

NORTHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
Minutes of the Meeting of April 9, 2013

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

Also Present: Richard Collins, Leigh Webb, Bill Wilder, Gretchen Wilder, Paul Auger, Geoff Ziminsky

1. Public Appointments

No residents chose to speak with the Board at this time

2. Highway Department

Highway Superintendent Bob Southworth discussed a complaint he had recently received relating to the work done on the drainage to Blueberry Lane last year. He reported that a landowner has said that the ditch is too deep and should be replaced with a covered culvert. The landowner, Richard Collins was present and said that during the winter his sons and their friends like to slide down the hill in his front yard and this year ended up in the drainage ditch resulting in several injuries. Sel. Bluhm noted that the town needs to keep the roads in good working order and to do this we need good roadside drainage. Mr. Collins agreed but said that this particular ditch was too deep. Bob noted that the ditch didn't fill with water this year because we had a long slow thaw but in prior years a ditch of this size has been needed, and it was full last year after heavy rains. There was a general discussion of the flow of water along Blueberry Lane. Sel. Bluhm expressed reluctance to replace the ditch with a closed culvert system due to cost. Bob said he would gather more information on this and the Selectmen said they would visit Blueberry Lane.

Bob reported a drainage concern that citizen had voiced for 4 Scribner Road and distributed photographs of the area in question. Board members reviewed the material and concluded that this was not a town issue as it appeared to be a natural flow of water and was not in a town right of way or easement.

Bob informed the Board that a resident on Sargant Street had complained that water was pooling on the street in front of her home and that vehicles traveling through the puddle splashed the side of her home. Board members reviewed photographs and the location of a nearby catch basin. Consensus of the Board was to have Bob create a shallow swale to move the pooled water to the catch basin.

Bob distributed the specs for the truck proposed to be purchased this year, which Board members reviewed in detail. Within the discussion, Sel. Bluhm and Shepard indicated they would prefer an automatic instead of manual transmission, Sel. Waldron preferred a manual transmission.

Bob proposed that street sweeping be scheduled for the first week of May. He recommended Ruel as the preferred vendor and presented a purchase requisition for this service, which Board

members signed. Sel. Waldron expressed concern that the dust raised by the town sweeper causes visibility and safety problems for following vehicles.

Bob distributed sheets detailing the cost of the spring and fall amnesty events, which Board members reviewed. After discussion, Board members agreed that do to expense, including direct expense and lost revenue, the town will not hold a fall amnesty event this year.

Bob updated the Board on the status of the Bay Hill Drainage project; he has received confirmation from Fairpoint that the underground cable at the location is no longer active; he can now proceed with the improvements to roadside drainage.

Bob presented a proposal that the highway crew begin summer hours at the end of April and that summer hours consist of four 10 hour days instead of four 9 hour days and one 4 hour day. Bob noted that little can be done on the Friday 4 hour day during the summer. Board members discussed the proposal and agreed to consider it.

3. Police Department

Acting Chief Raffaely inquired as to whether the Board still wanted him to bring shift schedules to each meeting; Board members responded that they did not. He also indicated that he would like to start work on filling the part time officer vacancy. Board members asked that he work with Glenn on an ad for this.

John updated the Board on the recent issues with the Police Station water bill. Quarterly usage has jumped from 1300 cf to 4000 cf. He is working with the Water District to discover the reason for the jump. He also asked for authorization to donate the old desks from the patrol room to the Northwood Fire Department. Board members approved the request.

Acting Chief Raffaely noted that now that the new rifles have been cleaned they will be assigned to individual officers. He discussed with Board members whether officers should be allowed to store the rifles at their homes, in their lockers at the station or in a Police Department armory. It was decided that the rifles will be kept locked in each officer's locker.

4. Administration

Board members received the background material relating to the regulation of fireworks that was discussed at the previous meeting. Glenn was asked to include discussion of this item on the next agenda.

Sel. Waldron discussed email addresses for the selectmen, noting that if town email is stored on a personal computer then that computer is subject to subpoena. Board members discussed the issue and concluded that there was no need to purchase email accounts for Selectboard members at this time.

Sel. Bluhm discussed Mr. French's proposal from town meeting that recyclers be given yard signs to promote recycling. Board members discussed several options for the signs, Glenn was asked to add this item to the agenda for the next meeting.

Board members discussed merit pool allotments. Glenn was asked to add this item to the agenda for the next meeting.

Glenn updated the Board on the proposal to participate in the state reverse 911 system, TNFD did not receive a separate invitation from the state and the state has confirmed that this will remain a free service. Board members discussed identifying contacts for this program, especially in light of the fact that the town EMD is scheduled to retire in May. Glenn was asked to add this item to the agenda for the next meeting.

Board members reviewed a proposal to build a home on a substandard lot on View Street. The item had been forwarded to the Board as per Zoning Ordinance Section 14.3. Board members reviewed the materials. **Shepard/Waldron** moved that based on the information before them they determine that the proposed development would create a safety issue in relation to fire emergency access. **Motion passed.** Glenn explained that the issue can now go before the ZBA. Board members asked Glenn to inform the Planning Board that the Selectmen would like to see a change to Zoning Ordinance section 14.3.

Board members reviewed a proposed RFP for electricity supply service and authorized Glenn to distribute it. Glenn also distributed materials relating to the establishment of Economic Revitalization Zones, noting that the Northfield Economic Development Corporation would like to attend the next meeting to propose creation of ERZs in Northfield.

Sel. Waldron inquired as to the status of the proposal to store metal recyclables at the Transfer Station. Members discussed the various options and agreed by consensus to retain containerized storage and work with NRRA for selling this material.

Sel. Waldron asked if the Martin property on Granite Street could be cleaned up. Glenn was asked to check with Dana on this. He also inquired as to the revision of the policy requiring that most expenditures over \$150.00 be preapproved by the Selectboard or Selectboard liaison and the status of repairing the sander shed roof. Glenn was asked to put these on the next agenda.

Sel. Waldron suggested that the Administrative Assistant at the Police Department be required to wear a uniform. After discussion, Board members decided not to initiate such a requirement. He also noted that in an article in last week's Echo a Northfield resident who owns a business in Tilton admitted that trash collection service in Tilton is bad enough that he takes his business' trash to his home in Northfield for pickup. Glenn was asked to write a letter to the resident to let him know that Northfield's trash collection contract allows for collection of residential trash from Northfield residences only.

Geoff Ziminsky updated the Board as to the decisions reached at this evening's meeting of the

Police Chief Recruitment Committee. Committee members have reviewed the resumes received and invited several candidates in for interviews. They would like to increase the size of the candidate pool and asked that the position be readvertised with resumes due on 4/22. They also asked that several minor changes be made to the wording of the advertisement. Board members authorized the readvertisement of the position.

5. Non-Public Session (RSA 91-A:3II(a,c&e))

Shepard/Waldron moved to enter into non-public session under the provisions of RSA 91-A3IIc,e at 10:06pm. **Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.** Present at the non-public session was Glenn Smith. **Shepard/Bluhm** moved to reconvene the public session at 11:05pm. **Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.**

6. General Business

Selectboard members reviewed accounts payable, payroll manifests and general correspondence. **Bluhm/Shepard** moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of March 26, 2013. **Motion Passed.** **Waldron/Shepard** moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of April 5, 2013 **Motion Passed.**

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 11:06pm

APPROVED APRIL 23, 2013 BY THE NORTHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN