

MINUTES FOR THE 2018 NORTHFIELD TOWN MEETING

Polls were opened at the Pines Community Center, Dearborn Road, on the 13th day of March, at seven o'clock a.m. in the year of our Lord two thousand and eighteen. The polls were closed at seven o'clock p.m. with 197 votes cast.

ARTICLE 1: To choose all necessary Town Officers, Tilton-Northfield Fire District Officers and Winnisquam Regional School District Officers for the ensuing year.

TOWN ELECTION RESULTS

- Moderator, two years
 - Scott McGuffin (unopposed)..... 183
- Selectman: three years
 - Glen Brown (unopposed)..... 151
- Supervisor of the Checklist, six years
 - Terry Anne Steady (unopposed) 174
- Treasurer, three years
 - Roland Seymour (unopposed)..... 169
- Trustee of Trust Funds: three years
 - Deborah Tessier (by write-in)..... 11

At 9:00 a.m. on the 17th day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand and eighteen at the Pines Community Center, Dearborn Road, Northfield, Moderator Scott McGuffin called the Annual Meeting to order.

ARTICLE 2: Shall the voters allow the operation of Keno games in the Town of Northfield?

Article moved to floor by Wayne Crowley, seconded by Bob Southworth. Wayne Crowley explained the State Legislature authorized Keno to be allowed in establishments that serve liquor and food. Approximately 18-19% of the proceeds go back to school districts that have all day kindergarten, whether or not the town allows Keno. There are several establishments in Northfield that could benefit from Keno. Lee French spoke on behalf of the American Legion and said Keno proceeds would help them in their local charitable efforts. The return from Keno is projected to be about \$1100 per student. All day kindergarten will be considered at the upcoming School District meeting.

ARTICLE PASSED on paper ballot Yes 67 No 15

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town is interested in conveying the Town's one-half ownership of Island Park to the Town of Tilton.

Article moved by Steve Randall, seconded by Linda Luedke Wayne Crowley explained this Article does not authorize giving up our half-ownership, it is only to measure the interest in doing so. We currently share maintenance costs and liability for the Island. If approved, the Selectmen would pursue meeting with representatives from Tilton to discuss options. The Island is in need of considerable repair in the coming years. Any proposal to change the ownership would come back to town meeting for a vote.

ARTICLE PASSED

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred and Forty One Thousand Four Hundred dollars (\$241,400) to the Road Reconstruction Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of funding major road and bridge repair and reconstruction projects as needed.

Article moved by Scott Haskins, seconded by Steve Randall Wayne Crowley said this is a similar article to those in recent years to add money to the capital fund for the purpose of repairing roads and bridges. There was \$223,000 in this fund at the end of 2017. Our CIP

plan lists \$518,000 as projected spending for 2018. We expect a block grant of \$127,000 and the State has awarded us \$103,000 for roads. For future years the CIP plan adds \$100,000 from the fund balance, and since this is the last year we will add \$100,000 to the Sandogardy Pond Road Repair fund that money could be redirected to other roads. There was much agreement that more money may be needed. CIP has a good plan for road maintenance in upcoming years and have worked with the Sewer and Water Districts to plan ahead on projects.

ARTICLE PASSED

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to establish a Road Repair Revolving Fund pursuant to RSA 31:95-h for the purpose of funding road and bridge repair and reconstruction and appoint the Board of Selectmen as agents of the fund. All monies received from the Highway Block Grant will be deposited into this fund, and the money in the fund shall be allowed to accumulate from year to year, and shall not be considered part of the town's general surplus. Such funds may be expended only for the purpose for which the fund was created. This article would result in no increase in the amount to be raised by taxes.

Article was moved by Linda Luedke and seconded by Steve Randall
Wayne Crowley explained this sets up a revolving fund for road repair only. It allows us to put in \$127,000 from a block grant for only that purpose. Currently block grant funds go into the general fund and can be used for anything. Eventually the Capital Roads and Bridges fund would roll into this through an Article on next year's warrant. This is just a cleanup to better organize the funds for specific purposes. The Selectmen can still spend as they deem fit, but only for road and bridge repair as on the CIP plan.

ARTICLE PASSED

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate Four Hundred Fifteen Thousand Eight Hundred Seven Dollars (\$415,807) to fund road and bridge reconstruction and repair projects with Two Hundred Eighty-eight Thousand Eight Hundred Seven Dollars (\$288,807) to come from the Road Reconstruction Capital Reserve Fund, and One Hundred Twenty Seven Thousand Dollars (\$127,000) to come from the Road Repair Revolving Fund monies and no funds to come from taxation. This shall be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until December 31, 2019.

Article was moved by Glen Brown and seconded by Steve Randall
Wayne Crowley explained this article takes the money out of the specific funds and spends it for projects per the CIP plan. The total from all sources is \$518,000, not including the Sandogardy Pond Road project. For roads started in 2017 the plan is to put top coat on a year after the base was laid so it has been allowed to settle. They will also be completing drainage and other work listed. There was discussion about Rand Road, which will be looked at for consideration of additional funds needed to address problems there.

