelter. There was some discussion on it and how will it operate, currently there are no guidelines, policy, or procedures on operations. The Selectmen feel that there should be some operational guidelines in place on how to staff it and who will pay for the staffing of the center. The Town Administrator will reach out to the Director of the Pines Community Center on how we can help them in the future.

### **Public Input**

No public input

The Selectmen will return after the public hearing by the budget committee to review the warrant articles.

Chairman Hubbell recessed the meeting at 5:41 pm.

Chairman Hubbell reconvened the meeting at 6:58 pm.

### **Public Hearing on the Warrant Articles-**

Gretchen Wilder questioned the warrant articles and every year there is confusion on what they all mean and how does anyone decide on them. There should be a guide on what these are.

Anita Hernandez spoke to article #20 on making a portion of hidden lane a class VI road from a class V road. Ms. Hernandez was worried about gates and bars. The Selectmen assured her that this is just a legal term “subject to gates and bars”.

Scott Haskins spoke to the petitioned warrant articles and if the author of the articles will be at Town Meeting to explain them.

Ms. Wilder spoke to article# 21 and if this will help the elderly.

The Selectmen spoke to article #22 as the budget committee at the public hearing changed the amount of the 2023 budget by \$1.00. **Hubbell/Durgin motioned to amend article #22 by \$1.00 to \$3,813,092.00. all in favor, motion passes.**

A majority of the Selectmen signed the warrant articles.

**Chairman Hubbell opened the public hearing on the petitioned warrant article # 24- to increase the board of Selectmen from 3 members to 5 members at 7:15pm. There was no input, Chairman Hubbell closed the public hearing at 7:15 pm.**

Chairman Hubbell adjourned the meeting at 7:17 pm.

**Minutes voted and approved on 2/21/2023.**