

MINUTES OF THE 2021 NORTHFIELD TOWN MEETING

Polls were opened at the Pines Community Center, Dearborn Road, on the 9th day of March, at seven o'clock a.m. in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-one. The polls were closed at seven o'clock p.m. with 325 total votes cast.

ARTICLE 1. To choose all necessary Town Officers, Tilton-Northfield Fire District Officers and Winnisquam Regional School District Officers for the ensuing year.

TOWN ELECTION RESULTS:

Selectman – 3 years:	Jason Gerhard	14
	Mark R. Hubbell	168
	Manuel Pimentel Jr.	24
	David Bacon	50
	Carl Bartlett	44
	Jesse Garland	14
Treasurer – 3 years:	Roland C. Seymour	272
Trustee of Trust Funds – 3 years:	Deborah A. Tessier	258

At 9:05 a.m. on the 13th day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-one at the Southwick School, 50 Zion Hill Road, Northfield, Moderator Scott McGuffin called the Annual Meeting to order to act on the following:

Selectman Kevin Waldron and Chief John Raffaelly presented an “Excellence in Service Award” to Lieutenant Michael Hutchinson, Jr., for twenty years of service to the residents of Northfield as a member of the Police Department.

A Motion was made by Scott Haskins, seconded by Glen Brown to re-order consideration of Articles by moving Article 15 to be dealt with first, and Article 2 to be considered after Article 14.

MOTION PASSED

ARTICLE 15. We the People of Northfield, New Hampshire respectfully request that the Board of Selectmen requires the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to answer the following questions in common language within the soonest time possible:

1. Where is the word “income” defined in the IRS code? According to former IRS Commissioner Sheldon Cohen it isn’t defined anywhere within the code. [This is clearly documented on video in Aaron Russo’s “America: Freedom to Fascism]
2. Where in the code is it written that the average American, who does not exercise a federal privilege, but simply trades his time for money, is liable to pay the federal income tax?
3. Why have numerous IRS publications, IRS Directors, and U.S. Congressmen, among others, stated that the income tax is “voluntary”?

This article is not recommended by the Selectmen or the Budget Committee.

Article was moved by Jon Cilley and seconded by Catherine Ferreira.

Motion to Table Article 15 was made by Kevin Waldron, seconded by Leif Martinson.

MOTION TO TABLE PASSED BY COUNT OF HANDS: YES 36 NO 14

ARTICLE 3. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000) to be added to the Road and Bridge Reconstruction Capital Reserve Fund, previously established. This article would result in an increase in the amount to be raised by taxation. *This article is recommended by the Selectmen and by the Budget Committee.*

Article was moved by Kevin Waldron, seconded by Glen Brown. Mr. Waldron explained this is an annual request to add to the fund, with a separate Article to follow to request spending from the fund for specific work.

PASSED

Motion made by Kent Finemore, seconded by Jon Cilley, to bring Article 2 to the floor next for consideration.

PASSED

ARTICLE 2. To see if the Town will approve the transfer of Island, also known as Tilton Island, formerly called Atkinson Island, from the territory and jurisdiction of the Town of Northfield in Merrimack County to the territory and jurisdiction of the Town of Tilton in Belknap County and to authorize the Board of Selectmen of Northfield to take any and all necessary acts to effect the transfer of the administration and management of Island Park, also known as Tilton Island, formerly called Atkinson Island, in order that said Island Park, also known as Tilton Island, formerly called Atkinson Island, shall, henceforth, be the sole responsibility of the Town of Tilton. A two thirds ballot vote is required for passage. *This article is recommended by the Selectmen and by the Budget Committee.* (A 2/3 Ballot Vote Required.)

Article was moved by Glen Brown, seconded by Judy Stewart.

Scott Haskins explained although this transfer was approved at a previous town meeting, this Article is necessary to clear some legal matters. The transfer required approval of the New Hampshire House of Representatives and Senate; as well as Merrimack and Belknap counties, to approve relocating the county line between Tilton and Northfield, to effect placement of the island entirely in Tilton. Tilton has a similar Article on their town meeting warrant for acceptance of the Island. Joyce Fulweiler advised that the Town of Tilton has set aside money for several years toward repairs needed on the Island.

PASSED ON BALLOT VOTE: YES 56 NO 4

ARTICLE 4. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate Five Hundred Sixteen Thousand Dollars (\$516,000) to fund road and bridge reconstruction and repair projects with Three Hundred Ninety-Six Thousand Dollars (\$396,000) to come from the Road Reconstruction Capital Reserve Fund, and One Hundred Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$120,000) to come from the Road Repair Revolving Fund. No amount to be raised from taxation. This shall be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until December 31, 2022. *This article is recommended by the Selectmen and by the Budget Committee.*

Article was moved by Kevin Waldron and seconded by Glen Brown. Selectman Waldron advised the funds are planned for the following projects: Improve drainage on Bay Hill Road from Blueberry Lane to the intersection of Fiske Road and Knowles Pond Road; drainage on Shaker Road from Bay Hill Road to Twin Bridge Road; paving on Shaker Road from Fiske Road to Bay Hill Road. Catherine Ferreira inquired if the drainage work will be done in-house or subcontracted, and who would monitor the work. Kevin Waldron said the drainage work will be subcontracted and there is some money in the project for engineering to set the specifications. Mark Hubbell added that the Department of Public Works should oversee and make sure the work is completed according to the plan.