ARTICLE PASSED

ARTICLE 7: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Thousand dollars (\$100,000) to be deposited in the Sandogardy Pond Road State Aid Reconstruction Capital Reserve Fund.

Article was moved by Steve Randall and seconded by Bob Southworth
Bob Southworth explained this is the final payment on the \$2.7 million Sandogardy Pond Road project. The State recently approved to put the project out to bid. We expect construction to start at the end of May or June.

ARTICLE PASSED

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate Two Million Seven Hundred Twelve Thousand Six Hundred Seventy-nine Dollars (\$2,712,679) to fund reconstruction of Sandogardy Pond Road, funding to be provided through State Aid Road reimbursement from the state of New Hampshire of Two Million One Hundred Seventy Thousand One Hundred Forty-three Dollars (\$2,170,143.00), transfer from the

Sandogardy Pond Road SAR Fund of Four Hundred Fifty Four Thousand Two Hundred Forty-three Dollars (\$454,243.00) and the remaining Eighty-eight Thousand Two Hundred Ninety-three Dollars (\$88,293.00) to be voted from Unassigned Fund Balance and no funds to come from taxation. This is a non-lapsing appropriation as per RSA 32:7 VI and will not lapse until December 31, 2019.

Article was moved by Glen Brown and seconded by John Raffaely
Wayne Crowley said this is expected to be a total \$2.99 million under current projections. The town portion is \$600,000 which we have put away over several years. These are reimbursement funds that we will receive as work progresses, as long as we approve the project in full. There is a risk that some of it could fall into 2019 if any delay. The project includes drainage, cross culverts and ditching. We will own the road after this is done. If we were to back out of the project we would lose all the design money (\$200,000) that we have already spent.

ARTICLE PASSED

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifteen Thousand Three Hundred Dollars (\$15,300) to purchase lot R08-23 for the purpose of providing a retention basin in conjunction with the Sandogardy Pond Road reconstruction project with Twelve Thousand Two Hundred Forty Dollars (\$12,240) to be provided by State of New Hampshire State Aid Reconstruction reimbursement and Three Thousand Sixty Dollars (\$3,060) to be allocated from the unassigned fund balance and no funds to come from taxation.

Article was moved by Steve Randall and seconded by Linda Luedke
Wayne Crowley explained this is part of the plan to help with longevity of the road. It is a triangular piece between Sandogardy Pond Road and Glines Park Road, where a fenced retention pond can be built to allow for slow dissipation of water as the area can absorb it.

ARTICLE PASSED

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seventy Five Thousand dollars (\$75,000) to the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of replacing Public Works Department equipment as needed.

Article was moved by George Corliss and seconded by Bob Southworth
Bob explained we have a CIP plan for rotation of equipment. Money is put away each year for large purchases so we do not affect taxes all in one year when a purchase is needed.

ARTICLE PASSED

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate One Hundred Seventy-six Thousand dollars (\$176,000) to purchase a new municipal equipment for the purpose of sidewalk plowing, roadside mowing and other uses with One Hundred Forty Thousand Dollars (\$140,000) to come from the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund, Sixteen Thousand Dollars (\$16,000) to come from the sale of replaced equipment and the remaining Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000) to be allocated from the unassigned fund balance and no funds to come from taxation.

Article was moved by Glen Brown and seconded by Steve Randall
Andy Buteau said we currently have a John Deere 313 skid steer with a butterfly plow and snowblower. We also have a 2007 Fermecc with a cab and mowing machine. There is a sixty gallon oil tank behind the seat and requires the operator turning around to operate the valves. It is too hot to run long in the summer as the oil heats up. Both machines have safety issues and have had numerous breakdowns. Andy visited other towns to see their machines. Most have steering wheels for better handling and expected life of twenty plus years. We would sell one or both of our current machines if needed to help with purchase of one new machine.

ARTICLE PASSED

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to establish a Police Equipment Revolving Fund pursuant to RSA 31:95-h for the purpose of purchasing or replacing Police Department equipment. All Special Detail Funds, less salary, taxes and retirement benefits paid to Northfield police personnel, will be deposited into this fund, and the money in the fund shall be allowed to accumulate from year to year, and shall not be considered part of the town's general surplus. Such funds may be expended only for the purpose for which the fund was created.

Article was moved by Glen Brown and seconded by John Raffaelly
Bob Southworth explained the Selectmen want to set up this fund. Funds received from police detail work, ranging from \$12,000 to \$32,000 per year after salaries and benefits, would go into the fund for equipment and/or cruisers needed by the Police Department. Steve Randall added that many other types of equipment can also be purchase such as vests, body cams, etc. It was further discussed that there may still be requests in future years for additional money for large expenditures, but this would help lower the amount that needs to be requested. Nearby towns already use this process.

