



NORTHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

Minutes of the meeting of August 31, 2021

Present: Selectman Kevin Waldron and Selectman Mark Hubbell.

Town Staff Present: Town Administrator Ken Robichaud, Police Chief John Raffaely, PW Director Justin Bernier and Code Enforcement Officer, Russ Wheeler.

Also Present: Ken Tomlins, Jason Durgin, Amanda Latulippe, Kristen Vaughan, and Tilton Selectmen Pat Consentino and Eric Pyra.

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Code Enforcement Report- Code Enforcement Officer Russ Wheeler gave his July and August report. There are more inspections in August than July and he is keeping up with them. Mr. Wheeler is working on 2 complaints, and new homes for July and August are low. Town Administrator Robichaud asked how many new homes are in the works, Inspector Wheeler stated that currently he has no new home inspections, but there are a few being built as we speak. The Selectmen thanked Mr. Wheeler for his report.

Police Department Update

The Chief spoke to an invoice that he received for signs on Arch Street that directs traffic away from Park Street. He asked if those could come out of the DPW budget as they have a line item for signs. The Selectmen were in favor of this.

Several weeks back Howard Smith spoke to the board on a cemetery headstone that had fallen over and asked if he could attempt in repairing it. The Chief asked the Selectmen if he could help Mr. Smith, the Selectmen had no issue with this request,

Public Works Department Update

Director Bernier informed the Selectmen that he started receiving culvert piping. He has the 15 inch pipe and some 24 inch pipe. 600 feet of each was received so far, and they are continuing to make catch basins as we speak. We need approx. 5,600 feet in total for the project. He is hoping to get the entire order of pipe in the next several weeks. Director Bernier has also asked the Selectmen if Hiltz Construction can work on the drainage throughout the winter months if we don't get the pipe in before October. The Selectmen decided to let Director Bernier work with Selectmen Hubbell on that part of the job if it is needed. If we get the entire pipe order before the end of October, Hiltz construction will be able to complete the job before the beginning of December.

The estimate for selling the Peterbilt truck that is coming from NE Truck is not here yet. The person was on vacation and we should get it by next week.

The Peterbilt is at Donovan Spring waiting to get an estimate on that repair costs.

The International truck is back from being repaired and from this point forward each diesel truck shall be driven down I-93 weekly with a load on it so that it cleans out the DPF canister. This will help in keeping it cleaner. Director Bernier is waiting on more quotes for the paving of the railroad crossings that will be getting upgrades.

Director Bernier spoke with Hiltz construction on the property pin issue that Howard Smith spoke to the Selectmen about several weeks ago. Hiltz Construction was the firm that redid Sandogardy Pond Road last year and his email to Director Bernier on this issue at 129 Sandogardy Pond Road was that the pins were not on the original survey maps and therefore Mr. Hiltz does not feel that he is responsible in replacing them and will not replace the pins at it stands today. The Selectmen read the email from Mr. Hiltz and agreed that it is not his responsibility.

Director Bernier told the Selectmen that Kenny Partridge has yet to make it down to 184 Sandogardy Pond Road on that water issue. But that he is monitoring it.

Selectman Waldron asked Director Bernier if he had contacted anyone concerning the trees at Pines Park. Bernier stated that he has made an attempt but has yet to connect with anyone. Her will keep trying and will call other professionals. The selectmen stated to Director Bernier that this is a priority project.

Selectman Hubbell asked about the railroad project and what did that project entail. The director said that in between the rails was paved as well as the two approaches and those go out 6 feet either way. Discussion ensued on why the Town is responsible for the paving, Administrator Robichaud spoke to an RSA that spoke to this procedure. Selectman Hubbell will do more research on this.

Administration Update

Town Administrator Robichaud informed the Selectmen that he is working with the DPW Director on installing Bollards in place of the cement barriers as he knows very little on this. Discussion was on how many to install what type to install and the cost of the project.

The Town Administrator presented the Selectmen with the 2019 audit from Melanson on the town finances. Melanson did not find any discrepancies in our operation financially.

Waldron/Hubbell motioned to approve the minutes from August 17th, 2021 as written and presented, all in favor, motion passes.

Waldron/Hubbell motioned to approve the minutes from August 24th, 2021 as written and presented, all in favor, motion passes.

The Town Administrator thanked the Police Chief for all the help he and his officers have given to delivering the dog licensing warrants. This hasn't been done in over 8-10 years as we had over 400 letters to deliver. We will do this on a yearly basis moving forward so not to have so many letters.

Pat Consentino appeared before the Selectmen with a signed memorandum of understanding (MOU) for providing bus services for the elderly in Northfield-Tilton area. The bus is owned and operated by Tilton and Ms. Consentino appeared before the Selectmen earlier this year on doing this venture. The MOU allows elderly Northfield residents an opportunity for transportation to the grocery store, medical appointments, etc. as well as trips to the Tilton Senior Center for activities. Ms. Consentino stated that currently Northfield has 4-6 residents who use this method weekly. The cost for a round trip is \$10.00 per resident, and the bus operates on an as need basis, to Laconia, Concord, Gilford and Franklin trips.

Residents must be ambulatory, and only may take service animals with them on the bus. Currently there is funding available from local businesses in that riders will not have to pay for trips until that funding runs out which is estimated to be in six months or so. Selectman Hubbell asked if a caregiver goes on the bus to assist a resident with their tasks, how will they be charged. Ms. Consentino stated that they would only charge for the resident, the caregiver is not charged to ride the bus.

The Selectmen are planning to fund the bus for Northfield in next year's budget. The Selectmen believe that this is a good service for our local elderly population who are homebound because they do not have a vehicle or cannot drive due to medical or other circumstances. The Selectmen signed the MOU and thanked Ms. Consentino for her bringing this to their attention it will be a wonderful addition to the services that are currently offered.

Tilton Selectman Eric Pyra addressed the Northfield Selectmen on an apology for the way the fireworks event turned out on August 7th of this year. Selectman Pyra presented the Selectmen with a signed apology letter from all of the Tilton Selectmen. Selectman Pyra explained that the miscommunication was on his part and that he was thankful that the Northfield Asst. Town Administrator contacted Tilton on what had transpired and that the Tilton DPW was able to clean up the mess so quickly. The Northfield Selectmen thanked Selectman Pyra for his apology and that there should be better communication moving forward, and that they were happy with that.

Public Input

Selectman Waldron announced that he would like to get back to a point where the Selectmen and the Public have a meaningful back and forth dialog with public input. He will work on how that will look and when that will occur and what the parameters will be sooner rather than later. But for right now we will continue on the path that we are currently on. If anyone has a comment they would like to share with the board, now would be that time- Hearing no comments we will move on to the non-public portion.

Sel. Waldron made a motion at 5:46pm to go into nonpublic session under NH RSA 91a; 3-II, (A,C&L) seconded by Sel. Hubbell. Roll call vote–Selectman Hubbell–Yes and Selectman Waldron- Yes.

Waldron/Hubbell moved to reconvene the public session at 7:15 pm. Roll Call Vote, Selectman Hubbell- Yes and Selectman Waldron-Yes, Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

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

Other Business

With no further business to come before the Northfield Board of Selectmen this Meeting was adjourned at 7:18pm.

**Minutes Recorded by Town Administrator-Ken Robichaud
Minutes voted and approved on September 7, 2021.**