



NORTHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

Minutes of the meeting of August 24, 2021

Present: Selectman Kevin Waldron, Selectman Scott Haskins and Selectman Mark Hubbell.

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

Also Present: Ken Tomlins, Jason Durgin, Amanda Latulippe, and Lura Seavey.

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Selectmen Waldron asked if there will be a Code Enforcement Report tonight. Town Administrator, Ken Robichaud informed the Selectmen that it will be next week and not this week.

Police Department Update- The Chief informed the Selectmen that he is meeting with the Police Chief of Canterbury to sell a former officer's vest to them. That officer has been hired in Canterbury.

Chief Raffaelly informed the Selectmen that the Police Motorcycle has been sold and it is now gone.

DPW Update- Director Bernier informed the Selectmen that the Peterbuilt truck is at Donovan Springs. He also told the Selectmen that he went all through the trucks leaf springs and did not see any issues with the springs. He believes it is the center pin that needs attention. They will not be able to look at the truck for several weeks as they are very busy.

The International Truck will be fixed and ready to come back by the end of this week. The total invoice for that repair is \$8,777.99. Discussion was on how long we are keeping these trucks and we should be turning these trucks over sooner than later. The Peterbuilt truck has approx. 23,000 miles and the 2014 International truck has 51,874 for mileage.

Director Bernier brought up the acceptance of mixed paper at the Transfer Station for recycling. The cost for pickup of the loose paper is approx. \$30.00 per ton and the revenue for recycling is \$25.00 per ton. So the town would spend \$5.00 per ton to recycle this paper as well as needing a separate dumpster to hold the paper in while awaiting pickup. The dumpster would need to be covered as the paper could not get wet. Also it would take quite a long time to collect enough and then the Town would have to bale the loose paper which also would be difficult. After baling the loose paper, the town would have to store about 22 tons of dry paper in order for the company to come and retrieve it. It does not make sense at this time to collect loose paper.

Selectman Haskins asked about the railroad crossings paving that we discussed last week. He asked about the wooden crossings. Director Bernier stated that you can have a wood crossing in between the rails, but the 4 foot approach or (apron) must be paved 4 foot either side of the tracks. It was decided that it would be difficult to install the wood so we should just pave it all.

Accepting solid waste at the transfer station update was next. Town Administrator Ken Robichaud gave an update on the "pay as you through" bags. Administrator Robichaud told the Selectmen that the bags have been

ordered and are enroute to the town as we speak. The Selectmen discussed and agreed to the following prices for bags, a 33 gallon bag with a label and the cost of disposal will be \$4.00 per bag, and a 16 gallon bag shall be \$2.00 per bag. The cost of the bag includes a special label as well as disposal costs and bags can only be purchased at Town Hall. The bags will be accepted only at the Transfer Station, and will not be allowed at curbside collection. The Transfer Station attendant will instruct the Resident on where to dispose of the bags once at the Transfer Station.

Selectmen Haskins asked about the condition of the trucks when they return from being repaired. Discussed was should we keep the trucks another year or get rid of them. Discussion surrounded keeping the Peterbuilt truck one more year and budget for another one next year. Discussion was how much would we get for this truck if we sell it and do we have enough trucks to get through the winter. It was decided to have Director Bernier get pricing for a new truck.

A request for a deer crossing sign was received by the Selectmen on Hodgdon Road and it was decided to not install one this year.

Selectmen Haskins asked about if we are helping Howard Smith with his property pins. Director Bernier stated that he has contacted Brandon Hiltz about this issue.

Director Bernier spoke to an engineering issue with piping for the Bay Hill Road and Shaker Road projects and that there was a miscalculation in sizing of culverts and that they were working through the problem.

Selectman Haskins asked about trash issues at the skate park, Director Bernier stated that it has been fine and no trash.

Administration Update

Administrator Robichaud informed the Selectmen that he received confirmation of the \$9,200.00 monetary incentive for changing over our old outdated streetlights to LED lights. The check will be issued when the project is completed.

The Town Administrator informed the Selectmen that he met with Home Energy Systems on installing a Mitsubishi split air conditioning system with an evaporator for the basement of Town Hall.

Administrator Robichaud informed the Selectmen that he has spoken to New Hampshire Electric Cooperative (NHEC) about a possibility of fiber optic off of their poles to the approx. 830 members who have NHEC. NHEC stated that they are interested in providing internet and fiber optics and will reach out in 2-4 months to the town. In the meantime the Town will submit a letter of support for this project. More information will be available once the \$1.7 billion dollar infrastructure bill passes the house in Washington DC and this may help with the financial impact of the project.

The Administrator asked the Selectmen if they were interested in participating in the Hazardous Waste Collection Day with Lakes Regional Planning Commission. The Selectmen stated that the value of the service is too expensive and the amount of residents that utilize it is too low. So it is not a cost effective way to spend taxpayer dollars. There are other venues that residents can go to in disposing of hazardous waste.

