



NORTHFIELD BUDGET COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of December 2nd 2021

Present: George Corliss, Morris Boudreau, Scott Haskins, Selectmen Representative Mark Hubbell, Don Stevens, Amy O'Hara and Carl Bartlett.

Also Present: Town Administrator Ken Robichaud, Tilton Northfield Recreation -Brittini Stewart, Samantha Magoon, and Jennifer Haskins. Hall Memorial Library- Stephanie Giovannucci and Nicole Shultz.

Chairman Corliss called the meeting to order @ 6:00 pm.

Brittini Stewart and Samantha Magoon from Tilton Northfield Recreation Program (TNRP) spoke to the programs that they offer the Town of Northfield. The program has a 15 passenger van that they use for trips, but that it has not been as successful recently as it has in the past. The TNRP has 2 full time employees, 2 part-time office employees, 7 part-time Childcare workers. They also have fundraising events like a Christmas Breakfast, Annual Golf Tournament, and annual craft fair to help offset their funding. A large ticket item that may need attention in the coming year is the Fire Suppression System; which could be in the tens of thousands of dollars to repair. They just spent money to replace their two boilers that were over 20 years old this year. The program has received \$15,000.00 in grants this year to help offset their expense. The recreation program has requested the same amount of funding as last year \$69,750.00 for 2022. The Committee thanked Ms. Stewart, Ms. Magoon and Ms. Haskins for attending the meeting.

The Committee discussed last week's minutes for approval. Mr. Bartlett disagreed with the amount of content that was in the minutes. Mr. Bartlett stated that the minutes should contain more than 4 paragraphs for 1.5 hours of the meeting. The minutes should contain more information stated Mr. Bartlett than what this currently has. The Committee decided to wait until next week to review the minutes from the last meeting.

Library Director Nicole Shultz and Library Treasurer Stephanie Giovannucci met with the Budget Committee to explain how the Hall Memorial Library was established, how the library operates as well as the programs it provides to the Town of Northfield. The Hall Memorial Library operates as a trust which is much different than most municipal libraries. Because it is a trust, the library cannot obtain most grants and other funding available to most public municipal libraries. Hall Memorial has 2 full time employees, one part-time employee who works about 4-6 hours per day and 1 part-time employee who works 32 hours per week. Full time staff pays 10.5% towards their health insurance premium. The Library receives \$131,950.00 in funding from Tilton as well as \$131,950.00 from Northfield. It has approx. \$241,000.00 held in a trust fund but it can only utilize \$4,000.00 of interest per year from that principle and is restricted to purchasing books, movies and other material for the library. The Library offers many age appropriate programs as well as providing library materials and staff for Southwick and Union Sanborn Schools. The library also offers cooling centers in the summer for residents who don't have air conditioning. As well as internet access for those who need to access the internet. The Committee thanked the Library staff for meeting with them tonight.

Next discussed was the Selectmen's budget. The Town Administrator answered a question on Merit Pool as well as Professional Services. The Committee finished this section and will meet next week December 9th at 6:00 pm.

**Boudreau/Hubbell motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:30pm, all in favor, motion passes. Minutes Recorded by T/A Ken Robichaud
Minutes voted and Approved on 12/09/2021**