

**NORTHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING**  
**Minutes of the meeting of January 26, 2016**

Present: Sel. Waldron, Sel. Crowley, Sel. Southworth

Also Present: Glenn Smith, Chief Raffaelly, Andy Buteau, Greg Hill

The meeting was called to order at 4:00pm

**1. Police Department**

Chief Raffaelly informed that Board that a new furnace has been installed at the Police Station and is running well. He also presented a request for time off, which Board members signed.

**2. Highway Department**

Board members reviewed and approved the proposed trash collection and transfer station servicing contract with Casella.

Highway Superintendent Andy Buteau informed the Board that he has not been able to inspect the trees at Island Park in relation to Tilton's request to hire an arborist. He also recommended approval of the proposed public works mutual aid program, which Board members signed. Andy also updated the Board as to recent departmental activities.

Sel. Waldron inquired as to the status of truck 6. Andy reported that when an engine light appeared he had the truck diagnosed and found turbo problems. The code has been reset but it needs to be fixed. Sel. Waldron suggested that Andy be authorized to fix the truck as soon as the code flashes again. Board members concurred.

**3. Administration**

Town Administrator Glenn Smith reviewed a proposed health benefit system, noting the the town has the potential for providing employees with a similar benefit at a reduced cost through the New England Employee Benefit Company. Board members asked that a NEEBCO rep be invited to the next meeting.

Glenn informed the Board that Scott Davis of TNWD is organizing a meeting with the Boards of Selectmen of Northfield, Tilton and Belmont to discuss tri-town aquifer protection. Selectmen indicated that they would be interested in participating in such a discussion. He also presented an RFP for town hall exterior repairs. Board members authorized distributing this as revised.

Board members discussed a request from an abutter of one of the town conservation areas for a lot line adjustment. They asked Glenn to ask the abutter for a drawing showing the adjustment being requested and to also learn what the Conservation Commission thought of the proposal.

**4. Public Input**

Representative Greg Hill reported that he is fighting Medicaid expansion in the State Legislature and warned Selectmen that the Legislature is planning on paying for Medicaid expansion by depleting the

education stabilization fund within 4 years, resulting in a loss of \$2.2 million in state education funding for Northfield, adding an estimated \$7.00 to the tax rate. He is proposing that the town counteract this eventuality by approving his request for \$10,000 to fund an educational scholarship program that will provide funding for families who remove their children from WRSD schools, saying this won't solve the problem but it could provide a good start. He noted that the town attorney has advised the Selectmen that such a program is not permissible under state statutes and believes that the proposal was not accurately presented to the town attorney. Greg also stated that if the town institutes the program and it is then challenged the town could simply stop the program without any legal ramifications but if the town did agree to test the legality of a challenge he knew of several organizations that would pay the town's legal fees. Sel. Crowley asked if Greg had introduced any legislation to prevent the raid on the education stabilization fund. Greg replied that he had not as he became aware of the plan after the deadline for introducing new legislation but that he might be able to address it through an amendment to an upcoming bill. Sel. Crowley asked if Greg had introduced legislation that would address the town attorney's concern. Greg responded that he feels a legislative solution is not possible the Governor would veto any school choice legislation and he would not have the votes to override a veto. Sel. Waldron stated that the problem is that we have a legal opinion stating that the educational scholarship program as proposed is not legal. Greg stated that he feels the town attorney is wrong; the case cited is not relevant to his proposal. He noted that the Croydon Selectmen are taking their case to court, we could do the same. Sel. Crowley said he is not comfortable ignoring legal counsel. Selectmen asked Glenn to coordinate a phone conference with the attorney on this issue, at which Rep. Hill would be present.

Board members reviewed the 2016 draft budget and warrant, making adjustments in the areas of Highway salaries, road projects, capital projects, recycling proposal, Planning and Zoning salaries, contracted services and new equipment.

Board members reviewed the proposed 2016 warrant.

## **5. General Business**

Board members reviewed accounts payable, payroll manifests and general correspondence. **Crowley/Southworth** moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of January 5, 2016. **Motion passed.**

## **6. Non-public Session**

**Waldron/Southworth** moved to enter into non-public session under the provisions of RSA 91-A3II a,b,c at 9:37pm. **Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.** Also Present: Chief Raffaely, Glenn Smith. **Southworth/Crowley** moved to reconvene the public session at 10:10pm. **Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.**

**Waldron/Southworth** moved to seal the minutes of the non-public session of January 26, 2016 as divulgence of the minutes would adversely affect the reputation of a person not a member of the Board. **Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.**

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 10:11pm.

APPROVED BY THE NORTHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN ON FEBRUARY 2, 2016