

**NORTHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING**  
**Northfield Town Hall**  
**21 Summer Street Northfield, NH 03276**  
**January 2, 2013 6:30 pm**

Present: Sel. Bluhm, Sel. Shepard

Also Present: Dick Stevens, Don Stevens, Lt. Raffaely, Chief Adams, Bob Southworth, Glenn Smith

**1. Public Appointments**

Chair recognized Don Stevens who asked questions about a letter he had recently received from the Selectmen. Mr. Stevens claimed that the letter was threatening and made a false claim that he was rude to town employees. He stated the reference in the letter that he approached an employee at the town garage was false and expressed displeasure that the letter had been sent before the Selectmen called him in to discuss the matter.

He stated that he assumed that one incident referred to in the letter concerned discussions he had with road crew workers on Reservoir Road and that he had informed them of a problem his neighbor was having with his driveway. He said that the neighbor had told him that Bob had said that when the road was repaved the contractor would pave 5-6 feet of driveway to fix this problem. Don also said he informed the workers of washout problem, that he wasn't rude to them. He said most of the time he was talking with Shane. Sel. Bluhm said that they had received complaints from employees. Don stated that he didn't talk with the guy in the backhoe.

Sel. Shepard noted that the Board had read the letters from the employees and became concerned about safety issues for the employees and for people walking through work zones. Don repeated that all he was trying to do was explain to the employees that what they were doing wasn't going to work, that he didn't know who to talk to, that there was no on-site supervision and that he wasn't going to go all over town to find someone to talk to.

He also claimed that nobody from the town was on Reservoir Road the day it was paved to make sure it was done right and to make sure that his neighbor's driveway was paved 5-6 feet in from the road. He identified his neighbor as Roy Wirth and said that Mr. Wirth told him that when the contractor did not pave the driveway he called Bob who said that he had instructed the contractor to pave the driveway but that it was not done.

In response to a question from Sel. Shepard Bob said that he did not tell Mr. Wirth that he was going to pave his driveway. Bob explained that Mr. Wirth's driveway had a 4" culvert pipe that was plugged and eroded to the point that the pipe was exposed and that Mr. Stevens might be mistaken when he said there was never a problem at this location. There was some disagreement as to whether the 4" pipe was still in place. Bob stated that it was untrue that there was no supervision the day Reservoir Road was paved; he was there three times that day to inspect the

work. Sel. Bluhm asked Don whether or not he thought the road was paved correctly. Don stated that he thought the paving was done correctly but that the town did not do follow-up to the paving work correctly.

Sel. Shepard stated that the Board would like Don to bring these concerns to Bob in the future instead of the crew and that if he didn't get satisfaction from Bob then he should bring his concerns to the Selectmen or the Town Administrator. Don responded that there was no on-site supervision at the worksite and he shouldn't have to search for someone to talk to. Sel. Shepard noted that at any one time Bob is working on a number of different projects, he can't be at the worksite full time but he can most always be reached by phone.

Don said that it was highly untrue that he approached an employee at the town garage. Sel. Bluhm said that the Board would definitely investigate this. Sel. Shepard agreed, saying that if it is untrue then she is sorry that the statement was included in the letter. Don said that the letter was highly threatening and he should have been contacted before it was written. He said that if the employees felt that his actions were threatening then they haven't been around too much, he was simply explaining to them what they were doing wrong so they could get on the radio and call Bob. Sel. Bluhm noted that the town is working on a protocol for employees as to what they should do when people enter worksites. Don said he was not saying anything derogatory to the employees about their work. He stated that he showed the letter to Eliza Conde and that she was flabbergasted by it and that it was rude to send out the letter out without talking with him. He said he would like to meet the employee who said that he was at the town garage.

Don speculated as to which employees might have written to the Selectmen. Sel. Shepard noted that the Board had received 3 letters and felt they had to act because of the safety issues involved for both the citizens and employees. Sel. Bluhm asked Bob for a write up and pictures concerning Mr. Wirth's driveway. Don offered to bring Mr. Wirth to a future Selectmen's meeting to discuss the issue. There was discussion of possible solutions of Mr. Wirth's driveway problems, Don expressed his thoughts as to what is needed to fix Reservoir Road drainage. He said that Mr. Wirth believes that the town created his driveway problem. Sel. Bluhm said that if it is something the town needs to take care of it should happen between now and Spring.

Don asked the Board what they are going to do about the 11/28 business; Board members repeated that they will be investigating this. Don said he wants to know how big a liar the employee is and that the Board reacted rudely in not talking to Don before sending him a letter.

Sel. Bluhm said the Board would follow-up on this and asked if Don wanted a call or a letter or some other type of follow-up. Don responded that he didn't care what form the follow-up took and that he would be contacting Mr. Wirth, who would be unhappy with the town.

## **2. Highway and Sanitation Department**

Highway Superintendent Bob Southworth distributed a draft recycling report for annual report. Board members reviewed the draft, Bob will continue to work on the report. He also presented a

purchase requisition for signature and reported that his crew has been called out 21 times due to weather conditions so far this year.

### **3. Police Department**

Chief Adams presented a purchase requisition for approval and informed the Board that at the next Budget Committee meeting he will be asking that the Committee add \$1,217 to his 2013 request for new microphones associated with the watchguard cameras, two are broken and another is spotty. He also asked that the Board accept a donation from the Police Relief Association for countertops and other materials from Home Depot that will allow for redesign of the patrol room. Sel. Bluhm said this will have to be on hold and asked if the Board can get a drawing of the proposed new configuration and a list of what is being donated.

Lt. Raffaely presented a request to carry over vacation time.

### **4. Administration**

Town Administrator Glenn Smith reviewed proposed changes to the town Joint Loss Management Policy relating to work zone safety, recommending that they be forwarded to the JLMC. Board members concurred. He also updated the Board on the proposed employee of the year program, an upcoming community planning grant workshop and the sale of tax deeded property scheduled for 1/17.

Glenn informed the Board of an issue raised by Dan Durgin concerning the exact location of the end of Ledge Road. Board members agreed to ask Dave Krause for an opinion on the matter.

### **5. General Business**

**Bluhm/Shepard** moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of December 11, 2012. **Motion passed.** **Bluhm/Shepard** moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of December 21, 2012. **Motion passed.** Board members reviewed dates for their upcoming meeting.

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 7:38pm

APPROVED BY THE NORTHFIELD SELECTBOARD ON JANUARY 8, 2013