



NORTHFIELD BUDGET COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of January 26 2023

Present: Morris Boudreau, Amy O'Hara, Mark Hubbell, Carl Bartlett, and Scott Haskins.

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

Chairman O'Hara called the meeting to order @ 6:00 pm.

Boudreau/Hubbell motioned to accept the minutes of the 1/12/2023 meeting. A vote of 4 in favor and 1 abstention, motion passes.

The Committee reviewed and voted on the following budgets-

Selectboard budget of \$46,868.00 Boudreau/Haskins motioned to approve, all in favor, motion passes.

Town Administrator budget of \$286,017.00 Boudreau/Hubbell motioned to approve, all in favor motion passes.

Town Meeting budget of \$1,725.00 Bartlett/Boudreau motioned to approve, all in favor motion passes.

Town Clerk budget of \$187,727.00, was motioned by Boudreau/ Bartlett with after some discussion Boudreau recalled his motion and Bartlett recalled his second. More discussion it appears that the current Town Clerk is retiring, and the committee thought that the salary should be kept at the current rate of \$65,239.00 for any newly elected person and not the department's request of \$69,806.00.

Hubbell/Haskins motioned to approve the Town Clerks budget at the new amount of \$183,160.00.

Elections budget with Hubbell/Boudreau motioned to approve this at \$4,750.00, a vote of 4-1, motion passes.

Tax Collector budget of \$6,541.00 motion by Bartlett/Boudreau to approve with a 5-0 vote, motion passes.

Treasurer budget of \$3,122.00 motion by Bartlett/Hubbell to approve with a vote of 5-0, motion passes.

IT budget of \$63,491.00 motion by Boudreau/Hubbell to approve with a vote of 5-0, motion passes.

Revaluation budget of \$51,401.00 motion by Boudreau/Haskins to approve with a vote of 5-0, motion passes.

Legal Expense budget of \$16,000.00 motion by Haskins/Hubbell to approve, there was some discussion on this line with the Town Administrator explaining most of these are unknown expenses at this time as issues come up throughout the year, although some of these are reimbursable as with tax lien sales and other expenses ordered through the court. All in favor, motion passes.

Planning and Zoning budget of \$13,927.00 motion by Bartlett/Boudreau to approve, with some discussion on the use of Lakes Region Planning Commission. It was discussed at a Planning Board meeting to use Lakes

Region Planning Commission to help them with updating the 10-year Master Plan. **All in favor, motion passes.**

General Buildings budget of \$23,292.00 **with Haskins/Hubbell motioning to approve**, Bartlett discussed the electric usage in this department as it was not stated in the remark's column as in other budgets. The Town Administrator explained that he is the one who builds these budget lines and may have forgotten to put that one piece in but, that he got to that number by usage and that is the number he is using at this time as the price per Kilowatt has doubled. The Committee is more than welcome to put in any number they choose to place in that line. Hubbell explained that this budget has only risen by \$2,400.00 due to electric rate increase, **motion passed 5-0.**

Park Cemetery budget of \$6,000.00 with **Bartlett/Boudreau motioning to approve**, Hubbell discussed that we don't know how many Northfield residents use this cemetery, Bartlett stated that Selectman Durgin spoke with Ms. Huckins about this, and she is getting those numbers to us at some point. **By a vote of 3-2, motion passed.**

Insurance budget of \$91,846.00 was reviewed with Hubbell asking about this budget. The Town Administrator explained that this was a municipal risk pool and not commercial insurance. The difference is if the risk pool does well in mitigating risk then everyone benefits from this. This year the Town has received over \$6,000.00 in credit premiums due to a profitable year for the pool. Every year for the past 6 years the Town has not paid into unemployment as the Town received a payment holiday to cover that cost. No Commercial insurance would give back money for doing a good job in mitigating risk. **Hubbell/Boudreau motioned to approve this budget, all in favor motion passed.**

Hubbell/Bartlett motioned to approve the General Government Budget of \$798,141.00, all in favor motion passed.

The Budget Committee stopped review of the budget and reviewed the Warrant Articles for 2023 Town Meeting that had to do with a budgeted amount.

The Town Administrator started reading the following Articles.

Article # 8 to add \$400,000 to the Road and Bridge Reconstruction Fund

Article # 9 to spend \$650,000 to fund road and bridge repairs with \$400,000 to come from the road and bridge repair fund \$150,000 to come from the road repair fund and \$100,000 to come from the undesignated fund balance.

Article # 10 to raise \$85,000 to be added to the Highway Equipment Fund

Article #11 to spend \$48,000. on the first lease payment on a 6-wheel Dump Truck with Plow, Wing and Sander.

Article # 12 to add \$5,000.00 to the Cemetery Fund.

Article # 13 to add \$10,000. To the Computer Fund

Article # 14- to spend \$7,000. on replacing computer equipment.

Article # 15- to put \$30,000. into the Police Cruiser Reserve Fund.

Article # 16- to purchase a Police Cruiser for \$72,000. With \$42,000 coming from the police cruiser fund and \$30,000 to come from the Police Detail fund.

Article # 17- to see if the town will spend up to \$50,000 as a 50% match to purchase and install a generator at the Pines Community Center this will be used as the Towns Emergency Shelter.

Article # 18- to spend \$35,000. For the repair of the roofs at Town Hall and The Police dept.

Article # 19- to change the name of the Facilities Emergency Repair fund to the Facilities Repair Fund.

Article # 22- will be reserved for the budget total amount once the budget review has been completed .

The Budget Committee discussed with the Town Administrator the remaining dates for holding a public hearing on the 2023 Budget. The Budget Committee will hold a Public Hearing on the 2023 Budget on Thursday the 16th of February at 6pm. The Selectmen will hold their weekly Selectmen's meeting on that day as well in place of February 14th meeting. The Selectmen will begin their meeting at 5pm on the 16th.

The next meeting will be held on February 9th at 6pm.

Public Input

Kevin Waldron discussed the purchase of a new Police Cruiser. Waldron stated that the current plan is to purchase another cruiser to add to the current fleet. Although he did state that some time ago he did research on if one officer was assigned a cruiser, that officer would keep better care of the vehicle than a vehicle being used 16-24 hours per day, 7 days per week with no down time on that vehicle as the Town has always done.

It has been said by Waldron that an officer that is assigned a cruiser will take better care of the vehicle, there is less mileage put on that vehicle and it most cases has better maintenance record than a vehicle that runs all day every day without any down time. The officer takes better care of that vehicle.

Mark Hubbell rejected Waldrons statement that the Town should continue its same practice that it has always done and replace a vehicle instead of adding a vehicle. Hubbell stated that Waldron is speaking against what he has said in the past that the Selectmen should not continue with the same old ways of doing things and should add to the fleet for the same good reasons as Waldron has stated here. Mr. Waldron is contradicting himself on what he is saying. The Selectmen have been talking about adding to the fleet and not just merely replacing an older vehicle.

Bartlett/Boudreau motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 pm, all in favor, motion passed.

Minutes recorded by Town Administrator Ken Robichaud

Minutes approved February 9, 2023

