

NORTHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
Minutes of the meeting of Tuesday, January 21, 2014

Present: Sel. Bluhm, Sel. Shepard, Sel. Waldron

Also Present: Tom Jordan, Chief Raffaely, Officer Chapple, Johnny Van Tassel, Glenn Smith

The meeting was called to order at 6:40pm

1. Highway Department

Highway Superintendent Johnny Van Tassel presented an update of departmental operations. In addition to dealing with recent storms the crew has been removing snow from Cannon Bridge, hauling sand and fixing potholes that have developed after the recent thaw. Johnny reported that the crew has distributed about two tons of material filling potholes recently.

Johnny distributed quotes for a new angle broom which Board members reviewed. He noted that the old broom overheats and isn't functional. Cost of the unit is \$5,911, it can be bought and funds taken out of highway equipment fund. Sel Waldron asked how the operator would be protected from dust. Johnny replied that he will try to use it under conditions where dust is not created, light rain, in grader ditching then sweep before material dries out. Johnny will research the option of purchasing two units, a larger one for street sweeping and a smaller one for sidewalk sweeping. He will also investigate buying a unit that will sweep directly into a bucket.

Board reviewed a used oil grant application. **Bluhm/Shepard** moved to accept the 2014 used oil grant program application and authorized Johnny Van Tassel to file the application on behalf of the town. **Motion passed.** Glenn updated the Board on an upcoming meeting with DES and Rep. Webb to resolve problems with accepting used waste oil.

2. Police Department

Officer Aaron Chapple presented proposals that the Northfield Police Department initiate a Nixel emergency notification system and begin a facebook page as a means of increasing its ability to communicate with citizens. Board members discussed the proposals and asked Chief Raffaely to develop protocols for the use and management of these services.

Chief Raffaely discussed purchase of the 2014 cruiser. Irwin's wants a firm commitment prior to town meeting. Board members asked that he contact Graponne. He also reviewed the recent meth lab bust. Board members congratulated him and the department and offered their thanks for a job well done.

3. Administration

Town Administrator Glenn Smith presented Schoolcare health insurance rates renewals.

Bluhm/Shepard moved to authorize Glenn Smith to sign the health insurance health insurance renewal forms for 2014-2015 on behalf of the town. **Motion passed.**

Board members reviewed material relating to options for reducing health insurance costs, including changing plans and/or increasing the incentive for employees to opt out of the plan. Sel. Waldron said he was interested in any plan that helped the town as long as it didn't place an increased burden on employees. Board members discussed the options and the changing insurance marketplace and agreed to discuss these matters next week.

Board members reviewed the proposed contracts for animal control and animal confinement. Discussion points included making monthly payments for confinement instead of one annual payment and whether the town had to enter into both contracts or could we just contract for confinement and have police officers handle control. Glenn was asked to discuss the matter with the Animal Control Officer and report back in two weeks.

Board members discussed the request of the Winnepesaukee River Trail Association to install and maintain, at their expense, an informational kiosk in Surrette Park for the river trail. Board members were receptive to the idea but requested that the sign be redesigned to reduce the chances of vandalism and that it be freestanding instead of being fixed to the fence. Glenn was asked to forward this information to the WRTA.

Glenn presented a suggestion that the town allow employees to use personal cell phones for town business in lieu of town issued phones, noting that employees have been resistant to carrying their town phones and the town could realize some savings as a result. Board members discussed the proposal and asked Glenn do develop a form employees could use to make such a request.

Board members reviewed and approved their report for inclusion in the annual report.

4. General Business

Bluhm/Shepard moved to enter into non-public session under the provisions of RSA 91-A3IIc at 8:55pm. **Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.** Present at the non-public session were Johnny Van Tassel, Chief Raffaely and Glenn Smith. **Bluhm/Shepard** moved to reconvene the public session at 9:45pm. **Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.**

Bluhm/Shepard moved to seal the minutes of the non-public session under the provisions of RSA91-A:3 II because divulgence of the information likely would affect adversely the reputation of any person other than a member of the board itself. **Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.**

Board members reviewed accounts payable and payroll manifests and general correspondence. **Bluhm/Shepard** moved to accept the minutes of the meeting of January 7, 2014. **Motion passed.** **Bluhm/Shepard** moved to accept the minutes of the meeting of January 14, 2014. **Motion passed.**

Sel. Waldron asked inquired as to the status of the 2014 warrant, Glenn said he would forward it to the Board members. Sel. Waldron asked if there was any interest among Board members to discontinue the Summer Street end of Hidden Lane as there were only two houses on the street and it was a dead end. Sel. Shepard and Bluhm were not interested in placing this matter before the voters.

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 9:53 pm.

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN ON JANUARY 28, 2014