



NORTHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

Minutes of the meeting of June 7, 2022

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

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

Also Present: Ken Tomlins, Scott Haskins, Judy Huckins, Nancy Court, Randy Barkley, Ben Davis, Kristen Marris, Ann Courier, Kristen Vaughn, Don Dudley, Gary Andrews, Bill Dawson, Sherri Sprague, Tony Pucci, and Jim Thomas.

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Payroll for this week was \$21,518.00 and A/P was \$223,654. 00

Police Department Update

The new Detectives cruiser will be delayed 2-3 weeks for the installation of emergency lights. The Department is having a background check on a possible new officer.

Department of Public Works

Truck #20 has left for Canada for an inspection of the body. It left this afternoon. Director Bernier asked the Selectmen if they wanted to have yellow lines painted on the roads that we pave this year at a cost of \$5,300.00. Selectman Waldron discussed the history of line painting in Northfield. The Selectmen discussed this more and decided to put off the line painting discussion until later this summer after the roads are paved.

Selectman Hubbell informed the Selectmen that he spoke with a representative from R&D Paving on Driveway apron milling. Hubbell stated that the cost for milling of driveway aprons is \$5,500.00. Director Bernier spoke up and stated that he had the discussion with all of the paving bidders that this was part of the bid specifications. Bernier went on to explain that he rode with each bidder and showed them exactly what he wanted done, Bernier also reviewed the bid spec's and stated that he put down "yes" to the driveway aprons, but it was not clear if the word "milling" was included with the paved driveway aprons. Hubbell/Durgin motioned to have R&D paving mill the driveway aprons on all roads to be overlayed at a cost of \$5,500.00, motion passed with a 2-1 vote.

Road paving will start next week in Northfield. R&D Paving will start on Hodgdon, Cross Mill and Keysor Road.

Administration

The Administrator informed the Selectmen that the two Shaker Road properties that were deeded by non-payment of taxes were on schedule to be auctioned off on June 11th at 10 am. The auction will be done at Town Hall. The Town Administrator will be present on that day.

Administrator Robichaud presented a revised copy of the Dog Ordinance from last week. The revised copy has added Definitions to it which resolves the issues that Chairman Hubbell had with the copy from last week. The Selectmen signed the revised copy.

Town Administrator Robichaud advised the Selectmen that he will be in Keene, New Hampshire on the 15th - 17th of this month for a Municipal Managers Conference.

Robichaud informed the Selectmen that he will be taking Thursday off but will be here on Saturday for the Auction from 9-12 noon.

Administrator Robichaud wanted to inform the residents that beginning this month through the end of September the Selectmen will be meeting on the first and third Tuesday of the month.

Selectman Durgin/Hubbell motioned to accept the minutes of May 31st, 2022 as presented. All in favor motion passes 3-0.

Other Business

Selectman Hubbell advised the other Selectman that he spoke to State Representative Greg Hill on the Winnisquam Regional School District, receiving 10 million Dollars and Franklin School District receiving 15 million Dollars and if they have received this money, where did it go, where was it spent, and was any money sent back to the taxpayer. The Selectmen discussed this and asked the Administrator to ask the School Board if they would attend a Selectmen's meeting in the near future to discuss this with them.

Selectman Waldron brought up the most recent meeting of the Northfield Economic Development Corporation (NEDC). The NEDC has agreed to be the not-for-profit holder of donated funds for the Northfield Parks Commission. Because of their 501-C 3 status; persons or corporations that donate money will be able to use it as a tax-deductible donation.

Last week's Parks Commission meeting concerning Total Grounds Landscaping discussion is that the loam currently in piles at Pines Park will need to be spread out and approx. 2 inches of topsoil needs to be added prior to the irrigation installation. It appears that installation of the pipes and the hydro seeding will be done towards the end of August , early September.

Public Input

Ken Tomlins- He would like to have the School Board Representatives from Northfield attend the Selectmen meeting, to discuss the money.

Chairman Hubbell recessed the meeting at 5:30 pm

Chairman Hubbell called the meeting back into session at 6:00 pm

Chairman Hubbell called the Public Discussion on Curbside Trash to Order

Town Administrator Robichaud informed the public about the current curbside costs and upcoming increases as well as how the current operation works as well as other options to curbside, revamping the Transfer Station.

It is estimated that once the contract with Casella ends in March of 2024, the cost for providing curbside solid waste collection will increase 15-20% each year. Also, Casella will be going to an automated collection system. They have stated to the Town that they will provide the 95-gallon totes which they will be responsible for. In

2022 the cost for collection will be \$161,350.00 with an additional \$96,000.00 for disposal. The Town currently has an agreement with Wheelabrator for the disposal of Municipal solid waste (MSW). The discussion also included the Town moving away from curbside collection to upgrading the transfer station in that this would be used as the main disposal of MSW. The drawbacks to this are residents would have to transport MSW to the transfer station in their vehicles, and the Town would have to open the transfer station longer hours and hire more staff. The Town would also have to upfit the current facility with another compactor, pour concrete pads as well as upgrading the electrical system to 3 phase, as well as realign the facility for optimum traffic flow. There would be a savings of approx.. \$100,000.00 moving from current curbside to transfer station once the initial capital costs have been recouped after an approx. 3-year payback. There would be a \$54.00 reduction in taxes on a home valued at \$180,000.00, if switched to a transfer station mode of disposal.

There is still much to consider and more information to gather before the March Town Meeting.

Chairman Hubbell invited members of the public to comment on the Trash as follows-

Judy Huckins- What would be the reduction in taxes if the town switched to curbside.

Nancy Court- Agrees with the transfer station mode.

Randy Barkley- how are the Selectmen going to handle the people that are burning trash and throwing it into the woods because we only can only have (2) 45 Gallon trash barrels per week.

Ben Davis- Owns Freedom Dumpsters and would welcome the switch to transfer station .

Scott Haskins- How would we regulate the trash if we move to the transfer station as people would be throwing more trash away.

Kristen Marris- Moved here because of the curbside collection.

Ann Currier- Suggested that the transfer station use a tag type of system for regulating amounts of trash.

Kristen Vaughn- Costs associated with the transfer station

Don Dudley- Amount to redo the transfer station, installation of a scale.

Gary Andrews- He would like to keep curbside Town should hire a professional to redo transfer station.

Scott Haskins- If we switch to curbside who owns the barrels.

Bill Dawson-There is a large population of elderly in Northfield, who takes care of them.

Sherri Sprague- I think the transfer station is a good thing, anything to reduce taxes.

Tony Pucci- If we switch to a transfer station, we should have longer hours or more availability.

Jim Thomas-I would like to keep curbside.

Nancy Court-what would automation look like.

Kristen Vaughn- It would be a good to reduce the tax rate.

Kristen Marris- Are there any grants to help with this.

Randy Bartlett- Everyone is burning their trash.

Scott Haskins- How big are the automated barrels.

Selectman Hubbell closed the public input on trash at 6:52 pm.

Chairman Hubbell asked for a show of hands as to who would like to keep curbside? 30 residents raised their hands.

Chairman Hubbell asked for a show of hands for anyone who would like to transition to a transfer station mode? 17 residents raised their hands.

Chairman Hubbell advised the crowd that there was still a Selectman's meeting in progress and that everyone who did not want to participate should leave the room. Hubbell asked for other business, with no other business, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm.

Minutes Recorded by Town Administrator-Ken Robichaud

Minutes voted and approved on June 21, 2022