



NORTHFIELD BUDGET COMMITTEE
Minutes of the meeting of January 13th 2022

Present: Morris Boudreau, Scott Haskins, Selectmen Representative Mark Hubbell, and Carl Bartlett.

Also Present: Town Administrator Ken Robichaud, and Selectmen Kevin Waldron

Absent: George Corliss, Amy O'Hara and Don Stevens.

Vice-Chairman Boudreau called the meeting to order @ 6:00 pm.

Hubbell/Bartlett motioned to approve the minutes of January 6th, 2022 with a vote of 4-0, motion passed.

The Town Administrator read a letter from Budget Committee member Amy O'Hara into the record. See attached Letter.

The Committee went over the 2022 budget one more time prior to voting on each individual budget.

Hubbell/Bartlett motioned to approve the Selectmen Budget of \$47,418.00, all in favor motion passed.

Hubbell/Haskins motioned to approve the Town Administration Budget of \$295,925.00 all in favor, motion passed.

Bartlett/Hubbell- motioned to approve the Town Meeting Budget of \$2,315.00.00 all in favor, motion passed.

Haskin/Hubbell- motioned to approve the Town Clerk Budget of \$175,873.00 all in favor, motion passed.

Bartlett/Hubbell- motioned to approve the Elections Budget of \$11,800.00 all in favor, motion passed.

Hubbell/Haskins- motioned to approve the Tax Collector Budget of \$9,150.00 all in favor, motion passed.

Haskins/Hubbell- motioned to approve the Treasurer Budget of \$3,122.00 all in favor, motion passed.

Bartlett/Haskins- motioned to approve the Information Technology Budget of \$82,750.00 all in favor, motion passed.

Haskins/Bartlett- motioned to approve the Revaluation Property Budget of \$47,500.00 all in favor, motion passed.

Haskins/Hubbell- motioned to approve the Legal Expense Budget of \$12,000.00 all in favor, motion passed.

Hubbell/Bartlett - motioned to approve the Planning & Zoning Budget of \$13,967.00 all in favor, motion passed.

Haskins/Hubbell- motioned to approve the General Govt Budget of \$20,890.00 all in favor, motion passed.

Bartlett/Haskins- motioned to approve the Cemetery Budget of \$6,001.00 all in favor, motion passed.

Hubbell/Haskins- motioned to approve the Insurance Budget of \$87,763.00 all in favor, motion passed.

Hubbell/Haskins- motioned to approve overall General Govt Budget of \$816,450.00 all in favor, motion passed.

Hubbell/Haskins- motioned to approve the Police Department Budget of \$1,088,962.00 a 3-1 vote, motion passed.

Haskins/Hubbell- motioned to approve the Police Vehicle Maintenance. Budget of \$13,000.00 all in favor, motion passed.

Hubbell/Haskins- motioned to approve the Total Police Budget of \$1,101,962.00 a 3-1 vote, motion passed.

Bartlett/Haskins- motioned to approve the Fire Budget of \$44,089.00 a 3-1 vote, motion passed.

Haskins/Hubbell- motioned to approve the Code Enforcement Budget of \$20,287.00 all in favor, motion passed.

Hubbell/Haskins- motioned to approve the Emergency Management Budget of \$1.00 all in favor, motion passed.

Haskins/Bartlett- motioned to approve the Public Safety Budget of \$1,230,626.00 all in favor, motion passed.

Haskins/Hubbell - motioned to approve the DPW Administration Budget of \$686,768.00 a 3-1 vote, motion passed.

Hubbell/Bartlett- motioned to approve the DPW Vehicle Maintenance Budget of \$48,500.00 all in favor, motion passed.

Hubbell/Haskins- motioned to approve the Road Maintenance Budget of \$261,100.00 all in favor, motion passed.

Hubbell/Haskins- motioned to approve the Bridges Budget of \$1.00 all in favor, motion passed.

Hubbell/Haskins- motioned to approve the Street Lighting Budget of \$10,000.00 3-1 vote, motion passed.

