



NORTHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

Minutes of the meeting of March 29, 2022

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

Town Staff Present: Town Administrator Ken Robichaud, Police Chief John Raffaely, Stephanie Giovannucci, and DPW Director Justin Bernier.

Also Present: Scott Haskins, Norm Levasseur, Mike Murphy, Scott Thetford, Mark Hebert, Kristen Vaughn, Mike Witzgall, Darlene Bitetto, Gretchen Wilder, Paul Schlitter, Jared Hebert, Jason Gerhard, Mike Virgin, Jeff Twarog, Tim Rose, Christina Cann, Ken Tripple, Richard Honer, Judy Birch, Sheryl Tedford, Jennifer Tupeck, Sheri Sprague and Karen Woodward.

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Payroll for week ending 3/26/2022 is \$17,821.00 and A/P \$13,263.00.

Police Department Update

Police Chief Raffaely told the Selectmen that the new garage doors have been installed. Selectmen Waldron asked if they have new motors to open the doors. The Chief stated no they do not the old opener motors are still working.

Officer Doherty is still at the academy and is more than halfway completed the program.

The background check on the new officer has begun and is being completed by the Merrimack County Sheriff's Office.

Department of Public Works Update

Director Bernier updated the Selectmen on Pines Park. He is looking to rent a screener to screen topsoil that has been stored at the transfer station to be used to hydro seed Pines Park. There is some question to allowing Old Home Day to be held at the end of June as the Park may not be ready. Suggestions were to find an alternate place to hold the event or hold the event at a later date to allow the grass to grow. The Town Administrator will contact the Old Home Day Committee and have them attend a meeting.

Truck 20 is still at Irwin's awaiting instructions on what to do with it. Director Bernier will have it brought to Fairfield's for them to help in determining correcting the problem. Questions came up about the cemetery. The Administrator told the Selectmen that we have about 25 more plots in Arch Hill Cemetery. When budget time starts up again, we can look at why we send \$6,000.00 to Park Hill Cemetery which is not a Town Cemetery.

Administration Update

The Town Administration presented the Selectmen with a "Code of Ethics" policy for their review. They will review it next week.

Interviews will begin on the 3 open positions in town this week and next week.

The Administrator informed the Selectmen that he will be attending the "Cable TV Consortium" meeting in Gilford on Wednesday.

On Friday he will be attending the New Hampshire Municipal Association "Legislative Policy Review Committee" which will consist of several meetings which will review new and pending legislation for Towns.

The Administrator also informed the Selectmen that he will be attending the Primex Conference May 10-12 at the MT. Washington Conference Center, as well as the Municipal Managers Association of New Hampshire Conference on June 15-17 in Keene NH.

Comcast is looking at expanding operations into the Towns of Belmont and Tilton as well as the City of Franklin in the near future. The Administrator contacted Comcast representative and they stated that at this time they are not looking at Northfield. Possibly in 2023–2024-time frame they may, but not now. It costs 15-20 million to build out infrastructure for a town the size of Northfield.

Administrator Robichaud informed the Selectmen that the Natural Gas and Electricity contracts are up at the end of the year. He does not expect the costs to remain where at the low numbers currently. Due to the economic influxes our costs per them and Kilowatt, will be much higher for the 2023 budget year, than they are currently. Our Appraisers contract is also up at the end of the year.

Selectmen Hubbell presented Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector Vicki Hussmann, with a 20 Year retirement award for her service to the Town of Northfield. The audience gave Vicki a standing ovation for her giving to town for the last twenty years.

Public Input on Automated Trash Pickup-

Scott Haskins, Norm Levassor, Mike Murphy, Scott Tedford, Mark Hebert, Kristen Vaughn, Mike Witzgall, Darlene Bitetto, Gretchen Wilder, Paul Schlitter, Jared Hebert, Jason Gerhard, Karen Woodward. All spoke to the pros and cons of having automated Trash Pickup.

Casella would provide (1) 96-gallon container that would take the place of the current (2) 45-gallon containers. Each container will have a warranty of 10 years in case of damage. The Town has 2 years remaining on a three-year contract with the possibility of (2) 1 year mutually agreed upon extensions.

Many spoke to the size of the barrel being too large as well as the cost in the end. After much discussion there were a show of hands of 19 for the change and 17 against the change. Residents asked more questions than answers and the Selectmen would like to hear the answers next week. The Town Administrator will meet with Casella to get those answers before next week.

Chairman Hubbell recessed the meeting at 6:59 pm

Chairman Hubbell reconvened the meeting at 7:09 pm.

Northfield Parks Commission Appointments-

The Selectmen received 12 letters of Interest from Northfield Residents who were interested in serving on the Northfield Park Commission. They interviewed each resident as follows-

Christina Cann

Ken Tripple

Richard Honer

Judy Birch

Sheryl Tedford
Timothy Rose
Joyce Fulweiler
Jennifer Tupeck
Sheri Sprague
Sheena Duncan
Stephanie Giovannucci
Scott Haskins

Selectmen Durgin/Hubbell motioned to appoint Stephanie Giovannucci and Scott Haskins to the Northfields Park Commission for a three-year term, all in favor, motion passes.

The Selectmen will review the remaining list of residents and will decide next week. They will also interview Sheena Duncan and Joyce Fulweiler next week as they could not be here tonight.

Other Business

Selectman Waldron wanted to talk about asphalt. The Selectmen discussed the procedure of calling meetings and the availability of board members.

Selectman Waldron motioned to reconsider the asphalt bids that were submitted, opened, and awarded on Tuesday March 19th. With there being no second to the motion, motion fails.

Public Input

Mark Hebert
Kristen Vaughn
Jared Hebert
Tim Rose
Mike Virgin
Jason Gerhard
Jeff Twarog

Selectman Durgin/Hubbell motioned to accept the minutes of March 22, 2022. Discussion ensued and the minutes were corrected to reflect the meeting, all in favor, motion passed.

With no further business to come before the Board of Selectmen, this meeting was adjourned at 8:39 pm.

Minutes Recorded by Town Administrator-Ken Robichaud

Minutes voted and approved on April 5th 2022.