

**NORTHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF January 24, 2012**

Present: Sel. Ziminsky, Sel. Bluhm, Sel. Swancott
Also Present Wayne Crowley, Ann Currier, Donna Rhodes, Nola Dobrowski, Vivian Resnick, Hy Resnick, Todd Frye, Dawn Frye, Joe DeMello, Melanie Wadliegh, Frank Wadliegh, Michael Witzgall, Pamela Patrick, Fred French Jr. Wilbur Fifield Sr. Jeffrey Brewer, Dave Coulter, Dan Desrochers, Amy Desrochers, Christine Raffaely, Sean Dunne, Cathy Thibeault, Judy Huckins, Joyce Fulweiler, Leroy French, George Flanders, Shane Dow, Jill Flanders, Eric Faller, Jay Dunne, Gretchen Wilder, Deborah Noyes, Joanne Kelso, Joe Jesseman, Ellen Coulter. Chief Adams, Bob Southworth, Glenn Smith

The Chair convened the second public hearing on the proposed Pay As You Throw trash collection system at 6:35pm.

Sel. Swancott introduced the topic by stating that the Board had been asked several times to develop a means of increasing recycling rates. After investigation it was decided to propose PAYT as the best means of increasing recycling rates.

Nola Dobrowski stated her concern that Northfield citizens would start dumping their trash alongside the road if PAYT is instituted.

Several residents expressed concern that the system would be more complicated and inconvenient than it is now without considerable reduction in costs.

Joe Demello stated that he thought the salary figures presented had been inflated, Sel. Swancott went through the calculations behind these figures.

Dave Coulter said he would like to see the potential impact of each option on the tax rate.

Peg Shepard said she hopes everyone understands that people will have to pay for curbside recycling. She stated we have a great transfer station with two hard working people and we should use what we have, the curbside option is more expensive and we will lose the revenue we under the curbside collection option. Sel. Swancott and Ziminsky agreed with Peg. Sel. Ziminsky stated that the savings in the curbside recycling option comes from eliminating a position, the increased cost is the cost of convenience of having recyclables picked up at the curb instead of citizens having to haul them themselves to the transfer station.

Peg asked why we were budgeting for new staffing under the transfer station recycling option. Sel. Bluhm reminded her that currently the two employees assigned to the transfer station work on roads approximately 20% of the time. Under this option they would work at the transfer station 100% of the time and Bob would have to increase his part time salary hours to backfill behind these employees.

Judy Huckins asked how often recyclables would be picked up. Sel. Swancott said it would be every other week.

Eric Fall and Syd Barton both stated that they currently recycle and are against PAYT.

Nola Dobrowski asked for clarification on the cost of the bags. Sel. Swancott said that the proposal is to charge \$.75 for a small bag, \$1.50 for a large bag with the anticipated revenue used to offset property taxes.

Sean Dunn stated that school budgets drive taxes, not the town. Any work done here is basically a feel good measure; the proposal is really a tax increase.

Judy Huckins inquired as to the tipping fee. Bob Southworth stated that it is \$66.80/ton. She inquired as to the capacity of the ash landfill. Joe Jessman stated that it has capacity to 2018 and that the Coop has a location in Canterbury for ash after that time.

Joyce Fulweiler asked if the town will bring recyclables to the Coop facility when it opens. Sel. Swancott said we certainly will if that is the most cost effective solution. Joyce asked if there was any way to get credit for recyclables brought to transfer station. Ed Green responded that the benefit is that you won't have to throw away as many bags.

Peg Shepard is unhappy with the fact that Chris Whitcher is quoting an average price of \$25/ton to dispose of recyclables when last summer he had quoted \$15/ton. Sel. Swancott reminded her that this figure is market driven.

Judy Huckins noted that we all pay the same amount no matter how much recycle. Dave Coulter asked that at town meeting we be specific as to what is recyclable and what is not.

Cathy Thiebault asked if a resident's trash would still be picked up if they did not use PAYT bags. She was told that such trash would not be picked up.

Sel Bluhm reminded those in attendance that this proposal came about because the citizens asked the Board to come up with a way to increase recycling rates. The Board responded to this request and is presenting the information. In addition the Board is doing everything possible to keep taxes down.

Gretchen Wilder advised people to investigate the facts for themselves via the internet.

Judy Huckins inquired as to the one time capital expense. Bob reviewed the proposal to redesign the transfer station to handle the increased traffic proposed under the PAYT/Transfer Station recycling option.

Ann Foster said she thinks this is about doing the right thing.

A citizen asked how this will be presented at town meeting. It was noted that this will be a separate warrant article; the final wording has yet to be determined.

A citizen noted that he would like to recycle but is working two jobs and can't make it to the transfer station. He would welcome the convenience of curbside recycling.

Joyce Fulweiler supported the PAYT transfer station option, saying she is sick of paying for other people's trash.

Mary Lee noted that research shows PAYT does not increase illegal dumping.

The Chair closed the public hearing at 7:50 pm and called a 10 minute recess.

The Chair reconvened the meeting at 8:00 pm

Ziminsky/Bluhm moved to enter into non-public session under the provisions of RSA 91-A3IIa at 8:05 pm. **Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.** Present at the non-public session were Chief Adams and Glenn Smith. **Bluhm/Swancott** moved that the minutes of the non-public session be sealed. **Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.** **Ziminsky/Bluhm** moved to reconvene the public session at 9:15 pm. **Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.**

Board members reviewed general correspondence and payroll & accounts payable manifests. **Ziminsky/Swancott** moved to approve the minutes of the meetings of December 13, 2011 as amended. **Ziminsky/Bluhm** moved to approve the minutes of the meetings of January 11, 2011. **Motion passed.** **Bluhm/Ziminsky** moved to approve the minutes of the meetings of January 17, 2011. **Motion passed.**

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 9:20pm.

APPROVED BY THE NORTHFIELD SELECTBOARD ON FEBRUARY 7, 2012