



NORTHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

Minutes of the meeting of August 16, 2022

Present: Selectman Mark Hubbell, and Selectman Kevin Waldron.

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

Also Present: Ken Tomlins, Ken Tripple, Kristin Vaughn, Denny French, Scott Haskins, Jennifer Tupeck, State Representative Greg Hill, Winnisquam Regional School Board Members Jon Cilley, Lance Turgeon, Sean Goodwin, and new Superintendent Sharon Bartlett.

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Payroll for last week was \$21,085.00 and A/P was \$722,544.00. Payroll for this week is \$20,718.00 and A/P is \$88,392.00

Police Department Update

Chief Raffaely discussed with the Selectmen again this week, doing police details at Bank of NH Pavilion in Gilford. This was discussed at that the last meeting as well. Currently the detail rate is \$75.00 per hour, and the pay is split between the officer \$45.00 and police detail fund \$30.00 per hour. The Pavilion only will pay \$70.00 per hour. Selectman Waldron stated that if you want to adjust the rate "do it across the board, and not for one company". Selectman Hubbell asked if the \$5.00 difference was comparable with other towns, without using a cruiser. Chief Raffaely stated he wasn't sure. Mr., Hubbell was okay with the \$70.00 per hour, and stated that the last meeting, Selectman Durgin was okay with it as well. Mr. Waldron stated, "hold on, it was not voted on at the last meeting and since Mr. Durgin is not here then it is not unanimous" so we have to wait until the next meeting which is September 6th.

Chief Raffaely informed the Selectmen that he was trying to bring in some mental health resources for some of the officers as they were still experiencing some residual effects from the triple homicide a few weeks back. The Selectmen were supportive of this endeavor.

Public Works Department Update

Director Bernier updated the Selectmen on the reclaiming of Shaker, Bay Hill and Keasor Roads. The DPW crew have been adding gravel and stone to Bay Hill and some parts of Shaker Road to build it up in anticipation of repaving those roads the week of September 12th.

Selectman Waldron asked about the road repair for the water leak last month on Bay Hill Road just after the I-93 overpass. Tilton-Northfield Water District put this in as a temporary patch when they repaired the water leak and when R&D paves Bay Hill Road they anticipate that they will fix this permanently at this time. The Town still has a \$20,000.00 check in case the repair is not completed to the Towns specifications.

Administration

Town Administrator Robichaud discussed with the Selectmen the spreadsheet for the updating of the Transfer Station if the Town should eliminate curbside collection. Also reviewed the questions and answers for eliminating curbside collection as well as 6 survey questions that will go out to the residents of the Town.

Administrator Robichaud presented a CAP agreement for workers compensation from our risk pool provider Primex. The CAP agreement is at 10%. This means that the costs will not increase over 10% each year for the next 3 years. In fact, our costs have decreased over \$1,400.00 in the last 2 years. Mr. Waldron asked about risk pool over commercial insurance. Mr. Robichaud explained that with a risk pool there are many communities in the pool, and it helps offset costs to entities who do have a claim and those who do not. At the end of the year monies are returned to the communities after all costs are taken out for that year. Northfield has had a credit from the workers compensation account which has allowed the Town to not having to pay any premiums for the last 2 years. With commercial insurance you most likely would not receive any refunds of unspent monies.

Winnisquam Regional School District

Chairman Hubbell recognized members from the Winnisquam Regional School District who attended the meeting at the Selectmen's request.

School Board Chairman Sean Goodwin told the Selectmen that they have received an offer on the Union Sanborn School which is now closed. They have not acted on the offer at this time and are expecting more offers in the very near future. There was a question on the legality of the School Board going into a non-public session to discuss the offer. School Board Member Jon Cilley stated that they have been instructed by legal counsel to not discuss this at this time but will follow up with counsel on this.