PASSED

ARTICLE 5. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000) to be added to the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund, previously established. This article would result in an increase in the amount to be raised by taxation. *This article is recommended by the Selectmen and by the Budget Committee.*

Article was moved by Kevin Waldron and seconded by Glen Brown. Selectman Waldron explained we have added \$75,000 to this fund for several years to maintain level funding for projects. As costs are increasing, we can expect more to be needed in future years. Greg Hill asked how any money received from federal stimulus funds would affect this spending. Budget Committee Vice-Chair Kaitlin Lounsbury responded that any grant money usually has restrictions as to what types of projects it can be used for, and any surplus could reduce taxes later.

PASSED

ARTICLE 6. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate One Hundred Fifty-Four Thousand dollars (\$154,000) to purchase new municipal equipment, for the purpose of road maintenance with said funds to be withdrawn from the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. No amount to be raised from taxation. *This article is recommended by the Selectmen and by the Budget Committee.*

Article was moved by Kevin Waldron and seconded by Robert Ivon. Kevin Waldron proposed Amendment #1, seconded by Greg Hill to amend Article 6 to read as follows:

“To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate One Hundred Forty Seven Thousand dollars (\$147,000) to purchase new municipal equipment, a rubber tired loader/backhoe with said funds to be withdrawn from the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. No amount to be raised

from taxation.”

Selectman Waldron explained the reason for the amendment is receipt of a lower priced quote and to be more specific as to the machine to be purchased. The intent is to trade or sell the current backhoe for the best return. Mike Witzgall asked if the intent is to purchase new equipment, with an expected life of 8,000 hours of use, or if there was consideration of a used machine with low hours; and if all options were considered in the choice of a backhoe vs. excavator. Selectman Scott Haskins stated the rubber tire feature allows the machine to go on the road, whereas a tracked machine would need to be trailered. Mark Hubbell stated for our use the backhoe is more versatile than an excavator, and if you purchase a new machine you know what you are getting, and will have the benefit of a warranty.

**AMENDMENT #1 PASSED
ARTICLE 6 AS AMENDED PASSED**

ARTICLE 7. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (10,000) to be added to the Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund previously established. This article would result in an increase in the amount to be raised by taxation. *This article is recommended by the Selectmen and by the Budget Committee.*

Article was moved by Glen Brown and seconded by Jon Cilley. Selectman Brown explained this is for the town-wide cyclical revaluation due in 2022. We have set aside funds for several years to plan for this expense.

PASSED

ARTICLE 8. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) to be added to the Cemetery Repair Expendable Trust Fund, previously established. This article would result in an increase in the amount to be raised by taxation. *This article is recommended by the Selectmen and by the Budget Committee.*

Article was moved by Glen Brown and seconded by Kaitlin Lounsbury. Selectman Scott Haskins stated the fund is currently at \$15,000. The fund will be used to repair retaining walls and for tree removal. The Hodgdon Cemetery will be the first priority for repair.

PASSED

ARTICLE 9. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (5,000) to be added to the Computer Replacement Capital Reserve Fund, previously established. This article would result in an increase in the amount to be raised by taxation. *This article is recommended by the Selectmen and by the Budget Committee.*

Article was moved by Glen Brown and seconded by Judy Stewart. Selectman Brown advised the current balance is \$7096.69. This will add to the fund, some of which will be requested to be spent in the next Article. Assistant Town Administrator Stephanie Giovannucci explained the fund is to replace the oldest computers, and to prepare for when a large purchase, such as a server, may be necessary. Jennifer Haskins added the average life of a laptop is two years, and for a desktop computer about five years before they become outdated. Kent Finemore stated his opinion that small requests such as this should be placed in the operating budget, not presented as a warrant article.

PASSED

ARTICLE 10. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500) to be withdrawn from the Computer Replacement Capital Reserve Fund for the purchase or replacing computer equipment. No amount to be raised from taxation. *This article is recommended by the Selectmen and by the Budget Committee.*

Article was moved by Glen Brown and seconded by Robert Ivon. Selectman Brown explained this request is to purchase two new laptops: one for the Town Clerk/Tax Collector and one for the Supervisors of the Checklist, to replace computers that are several years old.

