

**NORTHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING**  
**Minutes of the meeting of October 21, 2014**

Present: Sel. Shepard, Sel. Crowley, Sel. Waldron  
Also Present: Diane Cullen, Bob Southworth, Mike Witzgall, Christopher Sheehan, Michael, Sheehan, Trish Sawicki, Steve Sawicki, Johnny Van Tassel, Glenn Smith

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm.

**1. Highway Department**

Highway Superintendent Johnny Van Tassel informed the Board that work on Rand Road will start next week, that he will begin hauling sand this week and that he has developed an agreement with the owner of 54-56 Elm Street concerning the sidewalk repair previously discussed. Work on this project will begin tomorrow. He also sought permission to order 90 tons of salt at the price previously established by contract, which the Board approved.

Board members reviewed information from Johnny concerning the purchase of a 9' moldboard and a 10' reversible plow. Quotes were presented from HP Fairfield and Alton Motorsports (moldboard only). Board members reviewed costs and uses of this equipment. **Crowley/Shepard** moved to purchase a 10' reversible plow from HP Fairfield and a 9' moldboard from Alton Motorsports as proposed at a cost of \$4,895.00. **Motion passed.**

Johnny updated the Board on the Rand Road project. He will be replacing the two driveway culverts previously discussed, the landowner has already purchased the culverts. Bob Southworth said that he believes all driveway culverts should be replaced along this section of road. After discussion, Board members instructed Johnny to offer other landowners whose driveways open onto the section of road to be reconstructed the opportunity to have the town install new driveway culverts for them on the condition that they purchase the culverts. Also, Board members instructed Johnny to replace a cross culvert that has started to rust out.

**2. Public Appointments**

Sel. Shepard recognized Chris and Mike Sheehan and reviewed the circumstances that lead to the closure of the skate park. She noted that the Board would prefer to keep the park open but it is getting trashed and has become a magnet for illegal activity. Mr. Sheehan reported that he is the last remaining member of Project TNS; he has worked to repair the fence but there is little he can do on his own. Steve Sawicki asked if a fence were needed. Mr. Sheehan said that it was needed to prevent people from driving into the park. Mike Sheehan reported that while he was in high school he and other teens regularly repaired the park and worked to keep unwanted activity from happening at that location. Now that they are in college they can only work on this sporadically. Sel. Shepard said that she would like to see the parents of those teens currently using the park to get involved.

Sel. Crowley asked if the fence could be replaced with jersey barriers, which could be used to keep vehicles out of the park and which would require less maintenance. Mr. Sawicki noted that the park is in an out of the way location that would probably attract unwanted elements even if the skate park weren't there. Mike Sheehan noted that there is another problem at the 'crack shack' at the top of the hill, kids congregate there to smoke and for other illicit activities which then spills down into the skate park area, it would be helpful if the PD could swing through the area once or twice a day.

### 3. Police

In the absence of Chief Raffaely, Sel. Crowley updated the Board on the status of the police officer recruitment process.

### 4. Administration

Town Administrator Glenn Smith reviewed the 2015 tax rate spreadsheet received from DRA. Board members reviewed the figures and discussed the impact on the tax rate of the use of various amounts of retainage. Sel. Waldron expressed severe aggravation that the town works to hold the line on spending but that the school and fire districts do not. He also expressed resentment with the requirement that the town hold a 5% retainage. Glenn explained that this was only a recommendation of DRA but that if the town held less than 5% retainage then DRA would require that the voters be informed that DRA feels that the town maintains reserves less than what they feel is prudent. Board members reviewed the general fund balance sheet. **Crowley/Shepard** moved to use \$400,000 of retainage to reduce the 2014 tax rate and to retain a \$40,000 overlay to cover future abatements. **Motion passed 2-1, Sel. Waldron dissenting.**

Glenn reviewed the proposal from the CIP Committee to retain the services of a professional engineer to assist in the development of an accurate and realistic long term capital improvement plan. The proposal includes entering into this contract in 2014 so there may be sufficient time to complete the 2015 proposal. Board members reviewed the proposal and authorized Glenn to proceed with recruiting an engineer for this purpose.

Board members reviewed proposed language designed to give residents guidance as to when a building permit is required. Glenn was asked to place this matter on the next agenda.

Glenn updated the Board on the installation of SPOTS at the Police Department, presented a Selectmen's Deed for signature and updated the Board on the sale of the Emerson trailer. He also presented his recommendation for adjustments to the town wage scale, which Board members reviewed in detail.

### 5. General Business

Sel. Waldron noted that the new f550 was not outfitted to spec. He and Johnny are working with Fairfield to correct the situation.

Board members reviewed accounts payable, payroll manifests and general correspondence. **Shepard/Crowley** moved to accept the minutes of the meeting of October 14, 2014 **Motion passed.** **Waldron/Shepard** moved to accept the minutes of the non-public meeting of October 14, 2014 **Motion passed.**

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 9:08pm

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN ON OCTOBER 28, 2014