

NORTHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
Minutes of the meeting of May 27, 2014

Present: Sel. Shepard, Sel. Crowley, Sel. Waldron

Also present: Michael Witzgall, Beverly Cullen, Don Minor, Bill Dawson, Chief Raffaelly, Johnny Van Tassel, Glenn Smith

1. Public Appointments

The Chair recognized Bill Dawson who reviewed the proposed designation of the Merrimack River as a recreational wild and scenic river. Sel. Crowley noted that the designation would create a quarter mile protection zone along the river corridor and asked what this would entail. Mr. Dawson replied that these are restrictions towns currently have in place. Board members asked questions about the restrictions that would be placed on landowners living in this area and who would have jurisdiction over development in this area. Members expressed concern with making a decision without having this information.

The Chair recognized Don Minor who asked the town to purchase an abandoned trailer in his park on Granite Street. Sel. Shepard noted that the town tried to work with Mr. Minor on this in 2012 and Mr. Minor had been unresponsive. Mr. Minor noted that he is losing lot rent and the town is losing tax revenue, if the town were to take possession of the trailer by tax deed then all parties would benefit. He expressed a willingness to sign the agreement that had been developed in 2012. Sel. Waldron noted that at some point the Mr. Minor would likely pursue the matter in court. Sel. Crowley said that the town could possibly benefit by working with Mr. Minor.

2. Highway Department

Highway Superintendent Johnny Van Tassel reviewed the proposed Rand Road reconstruction project RFP with Board members. Selectmen requested that the project be bid at both 2 inch of asphalt and 1 inch topcoat and 2.5 inches of asphalt and 1.5 inch topcoat. This is especially needed given the horse farms at the end of Haggart Farm Road and the resulting traffic on this road. Also, Board members asked that the cross culverts be included in the RFP as opposed to having the town crew do them. Sel. Waldron stated that he would rather put funds into fixing drainage issues than into paving the road, he would not want to pave a poorly drained road. Board members authorized Johnny to release the RFP as amended; Johnny said he would email the final RFP to the Board before advertising.

Johnny reviewed playground mulch quotes from PR Russell (\$19.21/yard plus \$364 delivery charge), Dirt Doctor (\$21.00/yard) and Landscape Etc. (\$25.00/yard). Board members discussed the options. One issue is that there are low wires on Glines Park Road that eliminate raising a dump body, as far as Johnny knows only Landscape Etc. has a live floor. Board members authorized Johnny to purchase 100 yards of mulch from Dirt Doctors if they have a vehicle with a live floor, else purchase 100 yards from with Landscape Etc.

Johnny updated the Board on quotes received for a new radio. He also reviewed the quote from Ken Partridge for removal of the overburden from the ledge on Shaw Road. **Crowley/Waldron** moved to accept the quote of Ken Partridge for removal of overburden from the ledge on Shaw Road for \$3,900. **Motion passed.**

Board members reviewed issues surrounding road striping. Sel. Waldron said he believes that we should do just crosswalks and stop lines. Sel. Shepard and Crowley said that road striping is necessary for safety reasons. Sel. Crowley asked if we have approached Tilton about doing our crosswalks. After discussion the Board authorized

Johnny to distribute the RFP as proposed.

Johnny reported that after the last meeting he checked references for Hi-Way Safety Systems and no longer recommends them as a street sweeping vendor. He presented quotes from Ruell (\$115/hour, no travel time) and Mike Rabbit Sweeping (\$120/hour sweeping plus \$50 traveling) **Crowley/Shepard** moved to accept bid from Ruell for \$115/hour to sweep streets in village, total cost not to exceed \$2,500. **Motion passed.**

Johnny reviewed bids from Bellemore and Trident Stormwater for catch basin cleaning. Board members questioned the need to clean every catch basin every year. Johnny said he would have one of his crew inspect each basin, if it didn't need cleaning he would not have it cleaned this year. **Shepard/Crowley** moved to accept the bid of Bellemore for catch basin cleaning with understanding that town will determine which basins need cleaning. **Motion passed.**

Johnny presented a hauler's application for a new commercial hauler in town and a cemetery deed, both for Board signature.

Sel. Waldron asked about the status of Empire Recycling. Johnny replied that issues have been resolved and they have paid the town all that it is owed. He also reported that he and Johnny interviewed two candidates for Truck Driver/LEO. He believes that either candidate would be acceptable. His opinion is that we need someone with mechanical ability, which was not a requirement in this recruitment. It would be possible to recruit for someone with mechanical ability but that would mean re-advertising the vacancy with new job requirements. Board members discussed this and decided that it was important to get up to full staff as soon as possible.

Sel. Crowley noted that he has been in communication with DES and has been told that in 2015 we will be required to double protect our UST, gas and diesel pumps and related equipment. He no longer believes that it is cost effective to operate the UST

3. Police Department

Chief Raffaely reported that the Ginny Timmons walk/run is this Saturday and he needs the gate at Surette Park unlocked. He also updated the Board on an animal cruelty investigation.

4. Administration

Town Administrator Glenn Smith reviewed a revised proposed policy for contacting town attorney, which Board members approved. Glenn was asked to provide a clean copy for signature. He also reviewed a proposed parking policy. Board members suggested several changes which Glenn was asked to incorporate and bring to the next meeting.

Glenn updated the Board on an upcoming need to replace the DMV computers used by the Town Clerk. He also reviewed a proposal from Tri-State Fire Protection for renewal of the fire extinguisher inspection contract at rates negotiated by the state. **Crowley/Shepard** authorized the Town Administrator to accept the Tri-State Fire Protection fire extinguisher inspection contract on behalf of the town. **Motion passed.**

Glenn presented a revised data for selecting comparison towns for the 2014 salary and benefit survey. After discussion Board members approved the selection of Allentown, Antrim, Boscawen, Charlestown, Winchester, Loudon, Haverhill and New Ipswich for inclusion in the study.

Glenn informed the Board that the town hall and police station air conditioning units should be replaced this week and early next week.

5. Non-Public Session RSA 91A-3 IIa

Shepard/Crowley moved to enter into non-public session under the provisions of RSA 91-A3II a, b and e at 9:18pm. **Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.** Present at the non-public session were Chief Raffaely, Johnny Van Tassel and Glenn Smith **Shepard/Waldron** moved to reconvene the public session at 11:04pm. **Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.**

Crowley/Shepard moved to seal the minutes of the non-public session. **Motion passed by unanimous vote.**

6. General Business

Board members discussed the Sex Offender Registry Ordinance, noting that it was based on ordinances from Franklin and Dover that have been declared unconstitutional. **Shepard/Crowley** moved to rescind Sex Offender Residency Ordinance adopted on June 19, 2007. **Motion passed.**

Board members reviewed general correspondence and payroll and accounts payable manifests. **Shepard/Crowley** moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of May 13, 2014 as amended. **Motion passed.**

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 11:09pm

APPROVED BY THE NORTHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN ON JUNE 10, 2014