Hubbell/Haskins- motioned to approve the Transfer Station Budget of \$30,590.00 all in favor, motion passed.

Haskins/Hubbell- motioned to approve the Solid Waste Collection Budget of \$172,150.00 all in favor, motion passed.

Hubbell/Haskins- motioned to approve the Solid Waste Disposal Budget of \$120,000.00 all in favor, motion passed.

Hubbell/Haskins- motioned to approve the Total Public Works Budget of \$1,329,109.00 vote of 3-1, motion passed.

Hubbell/Haskins- motioned to approve the Health Budget of \$22,950.00 vote of 3-1, motion passed.

Hubbell/Haskins- motioned to approve the Welfare Administration Budget of \$20,388.00 all in favor, motion passed.

Hubbell/Haskins- motioned to approve the Welfare Vendor Budget of \$27,910.00 all in favor, motion passed.

Bartlett/Hubbell- motioned to approve the Total Welfare Budget of \$48,298.00 all in favor, motion passed.

Hubbell/Haskins- motioned to approve the Parks & Recreation Budget of \$12,000.00 all in favor, motion passed.

Hubbell/Bartlett - motioned to approve the Library Budget of \$131,950.00 all in favor, motion passed.

Hubbell/Bartlett - motioned to approve the Other Culture & Recreation Budget of \$72,750.00 all in favor, motion passed.

Hubbell/Haskins- motioned to approve the Total Culture & Recreation Budget of \$216,700.00 all in favor, motion passed.

Haskins/Hubbell- motioned to approve the Conservation Budget of \$1,600.00 all in favor, motion passed.

Hubbell/Haskins- motioned to approve the Economic Development Budget of \$5,000.00 all in favor, motion passed.

Hubbell/Haskins- motioned to approve the Debt Service -Tan Interest Budget of \$2,000.00 all in favor, motion passed.

Hubbell/Haskins- motioned to approve the Grand Total Budget of \$3,672,733.00 all in favor, motion passed.

Hubbell/Haskins- motioned to hold the public hearing for the 2022 budget on February 3rd, 2022, at 6pm. All in favor, motion passed.

Hubbell/Bartlett-motioned to put the audio portions of the Budget Committee meeting on the Towns Website. All in favor, motion passed.

Bartlett/Hubbell motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:35pm, all in favor, motion passed.

Minutes recorded by Town Administrator Ken Robichaud.

Minutes voted and approved on January 20, 2022

January 11, 2022

Budget Committee
Town of Northfield

Subject: December 16, 2021 Meeting

I wanted to discuss this in person at our January 6th meeting but due to the full agenda, time did not permit. Unfortunately, I cannot be at the January 13th meeting, so I have written this statement for the Town Administrator, Ken Robichaud to read.

I was frustrated and embarrassed by the events occurring at the end of the December 16th meeting, specifically the inflammatory comments made by a budget committee member to other members of the committee. The comments had nothing to do with the budget discussions that evening, and I personally feel that the comments were meant to illicit a reaction from the Selectman. This has happened a couple of times during this budget season and when it has occurred, the discussion was unproductive and uncomfortable.

I typically enjoy hearing input from the other Committee members, even if I do not have the same viewpoint and I believe these discussions inform thoughtful and thorough decisions. When comments are made that do not relate directly to the specific budget lines being discussed, time is being wasted and frustration occurs. I do not believe that these meetings should be used to bring up grievances with the Selectmen rather our role is to recommend the Town of Northfield budget to be presented at Town Meeting.

The Chair and Vice-Chair try to keep the discussions on task which is greatly appreciated. I recognize that a difficult balance exists keeping members on task while still allowing members to state their questions and opinions. I feel bad as a committee member not taking a more active role in assisting the Chair and Vice-Chair, I do feel that every Committee member and Selectman has a responsibility to keep the meetings productive and professional.

I am hopeful that future meetings will be on task and that we are able to perform our duties as Budget Committee members in a professional and courteous manner.

Thank you,

Amy O'Hara