

NORTHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
Minutes of the Meeting of October 3, 2017

Present: Sel. Crowley, Sel. Southworth, Sel. Allen

Also Present: Jason Durgin, Kaitlin Lounsbury, Valerie Allen, Paul Blaisdell, Karen Feltham, Howard Warren, Russ Barbeau, Scott Haskins

The meeting was called to order at 5:00pm

1. Public Input

The Chair recognized Karen Feltham who inquired as to the plans to resurface Vine Street as the street was patched after the sewer company did construction on the road recently. She reminded the Board that she had just moved her business to Vine Street and is a major taxpayer in town. Board members noted that resurfacing of the road is not in the current short term plan.

The Chair recognized Valerie Allen who spoke of her nuisance complaint concerning her neighbors' unrestrained chickens and loud roosters. Sel. Allen recused himself from discussion and vote on this matter. Glenn Smith updated the Board on the results of his research into possible zoning, noise ordinance and health complaint. He recommended that given current RSA's and case law the best remedies available are either enacting a noise ordinance or seeking relief through the courts. Board members discussed the matter and decided that addressing the ordinance through a noise ordinance would not be effective.

2. Police Department

Chief Raffaely reported that the town has been awarded a grant that will pay for 50% of a new cruiser dashcam unit. Also, he announced that he is not recommending contracting with Tilton for dispatch services for next year. He noted that Tilton's quote is \$5,000 less than that of Belknap County but that Tilton will not be offering 24/7 service so contracting with them is not effective.

3. Public Works Department

Board members approved a three year contract for the plowing of Pines Community Center Parking Lot. Public Works Director Andy Buteau and Code Enforcement Officer Jason Durgin discussed replacement of Arch Park lights with the Selectmen. Jason recommends installation of LED units at a cost of \$2,500 to \$3000, noting that given the efficiency of LED lights the payback period will be relatively short. Board members asked Jason to investigate this option.

Andy reported that Zion Hill Road project is done, as are Cofran Extension, Howard, Ave. and Luneau Drive. He inquired as to whether Board members wanted a road curve sign at the Forrest Road intersection.

Andy reported that the hydraulic pump on the backhoe needs to be replaced. Board members authorized the work up to a cost of \$4,000. Andy and Board members discussed the purchase of a new sidewalk plow/roadside mower.

Sel. Southworth asked for an update on the new truck and was told that it was still being upfitted. Sel. Southworth noted that the Pines Park fence along Dearborn is falling over and should either be repaired or torn down. Chief Raffaely said that repairs would not be expensive for this fence. Sel. Southworth asked Glenn to look into repairing the signs for the Arch and at town hall.

4. Administration

Town Administrator Glenn Smith reviewed the proposed amnesty voucher system. Board members discussed the logistics of the system and authorized Glenn to move forward with implementation.

Board members spoke with Kaitlin Lounsbury about her interest in serving on the ZBA. **Southworth/Crowley** moved to appoint Kaitlin Lounsbury as a regular member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment. **Motion passed.**

Board members asked Russ Barbeau why he installed a fence blocking more than half the sidewalk on Elm Street. Mr. Barbeau explained that he intends to dig up the sidewalk to fix a water problem in his home, remove and replace a porch and possibly redo the siding on the front of his home. He believes the fence is needed to protect the pedestrians using the sidewalk. Board members discussed the situation with Mr. Barbeau, Andy Buteau, Jason Durgin and Chief Raffaely. Mr. Barbeau was informed that a trench permit was needed before he could dig into a public sidewalk and that a building permit was needed before he could work on his home. Permit applications need to come from the owner of the property, not Mr. Barbeau. The Selectmen did not require the removal of the fence at this time.

Andy asked for guidance concerning the removal of brush on Arch Street that is blocking a sidewalk.

Board members reviewed town meeting action items.

Glenn outlined the need to borrow in anticipation of taxes. **Crowley/Allen** moved to authorize borrowing \$150,000 in anticipation of receipt of tax revenue in November. **Motion passed.**

Board members authorized refunding building permit application fees to a resident who withdrew his application before the application was reviewed.

Board members signed the 2017 MS1 form.

Crowley/Southworth moved to adopt the proposed Use of Technology Policy, Employee Handbook Section 12.3, as amended. **Motion passed.**

5. Non-public RSA 91A-3 II(c)

Crowley/Southworth moved to enter into non-public session under the provisions of RSA 91-A3II c at 7:12 pm. **Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.** Also Present: Glenn Smith and Chief Raffaely. **Crowley/Southworth** moved to reconvene the public session at 8:10 pm. **Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.**

6. General Business

Board members reviewed accounts payable, payroll manifests and general correspondence

Crowley/Allen moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of September 19, 2017 as amended. **Motion passed.**

Crowley/Southworth moved to seal the minutes of the non-public session just completed 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 8:13 pm

APPROVED BY THE NORTHFIELD SELECTBOARD ON OCTOBER 17, 2017