The Administrator informed the Selectmen that he would like to attend a conference in Portsmouth that is being put on by the Municipal Managers Association of New Hampshire, which is a group that he belongs to. The Selectmen were okay with him attending the conference.

Tilton Selectmen Patricia Consentino would like to attend the next Selectmen meeting as she has numbers for the Tilton Senior Center Bus Transportation. The Selectmen stated that they would like to hear from her next week.

The Administrator reported that a resident from Sandogardy Pond Road called him and said that since the new road had been upgraded she now has water standing in her doorway of her home. The Administrator provided the Selectmen with photos of the area. The Selectmen asked the DPW Director to have someone go look at it and report back to them as to what could be done or if anything could be done.

Town Administrator Robichaud provided to the Selectmen a new ACH policy that he drafted for bank transactions. In Peterborough NH, the Town Finance Department was scammed of over 2 million dollars due to fraudulent emails received by the town, appearing to come from current vendors. The Selectmen adopted the policy.

A question was asked of the Administrator if he had received an acknowledgement from Tilton over the using of Northfield Town Property for fireworks. The Administrator stated that he received an email from the Tilton Town Administrator stating that we would be receiving an apology letter from the Tilton Selectmen.

Sel. Waldron made a motion at 6:16pm to go into nonpublic session under NH RSA 91a:3-II, (A&C) seconded by Sel. Haskins, Roll call vote Selectmen Haskins–Yes Selectman Hubbell–Yes and Selectman Waldron- Yes.

Waldron/Hubbell moved to reconvene the public session at 8:42pm. Roll Call Vote, Selectman Haskins – Yes, Selectman Hubbell- Yes and Selectman Waldron-Yes, Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Waldron/Haskins 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 Haskins-Yes, Selectman Hubbell –Yes and Selectman Waldron-Yes. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote and the minutes are hereby sealed.

Haskins/Hubbell motioned to accept the meeting minutes of August 17, 2021. 0-3 vote motion fails.

Public Input- None

Other Business:

Selectmen Scott Haskins announced that after this meeting, he will resign, and will step down from the Northfield Board of Selectmen. Selectman Haskins stated that this is due to the public, harassing his family because of unpopular decisions that the Selectmen have made. He stated that it is not because of this board or the other Selectmen that he sits with on a weekly basis. This is again due to the public harassing and cornering his family making them feel unsafe. The other Selectmen spoke highly of Selectmen Haskins and all that he has done for the Town of Northfield, volunteering his time on many different boards and that he will be dearly missed.

Selectman Waldron stated that he was shocked at what some of the community members have done to have this happen. Selectman Hubbell stated that he is a Selectman because of Scott Haskins, he praised Haskins and the tough job that he did in the past.

Both Selectmen Waldron and Selectmen Hubbell called out to the public and stated that whoever did this should be ashamed of themselves and the behavior they exhibited towards a man's family, which is uncalled for and unnecessary in this community. Had this had happened to him, there certainly would have been a different outcome.

Both Selectmen wished Selectman Haskins well in his future endeavors and that they are grateful to have worked alongside of him.

The Town Administrator gave the Selectmen a report from Lovering Tree Care. Arborist Edward Sayce met with the Town Administrator and was given the instructions to assess each tree in Pines Park to the overall health of each tree, any safety concerns to the tree and to mark and label each tree during the assessment. After this was accomplished, a map was created of Pines Park and each tree was identified on the map by number and the trees that were identified by the arborist to be cut down were highlighted. There were over 90 trees identified, tagged and marked with this method.

Prior to this report, the Board of Selectmen voted to cut any trees that could potentially fall and damage property or roads. Additionally, there is a group of trees in the far left hand corner of the Park, near the back of the recreation center, adjacent to the horse ring, that all need to come down as they are dead, dying or diseased. There are approximately 42 trees marked to be removed, and an additional 16 trees which consist of a few large and several small trees that are in the corner of the park that was just reported.

The Selectmen agreed to get a logger to give the town pricing on removing the trees that are identified in this report. Also discussed was the need to have a plan for when after the trees come down. Selectmen Hubbell stated that we need to take the trees down that are currently identified in this plan. Selectmen Haskins agreed with Selectman Hubbell's statement. Selectman Hubbell also agrees that we need to have a plan for the future of the park. Selectman Hubbell also said that we may be able to have both an open park with a field and gazebo, as well as a small stand of about 36 pine trees for shade.

Selectman Hubbell again thanked Selectman Haskins for his service. Selectman Haskins thanked Town Administrator Robichaud for working with him. Haskins also again thanked Selectman Waldron for working together for the good of the Town as it was fun work.

Selectman Waldron asked if there was more business to come before the board. The Town Administrator stated that he has another nonpublic that was missed earlier in the meeting. The Selectmen asked if we could do this next week, The Administrator stated that we could do it next week.

With no further business to come before the Northfield Board of Selectmen this Meeting was adjourned at 9:23pm.

Minutes Recorded by Town Administrator-Ken Robichaud

Minutes voted on and approved on August 31, 2021.