



NORTHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

Minutes of the meeting of February 7th, 2023

Present: Selectman Mark Hubbell, and Selectman Jason Durgin

Town Staff Present: Town Administrator Ken Robichaud, DPW Director Justin Bernier, Police Chief John Raffaelly.

Others Present: Ken Tomlin, Ryan Polson

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Payroll for this week is \$23,023.00 and A/P is \$87,652.00.

Ryan Polson Senior Consultant for Standard Power gave a presentation to the Selectmen on Community Power for the Town of Northfield. In his presentation Polson and his team have been working with Cities and Towns in the State of NH by securing competitive pricing on electricity. The program has been successful in Massachusetts, and they have been working with the City of Keene, and the Town of Swanzey NH most recently to establish energy committees in which the Town sets what type of program and markets they wish to utilize in purchasing their electricity. Once this is done Town residents will have an option to sign up to either go onto the program or not. The more residents that take advantage of the program may realize higher savings by pooling demand across the entire town may generate more buying power. Most people have left Eversource as their electric supplier and have gone to a third-party supplier of electricity. Although, Eversource will still be the responsible party for line maintenance as well as the biller for third party suppliers.

The Selectmen will consider this at a later date, as nothing can be done until 2024, as this must go to Town Meeting and there is little time for this year.

Police Department Update

Chief Raffaelly had nothing to discuss with the Selectmen in the public meeting session. He did have something for non-public.

Department of Public Works

Director Bernier presented a sales quote for a new International CV truck that the Selectmen needed to sign. The cost of the new CV truck is \$164,500.00. They discussed the insurance payout from the 2017 F-550 that caught fire and is a total loss. The payout is \$64,817.00 and the Town will keep the sander that is on the truck, which the value of the sander is \$3,513.00, if this is the case the Town will receive \$61,304.00 and retain the sander. The Selectmen continued to discuss the options available in leasing the truck.

Selectmen Hubbell/Durgin motioned to enter into a tax-exempt lease with Franklin Savings Bank for 3 years and use the insurance settlement to offset the new trucks cost. All were in favor of the motion, motion passed.

Town Administrator Robichaud brought up for discussion DPW salt use and spending at this point in the year. In 2022 salt use for the first three months of the year was \$45,000.00. In 2023 to date, we have used \$32,000.00

for the month of January. In 2022 the budget was \$85,000.00, in 2023 the budget is currently at \$76,000.00. Robichaud stated that we have two ways to do this at this point, we can let it ride and if we go over we can find funds elsewhere in the budget, or we can talk to the Budget Committee on Thursday and ask for more funding as the budget has not passed yet. After the discussion the Selectmen agreed to ask the Budget Committee for more funds on Thursday night.

Administration

Administrator Robichaud told the Selectmen that he has had a meeting with the Franklin City Manager last week. It appeared that the City Manager was unaware that Franklin set detour signs on roads in Northfield. Robichaud stated that there was some break in the communications and that in the future he recommended that the Franklin DPW Director notify Northfield DPW Director of any road closures. Also, that a meeting occur in April where Franklin would meet with Northfield Selectmen prior to the June River event, so that all parties are on the same page. Selectmen Hubbell stated that we have to do something about the traffic on Cross Mill Road, with cars parking on both sides of the road it makes for a dangerous situation. Also, there was some discussion on enlarging the current parking lot to accommodate more cars.

Administrator Robichaud informed the Selectmen that with resident Victoria Charter filed a petitioned Warrant Article to increase the Board of Selectmen from 3-5 members, that there needs to be a public hearing on the matter. The Selectmen asked to have it on February 16th, at 6pm to coincide with the public hearing on the budget.

Administrator Robichaud reminded the Selectmen that next week's meeting will be on Thursday February 16th at 5 pm. Directly after the 5 pm meeting, starting at 6pm, they will have the public hearing on the budget, warrant articles and the petitioned article of raising the Board of Selectmen from 3 members to 5 members.

Robichaud and the Selectmen went over the revenue projections for 2023 Budget. The Selectmen changed the Building permits from \$18,000.00 to \$10,000.00 a reduction of \$8,000.00. The Selectmen accepted the revenues at \$1,529,009.00.

Administrator Robichaud informed the Selectmen that he will be in Concord on Wednesday afternoon and Thursday morning to testify on some bills that have are of interest to the Town.

Review Minutes

Durgin/Hubbell motioned to accept the minutes of January 31st 2023 there was no discussion, all in favor, motioned passed as presented.

Public Input opened at 6:26 pm

Ken Tomlins spoke to the idea of enlarging the parking lot at the Cross Mill Road bridge area. Also asked about why the Selectmen were not using the laptops.

Selectman Hubbell closed public input at 6:29pm

Other Business

Chairman Hubbell spoke about how he and Administrator Robichaud were trying to get information on how to bring other broadband providers to Northfield as most residents are frustrated with the current provider.

Sel. Hubbell made a motion at 6:30 pm to go into nonpublic session under NH RSA 91a; 3-II, (C) seconded by Sel. Durgin. Roll call vote– Selectman Durgin – Yes Selectman Hubbell- Yes, Motion passed by a 2-0 vote.

Hubbell/Durgin motioned to reconvene the public session at 6:54 pm. Roll Call Vote, Selectman Durgin- Yes, Selectman Hubbell– Yes. Motion passed by a 2-0 roll call vote.

Hubbell/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 Durgin – Yes, and Selectman Hubbell -Yes. Motion passed by a 2-0 roll call vote and the minutes are hereby sealed.

Chairman Hubbell adjourned the meeting at 6:55 pm.

Minutes Recorded by Town Administrator-Ken Robichaud

Minutes approved February 16, 2023