



NORTHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

Minutes of the meeting of April 5, 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: Warren Colby of GMI, Matthew Dubreuil & Jeff Twarog of R&D Paving, Bethany Huckins of Pike Industries, Jared Hebert, Scott Haskins, Kristen Vaughn, Denny French, Mark Hebert, and Dick (Digger) Stevens.

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Payroll for week ending is \$16,407.00 and A/P is \$18,308.00.

Old Home Day Committee- Jen Weisensee & KC Lamanuzzi informed the Selectmen on this years Old Home Day program. A dumpster from Freedom Dumpsters has been donated to OHDC. Discussion turned to Pines Park not being ready for this event. The Committee will be looking for other venues for this year's event. They would still like to use Surrette Park for the Fireworks and will look at Tilton Schools Fields or Union Sanbornton School for having the event. They would still like to have the horse ring for pulling events. This should not interfere with the Pines Park grass seeding. Approval for a waiver for the \$750.00 deposit for Surrette and the Horse ring were given by the Selectmen.

The Town Administrator signed the Town use form for the Horse Ring as well as Surrette Park. Pines Park will not be used this year by the Old Home Day Committee. The Selectmen authorized early release of funds for the Old Home Day Committee \$3,000.00 will be released in one check by the end of April.

Northfield Parks Commission- The Selectmen discussed the remaining choices for the Parks Commission. Selectmen interviewed residents interested in being on the Commission last week and have several more to interview this week. Selectman Waldron objected to Barbara Kraus as she submitted her letter of interest to the Selectmen instead of the Town Administrator as was announced as the procedure to follow. The remaining Selectmen disagreed and allowed Ms. Krause to be interviewed. Joyce Fulweiler and Sheena Duncan who earlier submitted their letters of interest to the Town Administrator, pulled their names from consideration. Selectmen Hubbell/Durgin moved to nominated Tim Rose for 1 year appointment and Sheryl Tedford and Jen Tupeck to a 2-year appointment, all in favor, motion passed unanimously.

Police Department Update

The Police Chief informed the Selectmen that the new cruiser is all upfitted with the emergency lighting and they are just waiting for a bracket that was backordered.

Department of Public Works Update

Director Bernier presented the Selectmen with a \$2,000.00 Purchase Requisition form as he would like to purchase two highway signs that can flash messages for the DPW use. They are located at the State of NH

White Farm and are used. He would like to get them both and have them fixed. They sell new for around \$30,000.00. Selectmen Hubbell and Durgin are okay with this.

Truck 20 came up for discussion again as it is at Fairfield's going through testing to see if they can get a code from it. They have not been able to at this point. The Selectmen would like this resolved soon somehow.

Administration Update

The Town Administrator presented the Selectmen with 3 quotes for an installed mini split system downstairs in Town Hall. Three quotes were received: one from Petrini for \$5,500.00 without electrical hookups, Home Energy Products for \$4,600.00 including everything, and Rowell's for \$8,946.00 including everything. Selectmen Waldron/Hubbell motioned to award the quote to Home Energy Products for \$4,600.00.

Sick Time Policy was brought up from last week. The Selectmen would like another week to discuss this.

The Administrator gave the Selectmen a Public Input Document to review as this was looked at last year, with no resolution. The Town Administrator would like to discuss this next week with the Selectmen.

Curbside Trash was discussed by the Administrator as he met with Casella this morning and it appears that Casella wants a 5-year contract if the Town were to go to automated. The Administrator stated that this is a different tune from last week as he presented an email from Casella stating that we could go to automated curbside without an increase or maybe even a reduction in costs. It seems Casella has changed their minds and the Administrator suggested that they began an earnest look at the Transfer Station to reduce costs as Casella indicated that there may be upwards of a 10% increase at the next renewal, and Wheelabrator has indicated that disposal will go up 5-7% per year. When the contract renews in 2024 the Town may see a huge increase for curbside collection. The Selectmen would like to look at the Transfer Station for possible curbside elimination.

The Town Administrator received a request from Parks Cemetery to release the 2022 budget funds early. The Selectmen were not interested in doing this at this time.

The selectmen discussed paving and the recent bids that were submitted. The Selectmen invited R&D paving as well as GMI paving up to discuss how this bid was accomplished. Matthew Dubreuil and Jeff Twarog discussed with the Selectmen R&D Paving operation as well as how to bid in the future. Warren Colby approached the Selectmen and told the Selectmen that he was going to withdraw his bid from consideration and that R&D can do the job and will do a remarkable job for the Town. Mr. Colby shook Mr. Dubreuil hand and congratulated him on his bid. Bethany Huckins from Pike Industries approached the Selectmen and asked if she could help the Town any way she could as she is also a taxpayer in Town.

With this occurrence Selectman Waldron/Hubbell motioned to rescind the bid relevant to asphalt and the bid from GMI, all in favor motion passed.

Waldron/Durgin moved to award the paving bid to R&D Paving from their submitted bid of \$753,207.37, all in favor motion passed.

The Selectmen thanked Mr. Colby for his professionalism and thank him for his bid.

Public Input-

Jared Hebert -spoke to paving bids in the future and could get some help with the specs.

Scott Haskins- R&D has employees who live in Town and are taxpayers as well.

Kristen Vaughn- You can use NHMA for legal assistance.

Denny French- Think about what you want to ask before you ask.

Mark Hebert- Everyone has spoken here about saving money while using the lowest bidder.

Selectman Durgin/Hubbell motioned to accept the minutes of March 29th, 2022. all in favor, motion passed.

Sel. Hubbell made a motion at 8:02 pm to go into nonpublic session under NH RSA 91a; 3-II, (A B,C) 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 9:25 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.

Other Business

Selectman Waldron motioned to appoint Michael Hutchinson as Northfield Police Chief effective immediately, with no second, this motion fails.

Selectman Hubbell declares the meeting adjourned at 9:27 pm.

Minutes Recorded by Town Administrator-Ken Robichaud

Minutes voted and approved on April 12, 2022