ARTICLE PASSED

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand dollars (\$10,000) to the Computer Replacement Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of funding replacement of computers to be allocated from the unassigned fund balance and no funding to come from taxation.

Article was moved by Keith Murray and seconded by Steve Randall
Glenn Smith, Town Administrator, explained this was requested to help cover future large expenditures. We have \$8,000 in the fund now. We expect a large expense in 2019 when our town server needs to be replaced. This might cover a large portion of the expected cost.

ARTICLE PASSED

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to replenish the Facility Emergency Repair Fund and to raise and appropriate Two Thousand Three Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$2,350) from the Unassigned Fund Balance to be deposited in this fund and no funds to come from taxation.

Article was moved by Bob Southworth and seconded by Steve Randall
Wayne Crowley explained this was set up to take care of emergencies, failures and unexpected repairs that occur during the year. There is little extra money in the budget as we are careful about requesting just what is needed. There is currently \$17,600 in the fund, we want to bring it up to \$20,000 and then cap it. The money will stay in the fund until a need arises.

ARTICLE PASSED

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 72:81 Commercial and Industrial Construction Exemption to allow a new construction property tax exemption for commercial and industrial uses. The exemption shall apply only to municipal and local school property taxes assessed by the municipality and shall exclude state education property taxes and county taxes. The exemption shall be as follows: 50% of the increase in assessed value attributable to construction of new structures, and additions, renovations, or improvements to existing structures for the first year, 40% for the second year, 30% for the third year, 20% for the fourth year and 10% for the fifth year. Subsequent years will be assessed at the full rate. This schedule will be applied to all projects submitting a proper application each year during the exemption period, which will remain in effect for a period of five years from adoption.

Article was moved by Glen Brown and seconded by Kaitlin Lounsbury
Wayne Crowley said this credit would apply to new construction or expansion of existing facilities only. It allows the new portion to be taxed at a lower value for up to five years. Approval would be for a five year period, and would have to be brought back to be voted on again. It does not impact taxes on existing

buildings, only new establishments. The credit would probably not apply to home businesses that are accessory to residential use. The purpose is to provide incentive to businesses to locate in Northfield or to expand their existing facilities here. Only the new portion will receive the discount, and it would cover them for a full five years from the time they apply anytime within the five year period of the program. Therefore, the discount period could still be in effect for some businesses beyond the five years of the program.

ARTICLE PASSED

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee recommended sum of Three Million Three Hundred Twenty-two Thousand Three Hundred Seventy-nine Dollars (\$3,322,379.00) for general municipal operations. This article does not include special or individual articles listed above.

Article was moved by Steve Randall and seconded by John Raffaely

AMENDMENT #1 Moved by Nancy Court, seconded by Scott Hilliard, to read:
“To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Million Three Hundred Twenty-three Thousand Six Hundred Fifty-two Dollars (\$3,323,652.00) for general municipal operations, and to include an additional One Thousand Two Hundred Seventy-three dollars (\$1,273.00) for the Hall Memorial Library.”

Nancy Court explained this is the amount by which the Budget Committee reduced the Library Trustees’ request. In 2017 the Library was level funded, and this year again the budget includes less than they requested. The Trustees did submit a CIP plan, and records show that 600 more Northfield residents use the Library than Tilton residents. Because of the previous reductions they have had to cut back on expenses and hope not to have to cut programs. Steve Randall of the Budget Committee said outside agencies in general were level funded due to the tax impact. He believes they have access to other funds they are not utilizing. While Trust funds all have specific purposes and restrictions, the interest should be available to be used. Nancy added they recently replaced the boiler and did not request additional funds.

AMENDMENT #1 PASSED YES 44 NO 35

Discussion on the Amended Article brought out concerns that the wording should be clarified.

AMENDMENT #2 Moved by Keith Murray, seconded by Nancy Court, to read:
“To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Million Three Hundred Twenty-three Thousand Six Hundred Fifty-two Dollars (\$3,323,652.00) for general municipal operations, which includes an additional One Thousand Two Hundred Seventy-three dollars (\$1,273.00) for the Hall Memorial Library. This article does not include special or individual articles listed above.”

**AMENDMENT #2 PASSED
ARTICLE AS AMENDED PASSED**

ARTICLE 17: To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

Wayne Crowley advised that costs for curbside recycling have escalated and there will be public meetings in the future regarding upcoming changes needed to address those costs.

Mr. Crowley presented a Certificate of Appreciation to retiring Selectman Bob Southworth for serving the Town of Northfield for three years. Greg Hill reminded voters of the importance of attending the upcoming School District meeting, particularly regarding the proposal for all-day kindergarten. Meeting was adjourned at 11:27 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy L. Caveney
Town Clerk/Tax Collector