



NORTHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

Minutes of the meeting of February 21st, 2023

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

Town Staff Present: Town Administrator Ken Robichaud, Police Chief John Raffaely and Police Lt. Mike Hutchinson.

Others Present: Ken Tomlin, & State Representative Jason Gerhard.

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Payroll for this week is \$23,922.00 and A/P is \$67,563.00

Police Department Update-

Chief Raffaely informed the Selectmen that he is still waiting for the 3rd quote for security cameras. They have two so far. Selectmen Durgin asked if we put money in the budget for these cameras? Town Administrator Robichaud answered "no". Selectmen Hubbell asked if we put money in for repairs to the bathrooms and Administrator Robichaud answered "Yes" \$8,000.00.

Department of Public Works Update-

None

Administration

Administrator Robichaud informed the Selectmen that after last week's public hearing on the budget and warrant articles I was clear to him that a lot of people did not understand what some of the articles were and why we were bringing them forward. Robichaud informed the Selectmen that he had created a two-page document that explained briefly what each of the warrant articles are and had a brief summary of why we are asking for them. Selectman Waldron asked Robichaud if he got permission from the Selectmen to put items on the website before? Robichaud stated "no he normally does not", but he felt that it was the Selectmen's warrants, so he just wanted to have input on this before he just did it. Robichaud just wanted to inform the public of these articles. All three Selectmen were okay with this.

Selectman Hubbell asked Robichaud if he reached out to the Director of the Pines Community Center on what occurred during the cold weather that plagued Northfield two weekends ago. He stated that he did, and he will have more information next meeting, he was waiting for some financial information from her on Wednesday.

Review Minutes

Durgin/Hubbell motioned to accept the minutes of February 16th 2023 there was no discussion, all in favor, motioned passed.

Other Business

Selectman Waldron brought up the meeting that he missed on February 7th and those minutes were voted and approved on the meeting of the 16th. He did not attend the meeting and he did not read those minutes; he has since read them, and he understands that the other two Selectmen entered into a lease for a truck. This goes against what the Town meeting wanted, and you always say that we do what the Town wants, we have a fund

that we put money into each year so that we can buy a truck without incurring extra costs. Selectmen Hubbell stated that you said you were for it, the meeting before, Waldron said no, I was for the idea of getting a larger truck, but not leasing. Selectman Durgin said that this is not a written policy that we have, Waldron said this has been a practice in the past, and if he had attended that meeting, he would have voted no. Durgin responded that voting no, would not have changed the outcome at all on this vote.

Durgin and Hubbell stated that we had a truck catch fire and burn, if this is not an emergency, I don't know what is. We are leasing this for the first year and the idea is to pay it off the following year using fund balance.

We have done this in the past with other vehicles and we can continue to do this, there is no written policy, but we have an RSA that allows us to do this, it makes sense to not spend a huge amount of money all at once, if we don't have it, we need a truck, so we are getting a truck.

They had 3 trucks that they were upfitting and so we had to put our name on one of them, Hubbell replied, or we will be waiting over a year or two for a truck, so we had to act fast. Hubbell stated again that we spoke of leasing at the meeting prior to the one you missed. Waldron again claimed that he would never want to lease.

Articles at Town Meeting- Selectman Durgin wanted to discuss the assignment of who would be speaking to what articles at Town Meeting. The following is the list of speakers-

Administrator Robichaud- Articles- 6,7,13,14,18,and 19.

Selectmen Hubbell- Articles - 8,9,15 &16.

Selectmen Durgin- Articles- 10,11, & 20

Selectman Waldron- Articles- 12, & 17

Finance Director Stephanie Giovannucci- Articles-21

Public Input

State Representative Jason Gerhard- spoke to if he could get information from the police department on their statistical data, he wants to start a newspaper of some sort and believes that this would be useful information.

Sel. Hubbell made a motion at 5:30 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 6:40pm. Roll Call Vote, Selectman Waldron-Yes, and Selectman Hubbell-Yes, Selectman Durgin – Yes. Motion passed by a 3-0 roll call vote.

Selectman Hubbell stated that while in nonpublic under NH RSA 91a; 3-II, “B” exemption they also had a NH RSA 91a; 3-II, “C” exemption, and wanted to make that known.

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.

Chairman Hubbell adjourned the meeting at 6:41pm.

Minutes voted and approved on March 7, 2023.