

NORTHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday November 20, 2018

Present: Sel. Crowley, Sel. Brown, Sel. Haskins
Also Present: Glenn Smith, Jennifer Davis, Rose Marie Welsh, Brittini Stewart, Nancy Court,
Stephanie Giovannucci, Rachel Saliba, Kathy Mitchell, Andy Buteau

The meeting was called to order at 4:32pm.

1. Public Input

The Chair recognized Pines Community Center Director Brittini Stewart who noted that the increase in the 2019 budget request provides for salaries for existing personnel and an additional site director for licensed child care facility. She noted that the Pines only has two certified site directors, which makes it difficult to staff before school and after school programs. Sel. Crowley inquired as to staffing levels and bank fees. Board members discussed the difficulty of recruiting and retaining good employees. Sel. Crowley noted that the new position will provide a large increase in 2020.

The Chair recognized Library Director Jennifer Davis. Sel. Crowley inquired as to where trust fund revenue can be found in the financial documents. Stephanie Giovannucci responded. Board members discussed library trust funds with library staff and library trustees. Jennifer Davis reported that many of the trusts are non-expendable, and several are targeted for use with capital expenses, which are not included in the operating budget. She reviewed building repair work completed in 2018. Nancy Court reviewed the need for increased requests in certain operating budget accounts.

Sel. Crowley inquired as to how many people visit the library, seeking to determine the cost/visit of the facility. Jennifer Davis reported that she can obtain that information and reviewed the services provided and how library cards are issued. She also reported that in 2017 the library had an estimated 36,000 visits.

Sel. Crowley inquired as to the consolidation of school and public libraries. Jennifer Davis reported that she doesn't think this is feasible in that an educational library serves a different purpose than a public library. Also, a public library is open to the public, including patrons who should not be around children.

2. Public Works Department

Public Works Director Andy Buteau asked Sel. Crowley if a guardrail was going to be added to the Sandogardy Pond Road project. Sel. Crowley informed the board that he has authorized the addition of another guardrail at the squash culvert close to Rt. 132, also he has removed delineators from the project. He will be consulting with TNFD concerning the need for a dry hydrant. He reviewed project costs and driveway conditions.

Andy reported that the frame has broken on the 2015 F150, which is out of warrantee. It was agreed that it will be fixed in the manner discussed between Andy and Sel. Crowley earlier.

Also, the electronic control on the Freightliner's sander needs to be replaced; the part is on order.

Andy reported that this year more residents are driving on bald tires and driving while on the cell phone. This is disrupting his plow routes as these people go off the road and then his crew is called to add more salt and sand to particular spots on the road. Sel. Crowley noted this will not change. Board members discussed road conditions.

Andy reported that the public works department will be closed on Friday.

3. Administration

Town Administrator Glenn Smith reviewed employee health insurance options for 2019 as presented by the New England Employee Benefit Company. Board members discussed the plan and the town's associated HRA. **Crowley/Brown** moved to continue enrollment in the Tufts Health Freedom Plan Silver Granite Advantage EPO Saver 4000 plan as proposed by NEEBCO for 2019. **Motion passed.**

Glenn Smith reviewed the 2019 tax map maintenance proposal filed by CAI. **Crowley/Brown** moved to accept the 2019 tax map maintenance proposal as proposed. **Motion passed.**

Glenn Smith reviewed the renewal certificate for Northfield's three economic revitalization zones, recommending that the town seek recertification for the Rt. 140 and Exit 19/Freudenberg zones. **Crowley/Brown** moved to seek recertification of economic revitalization zones as proposed. **Motion passed.**

Glenn Smith proposed filing a project for inclusion in the DOT ten year plan consisting of traffic control at the Rt. 140/Shaker Road intersection, citing that residents on Shaker Road businesses along the Rt. 140 corridor all complain that the intersection is dangerous. Additionally, traffic will only increase as the Cormier lots are developed. Board members discussed the options, including roundabout vs. traffic light and the possible realignment of Shaker Road. Glenn noted that LRPC advises that repair of the sidewalks along Rt. 132 would likely not be included in the 10 year plan as DOT tends not to consider sidewalk projects that are not part of larger highway project. Glenn was asked to move forward with this proposal.

Sel. Crowley updated the Board on the status of issues involving water in Diana Road and plowing on Stevens Road. He asked that the status of Gibson Mill Road and Diana Road water problems be added to the suspense list.

4. General Business

Board members reviewed accounts payable, payroll manifests and general correspondence. **Crowley/Brown** moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of November 13, 2018. **Motion passed.**

The next meeting was scheduled for 5pm on November 27th.

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 6:55pm.

APPROVED: NOVEMBER 27, 2018