PASSED

ARTICLE 11. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Thousand Dollars (30,000) to be added to the Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of purchasing and replacing Police Cruisers as needed. This article would result in an increase in the amount to be raised by taxation. *This article is recommended by the Selectmen and by the Budget Committee.*

Article was moved by Kevin Waldron and seconded by Glen Brown. Selectman Waldron said that vehicles are getting more expensive, and this fund was established to reduce tax rate spikes for large purchases. The fund currently has \$30,000 that was added last year. A question was raised about the

Hummer vehicle that is not often used, Chief John Raffaely explained that vehicle was donated at no cost to the Town.

PASSED

ARTICLE 12. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$60,000), for the purpose of purchasing a Police Cruiser as needed, with Eighteen Thousand Dollars (18,000) to be withdrawn from the Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund and Forty-Two Thousand Dollars (42,000) to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance. No amount to be raised by taxation. *This article is recommended by the Selectmen and by the Budget Committee.*

Article was moved by Kevin Waldron and seconded by Scott Haskins. Chief John Raffaely stated that no cruiser was requested last year. New police vehicles are 11” wider, so some equipment cannot be adapted from the old cruiser. New radios were also needed.

PASSED

ARTICLE 13. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty Four Dollars (\$1,864.00) for the purpose of funding a 3 % raise for the Town Clerks Salary. This article would result in an increase in the amount to be raised by taxation. *This article is recommended by the Selectmen and by the Budget Committee.*

Article was moved by Glen Brown and seconded by Jon Cilley. Joyce Fulweiler and Catherine Ferreira spoke in favor of the Article.

PASSED

ARTICLE 14. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee recommended sum of Three Million Six Hundred Thirty-three Thousand Six Hundred Fifty-Two Dollars (\$3,633,652) for general municipal operations. This article does not include special or individual articles listed above. *This article is recommended by the Selectmen and by the Budget Committee.*

Article was moved by Kaitlin Lounsbury and seconded by Carl Bartlett. Ms. Lounsbury explained this is an increase of approximately four percent. There were public hearings and many hours of work went into creating the budget.

PASSED BY COUNT OF HANDS: YES 58 NO 0

Jason Gerhard moved that Article 15 be brought off the table for discussion, seconded by Greg Hill. Mr. Hill stated he preferred to take up an Article and have a decision rendered.

PASSED BY COUNT OF HANDS: YES 46 NO 10

ARTICLE 15. We the People of Northfield, New Hampshire respectfully request that the Board of Selectmen requires the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to answer the following questions in common language within the soonest time possible:

1. Where is the word “income” defined in the IRS code? According to former IRS Commissioner Sheldon Cohen it isn’t defined anywhere within the code. [This is clearly documented on video in Aaron Russo’s “America: Freedom to Fascism”]
2. Where in the code is it written that the average American, who does not exercise a federal privilege, but simply trades his time for money, is liable to pay the federal income tax?
3. Why have numerous IRS publications, IRS Directors, and U.S. Congressmen, among others, stated that the income tax is “voluntary”?

This article is not recommended by the Selectmen or the Budget Committee.

Article 15 moved by Jason Gerhard and seconded by David Court. Jason Gerhard, petitioner of the Article, spoke to the Article and asked for support. Many offered opinions as to whether it was appropriate to have such a request come from the town, or if another venue might be more suitable. Paul Schnizler agreed this meeting is not the right venue, and read a portion of Title 26 IRS Code A.1.A.I-1 Income Tax on Individuals, which he felt addressed some of these questions. State Rep. Greg Hill stated this would be a good discussion to have, but thought it would be better taken up at the State level. Robert Ivon called the Question to end discussion, seconded by Rick Stewart. The Moderator offered anyone who had not yet spoken a chance to speak. The Moderator then called the question. Mark Hebert made a Motion to override the Moderator’s decision to allow calling of the question, seconded by Jason Gerhard. Mr. Hebert felt those waiting in line to speak to the Article should be allowed to speak. The Moderator stated all those in line had already spoken to the Article.

BY COUNT OF HANDS: YES 10 NO 43 MOTION FAILED

Ruling of the Moderator stands, discussion was ended on the Article.

BY COUNT OF HANDS: YES 1 NO 55 ARTICLE FAILED

ARTICLE 16. To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

A presentation was made to Selectman Glen Brown to thank him for his service to the Town of Northfield as Selectman from 2018 to 2021, an office he also held in past years.

A resolution was passed to send a message of gratitude and support to George W. Corliss, Jr., for his continuing and valued service as Chairman of the Northfield Budget Committee.

Selectman Waldron thanked the voters for coming out and their support; and town employees for their hard work and dedication. He thanked Assistant Town Administrator Stephanie Giovannucci for being a mainstay in the Selectmen's office during a difficult couple of years.

Paul Blaisdell spoke about a new program at the Hall Memorial Library, created to support and improve reading for children in the community. The Raven Blaisdell Foundation offers free books and interactive programs to help ensure all children have access to books.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy L. Caveney
Town Clerk