



NORTHFIELD BUDGET COMMITTEE

Highlands Village District

Minutes of the meeting of April 22, 2021

Present: Kaitlin Lounsbury, Carl Bartlett, Morris Boudreau, George Corliss and Selectmen Representative Scott Haskins.

Also Present: Town Administrator Ken Robichaud, Highlands Village Commissioners – Alice Thompson, Mathew Boissonneault and Highlands Village Treasurer Katie Boissonneault

Members not present: Amy O'Hara

Chairman Corliss called the Budget Committee meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Bartlett/Lounsbury motioned to accept the minutes of February 4, 2021. K. Lounsbury asked to correct the spelling of her name. All in Favor, motion passed and minutes are accepted as corrected.

Katie Boissonneault began the presentation of the Highlands Village District budget. She stated that the water pumps are 22 years old and need to be changed. The Sewer is pumped out annually. The water system is 17 years old and a USDA Rural Development loan was taken out many years ago and the USDA wanted the Village District to pay this loan back and to refinance their loan with another lender. The Village District went to Franklin Savings Bank to refinance about five years ago.

The village district will be looking at raising the user fees for all users next year. Currently they charge \$405.00 per quarter for water fees, and will look at raising the fee to \$420.00 per quarter. They have 40 units at Highlands Village and they have not raised the user fees in some years. The proposed 2021 budget is \$64,860.00 it is up \$5.00 from last year. They currently have \$45,000.00 in fund balance and they may only retain a specific percentage that the Village District can retain for fund balance. Katie did not have that percentage on hand.

Bartlett/Boudreau motioned to accept the budget as submitted, all in favor, motion passed. The budget Committee signed the MS-737 form for DRA. The Budget Committee thanked Katie for a well-planned explanation of the budget.

The Budget committee discussed again their dismay that the 2021 budget from the Selectmen came to them very late this year it was presented to them on January 7th. In the past the Budget was submitted earlier than this. Carl Bartlett would like to have a motion made to force the Selectmen to turn over the 2022 budget to the budget committee by December 1st 2021. The Town Administrator cautioned the Budget Committee that they could not force the Selectmen to do anything.

Bartlett/Lounsbury motioned to make a formal request to the Selectmen to have their proposed budget to the Budget Committee by the first week of December 2021. The motion passed by a 4-1 vote. Selectmen Haskins voted in the minority.

Lounsbury/Bartlett motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 pm, all in favor motion passed.

Minutes Recorded by T/A Ken Robichaud

Minutes voted and approved on 11/18/2021