Declining enrollment and costs associated with maintaining Union Sanborn School was a major factor in closing the school. Budget season is coming up and we hope to evaluate through the budget process the closing of Union Sanborn School. There is good reason to believe and to expect a drop in the budget in relation to closing Union Sanborn School, as it should save roughly \$400,000.00.

Selectman Hubbell asked if the School Board uses a report of graduating students to see how many move on to college. New School Superintendent Sharon Bartlett stated that these reports have not been used for some time now.

The Superintendent also said that they receive a monthly enrollment packet at each monthly meeting so they can gauge how many students are coming and going so they can make necessary adjustments to staffing and other things.

Selectman Hubbell thanked the School Board in attending this meeting tonight. All of the questions asked tonight will be answered at the next Winnisquam School Board meeting.

Administration

The Administrator presented closing documents on 219 Shaker Road and 231 Shaker Road as these properties were auctioned off for Taxes in July.

The Selectmen authorized the Administrator to put out an RFP for Assessing Services which will be due on September 6th 2022 at 2pm. This will be a contract for 5 years and will involve a cyclical reevaluation.

The Administrator will be on vacation from 8/26-09/06/2022.

The grant for the Emergency Shelter Generator purchase and installation was discussed in great detail.

Selectman Waldron motioned to accept the terms of the Emergency Management Performance Grant as presented in the amount up to \$50,625.00 for the purchase and installation of a generator at the community shelter. The Selectmen acknowledge that the total cost for this project will be up to \$101,250.00 with the Town responsible for 50% match which maybe an in-kind match, Selectman Hubbell seconded the motion, all in favor, motion passed by a majority vote of 2-0.

Both Selectmen signed the grant Agreement.

Selectman Waldron/Hubbell motioned to accept the minutes of August 2nd, 2022 as presented. All in favor, motion passes 2-0.

Other Business

Selectman Waldron brought up the recent assessment revaluations and that he met with the Town Assessors, and he was not happy how they went about reassessing his property. Mr. Waldron stated that the assessor told him that they guessed on his property assessment. His property card stated that he had vinyl siding on his house as well as sheetrock walls and laminate floors. He has no of that, he has a few sections of vinyl siding on the front of his home only. They should do a better job with this, and that he was told the homeowner is solely responsible for their tax cards and what information in on them.

Selectman Hubbell announced that the Selectmen have made a conditional offer to an individual for the position of Police Chief. Once that individual completes the background investigation they will have more information.

Public Input

Greg Hill- discussed the SWEPT portion of the tax bill and that there will be a \$200,000.00 reduction this year and he hopes the Town passes this on to the taxpayer. Also discussed funding via the free and reduced lunch applications that are filled out.

Ken Tomlins- Spoke to the Police Detail at Bank of NH Pavilion and that the Selectmen should approve this and stop kicking it down the road.

Kristen Vaughn- Wanted more information on the new Police Chief.

Denny French- The Bay Hill water repair, complained about the assessors, and should promote from within the Police Department if able.

Public Input Closed at 7:12 pm.

Chairman Hubbell recessed the meeting at 7:12 pm

Chairman Hubbell called the meeting back into session at 7:21 pm

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

Hubbell/Waldron motioned to reconvene the public session at 8:15 pm. Roll Call Vote, Selectman Waldron-Yes, and Selectman Hubbell-Yes, Motion passed by a majority roll call vote.

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

Other Business

Selectman Waldron spoke to the Pines Park Commission and the work that was done to the Horse rink. Mr. Waldron also stated that the Tilton-Northfield Rotary Group would like to sponsor the repairing and the reconstruction of the rink area as well as the ongoing maintenance costs afterwards. For this they would like to rename the rink to Tilton-Northfield Rotary Horse Arena, and they would like to place a sign as well. Selectman Waldron also commented on the Parks Commission as a whole, he stated that they all work well together and have fun as well. He was unsure at the beginning but says that it's a good group.

Selectman Hubbell adjourned the meeting at 8:20 pm

Minutes Recorded by Town Administrator-Ken Robichaud

Minutes Approved September 6, 2022