



NORTHFIELD BUDGET COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of February 16th 2023

Present: Mark Hubbell, Carl Bartlett, and Scott Haskins.

Not Present: Amy O'Hara, Morris Boudreau

Also Present: Town Administrator (T/A) Ken Robichaud, Selectman Jason Durgin, Kevin Waldron, Ken Tomlins, Gretchen Wilder, Anita Hernandez, and Joan Duquette.

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

Hubbell/Bartlett motioned to accept the minutes of the 2/9/2023 meeting, all in favor, motion passes.

Chairman Haskins opened the public meeting at 6:07 pm

Hubbell spoke to adding \$1.00 to the Emergency Management Budget line in case we have an emergency.
Bartlett/Hubbell motioned to put \$1.00 in the Emergency Budget line, all in favor motion passed.

The Committee went through the budget department by department. Answering questions as they came up.

Gretchen Wilder asked if they would go through the budget by department and if there was a difference between department and Budget Committee she would ask.

Ms. Wilder asked if the legal line amount was adequate seeing how last year's amount was well over the \$16,000.00. The Town Administrator explained that they never know what may come up during the year so he was comfortable with the \$16,000.00.

Ms. Wilder asked what the Forest Fire line was for, Administrator Robichaud explained that with Forest Fires if they happen between jurisdictions the Towns are responsible for anything outside the normal Fire Fighting equipment. Several years ago, a forest fire happened off of Rt. 140 between Belmont and Northfield and a helicopter was used to fight the fire, Northfield had to pay one half of the expense.

Youth Assistance Program (YAP) Budget- Ms. Wilder asked about the \$20,000.00 difference between the department requested amount and the amount the budget committee funded. Mr. Haskins spoke to the reason for this change as the Budget Committee felt that this was a duplicate service. Mr. Hubbell went on to say that the Town is paying the County of Merrimack over a million dollars a year and they have a similar service for juveniles. The program in Merrimack will not cost the Town anything whereas the parents of the diversion candidate pays \$100.00 for the attendance of their child in the program. Tilton has capped their cost for YAP at \$45,552.00 and Northfield plans to do the same. There was much more discussion on this subject, but Mr. Haskins wanted the members to move on to another section of the budget. Mr. Waldron commented on is the Town of Northfield giving YAP \$45,000.00 because Tilton is giving them this amount. It should have no bearing on what Tilton does with YAP. Mr. Hubbell tried to explain to Mr. Waldron that it will take some time for agencies to transition over to the Merrimack County Program, so we fund them at this amount for 2023 and we try out the Merrimack County Program and see how this goes. Ms. Wilder commented on moving with caution and look at the County program for next year if this is a comparable program.

On the DPW budget Ms. Wilder asked about the new equipment line and the difference of \$5,000.00. The Town Administrator answered the DPW wanted to buy a sander for the pickup and put it on the budget, but they were able to purchase it in 2022, so it was removed.

Ms. Wilder asked about road maintenance and the difference between the department request and the budget committee, the answer was the committee increased sand and salt. A resident on hidden lane spoke to the salt truck only do half of her driveway.

Streetlights came up for discussion and the Town saved by switching over to LED lights and eliminating a few lights. Although electricity costs almost doubled per KW than last year.

The final budget amount for the 2023 budget is \$3,813,092.00 up \$1.00 from last weeks budget meeting.

Bartlett/Hubbell motioned to accept \$3,813,092.00 as the Town of Northfields budget for 2023. All in favor, motion passed.

The review on revenue for \$1,530,005.00. Mr. Hubbell spoke to the revenue that comes into the Town and how the Town gets that revenue. There was no public input on the revenue, and the committee accepted the revenue at \$1,530, 005.00.

Other Business

The Highlands Village District is requesting to hold their budget hearing with the Budget Committee on April 6th 2023 at 6:00pm.

Public Input

Mr. Haskins adjourned the meeting at 6:53 pm.

Minutes recorded by Town Administrator Ken Robichaud

Minutes approved April 13, 2023