



NORTHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

Minutes of the meeting of April 12, 2022

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

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

Also Present: Kristen Vaughn, Scott Haskins, Jason Gerhard, Ken Tomlins, and Gary Burke

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Payroll for week ending \$18,760.00 and A/P is \$288,618.00

Police Department Update

The new cruiser is still at Global awaiting a bracket. Newly hired Detective Sergeant Holly Harris will be starting on May 4th, and her former employer Plymouth State University is willing to sell the Town her ballistic vest for \$780.00. it is 4 years old. The Selectmen discussed this and would like the Chief to offer \$600.00 or we will purchase a new one.

Department of Public Works Update

Director Bernier updated the Selectmen on truck 20. The vehicle is waiting for a new body as the current body Does not sit correctly on the frame. The Town has been fighting this for over 8 months as well as the engine keeps throwing a code when the truck has a load on it and going up hills. Irwin Motors continues to blame Fairfield's who is the upfitter for the equipment. Fairfield's states that they have upfitted many of these trucks with no issue. The body was manufactured in Canada and the manufacturer wants it delivered to the warehouse in Canada to look at the body. The Selectmen want all issues fixed one way or another. We have had this truck for 2 years and it has not been fixed.

Administration

The Code of Conduct was discussed, and the Selectmen agreed that they will accept it. The Administrator will bring it back next week for signatures.

The Sick time policy was reviewed again. After much discussion Selectman Durgin/Hubbell motioned to change the current amount of hours an employee receives on years 2 to 5 years of service, employees will receive 120 hours. With a 2-1 vote, motion passes.

Also, the Selectmen would like section 5.3 PTO #4 of the employee manual to read- If an employee would like to utilize an additional week of PTO and they do not have it on the books, they may request through their Department Head to the Selectmen permission to go 1 week into the negative. The employee will sign an acknowledgement stating that they will reimburse the Town the 40 hours prior to leaving employment with the Town or sooner.

The Administrator brought the Public Input Policy for the Selectmen recommendation, Durgin/Hubbell motioned to approve the Public Input Policy. It was discussed that it was a guideline for the public and the Selectmen to use. All in favor motion passed.

The remaining member for the Northfield Parks Commission needed to be brought forward, the Town Administrator read the current members and the members that were still interested in an appointment. Selectman Hubbell/Durgin motioned to appoint Sheri Sprague to a 1 year appointment on the Northfield Parks Commission, all in favor, motion passed.

Hubbell/Durgin motion to appoint Selectman Kevin Waldron as the Selectmen's representative to the Northfield Parks Commission. Discussion ensued, motion passed 2 in favor and 1 abstention.

The Town Administrator presented to the Selectmen a Municipal Services Contract for their approval. Discussion was on the need for something like this and the question of hiring an Engineer to monitor the paving project. The selectmen were in favor of the contract with some minor modifications and grammatical changes. It was decided to make the changes and send it to R&D Paving for their signatures, and the engineer can be something outside of the contract. The Selectmen will sign the contract next week, once R&D signs off on it.

Selectman Durgin/Waldron motioned to accept the minutes of April 5, 2022. Discussion ensued and the minutes were corrected to reflect the meeting, all in favor, motion passed.

Other Business-

Selectman Hubbell would like the Town Administrator to again reach out to New Hampshire Electric Cooperative to find out if they have moved any further with the installation of Fiber Optic.

Also, Selectman Hubbell stated that with the Town's budget of \$3.2 million dollars and divide that by 3000 tax bills, divided by 12 months you get \$89.00 per month for all of the services that we get. That is a good deal, as my own cell phone is more than that a month.

Selectman Waldron commented on the Olde Home Day Committee last week stated that Freedom Dumpsters was donating a dumpster for Olde Home Day. Selectman Waldron stated that he doesn't believe that Freedom Dumpsters can service the Town's Solid Waste. There was discussion on this. It was suggested that Old Home Day Committee find this out before the event.

Selectman Waldron asked if the Town is heading towards eliminating curbside collection and making the transfer station become the solid waste facility to save tax dollars.

Selectman Waldron asked if the Police Department can carry signs in the back of the cruisers. Chief Raffaelli Told the Selectmen that there is no room in the back of the cruisers. The DPW can handle the large signs and road barricades.

Public Input

Scott Haskin-spoke to the best time to do hydroseeding in the Spring or Fall.

Ken Tomlins-Spoke to the School tax rate and how to control it.

Jason Gerhard- Spoke to If the Selectmen could send a letter to the School Board about the taxes.

Kristen Vaughn- Spoke to a Cap on the (PTO), Paid Time Off and doesn't feel that the town needs to hire an engineer to oversee the road paving project waste of money.

Chairman Hubbell recessed the meeting at 7:32 pm.

Chairman Hubbell reconvened the meeting at 7:38 pm.

Sel. Hubbell made a motion at 7:39 pm to go into nonpublic session under NH RSA 91a; 3-II, (A, B) seconded by Sel. Durgin. Roll call vote--Selectman Waldron--Yes, Selectman Durgin-Yes, and Selectman Hubbell- Yes. Motion passed by a 3-0 vote.

Hubbell/Durgin moved to reconvene the public session at 8:56 pm. Roll Call Vote, Selectman Waldron-Yes, Selectman Durgin -Yes, and Selectman Hubbell-Yes, Motion passed by a majority 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 Waldron--Yes, Selectman Durgin -Yes, and Selectman Hubbell -Yes. Motion passed by a 3-0 roll call vote and the minutes are hereby sealed.

With no further business to come before the Board of Selectmen, this meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Minutes Recorded by Town Administrator-Ken Robichaud

Minutes voted and approved unanimously on 4/19/2022.