

**NORTHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JUNE 29, 2011**

Present: Sel. Ziminsky, Sel Bluhm, Sel. Swancott

Also Present Chief Ober, Chief Hayes, Chief Lefebvre, Paul Auger, Tom Gallant, Donna Rhodes, Kathy Tobine, Kathy Dawson, Pat Consentino, Sandy Plessner, Gretchen Wilder, Bill Wilder, Joe Newton, Brian Brown, Christine Raffaely, Peg Shepard, Fred Shepard, Dick Stevens, Nancy Brown, Chief Adams, Bob Southworth, Glenn Smith

The meeting was called to order at 5:55 pm.

1. Public Appointments

Chief Ober recognized Chiefs Hayes and Lefebvre of Lakes Region Fire Mutual Aid. Sel Swancott stated her belief that the cost of fire dispatch is a fire service cost and should be paid for by the fire district. Chief Hayes explained that the way LRFMA is structured dispatching for fire and EMS services in our area is not considered to be related to fire services. Instead it is considered to be a general town function and expense. Fire departments are not members of LRMFA, towns are. Sel. Swancott asked if this is true then why is TNFD represented on the LRMFA board but the towns of Tilton and Northfield are not. Chief Hayes replied that TNFD has no right to serve on the LRMFA Board; they are only there by Selectmen's decision. He reiterated that fire dispatch services are unrelated to fire protection, although he did admit that the dispatch services they provide are for fire and EMS response. Sel. Bluhm stated that he feels that given the nature of the services provided by Fire Mutual Aid that it is a legitimate part of the fire protection service. Chief Hayes reviewed the LRFMA funding formula, which is based on a combination of assessed valuation, flat fee and year-round population.

Sel. Ziminsky asked Chief's Hayes and Lefebvre and the TNFD Commissioners that given what was said by Chief Hayes is he correct in understanding that Northfield has a right to contract with any organization it chooses for fire and EMS dispatch services. LRFMA and TNFD agreed, reiterating that the District does not have any control over who dispatches them. Sel. Ziminsky then asked if TNFD would be responsible for assuming the cost of new equipment if such equipment were required because Northfield chose a different dispatch service. Chief Ober said that the town would be responsible for this cost, Chief Hayes said that the District would be responsible.

The Board discussed governance issues. Sel. Ziminsky pointed out that as of now Northfield is not represented on the LRMFA Board. He pointed out that Chief Ober, who does sit on the Board, reports to the TNFD Commissioners, not the Northfield Selectmen. Commissioner Gallant stated that Chief Ober does report to the Northfield Selectboard. Sel. Dawson stated that Northfield is represented by Chief Ober.

Sel. Ziminsky stated his concern that there is no budget committee review of the LRMFA budget, which is prepared by an Executive Committee consisting exclusively of fire chiefs and then submitted to a larger board of fire chiefs for review. Chief Hayes agreed that this is the case.

Sel. Ziminsky asked for the Commissioner's opinion of the situation. Commissioners Auger and Gallant reported that they feel the current system works fine. Commissioner Gallant agreed that Northfield can select any vendor it wants to dispatch TNFD equipment. Chief Ober suggested that the Northfield Selectmen appoint Tom Beaulieu to the LRFMA Board. General discussion followed.

Gretchen Wilder asked if any towns in the state are self-dispatched. Chief Hayes said yes. Gretchen inquired as to the nature of LRFMA. Chief Hayes said they were a municipal organization.

2. Highway and Sanitation Department

Bob Southworth reviewed alternatives for roadside mowing Bob, including contracting the service out, renting equipment and mowing using our crew and repairing our boom mower and doing this in house. Board members discussed each alternative from a funding and service perspective. Bob pointed out that we can hire out a sickle mower relatively cheaply but that this will not take care of higher growth vegetation which is a major problem. Rental of a boom mower is equal to the cost of repairing ours. Joe Newton reported that the boom mower can be used if repaired properly. Bob recommended repairing the boom mower and performing this service in house. Board members concurred.

Bob reviewed the driveway permit applications filed by Amerigas and the conditions he would like to place on permit approval. Board members agreed with the conditions; Bob will forward them to Amerigas.

Bob reviewed the paving bids for Bay Hill Road Ext. and Hodgdon Road. Qualifying bids were received from 5 bidders. The low bid was filed by R&D paving at a cost of \$69.80/ton. Bob discussed the road repair inventory conducted by himself, Jared Hebert, Sel. Swancott and Glenn Smith. That group had discussed reconstructing Bay Hill Road Ext. instead of shim and overlay. Bob recommends that we stick with shim and overlay on Bay Hill Road Extension as he believes that the problem can be solved by repairing the drainage ditches along this road. Board members concurred. **Bluhm/Swancott** moved to accept the paving bid of R&D Paving of \$69.80/ton at a price not to exceed \$80,668.80. **Motion passed.**

Bob reviewed the two bids received for road striping. Board members discussed the bids. **Swancott/Bluhm** moved to accept the low bid filed by Markings Inc. for road striping, crosswalks and stop bars at a cost not to exceed \$8,000, vendor to return to town at a later time to paint roads scheduled to be paved this year. **Motion passed.**

Bob presented the information concerning the purchase of a new lawn tractor that he was asked to obtain. The low bid for the Hustler Sport 20Hp Kawasaki 48" cut, which was previously identified as the preferred model, is \$3,499 from Epsom Tool Rental LLC. Sel. Ziminsky noted that the price is \$1,500 over budget. Bob responded that savings are available from the street sweeping contract and the balancer purchase. **Swancott/Bluhm** moved to purchase the mower as recommended. **Motion passed.**

Board members discussed the proposed revisions to the Highway Ordinance and town trench permit and asked that the item be placed on the next agenda.

3. Police Department

Chief Adams presented purchase requisitions to the Board for review.

Chief Adams reported that when Tri-State replaced the fire extinguisher in the 2008-2 cruiser they did so with a larger model that could not be properly secured. The extinguisher discharged in the trunk of the cruiser and ruined radios and other equipment stored there. Tri-State has been informed and said that they would cover the cost of replacement items.

Chief Adams distributed a letter to the Selectboard indicating that the copies of the department SOP's distributed on June 21, 2011 included no major changes to policies in place eight years ago other than corrections in grammar and spelling. He added that this version of the SOPs did include new policies.

Chief Adams reviewed his vacation accrual with the Board, which agreed by consensus to allow him to roll over 24 hours of unused annual leave time to be used by August 20th.

SA distributed a memo on the promotional process for new Lieutenant position, which Board members reviewed. Board members authorized posting notice of the test for this position. In the meantime the

Board will review the policy. It was agreed that a Board member will sit on the interview panel for this position, which will consist of officers from other jurisdictions.

4. Town Administration

Glenn reviewed a request from Soda Brook Cooperative to waive past-due taxes on an abandoned unit. The Cooperative recently evicted the owner and is trying to dispose of the trailer. Board members were not willing to waive taxes but indicated they would entertain a proposal to split proceeds from any sale 50/50 so as to allow both organizations to recoup lost revenue.

Glenn presented a proposed calendar for disposition of properties acquired by tax deed in May 2011, which Board members approved.

Board members discussed the current vacancy on the Budget Committee and asked Glenn to advertise this vacancy.

5. General Business

Board members reviewed general correspondence and payroll & accounts payable manifests. **Swancott /Ziminsky** moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of June 14, 2011. **Motion passed.** **Swancott /Ziminsky** moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of June 22, 2011. **Motion passed.**

Bluhm/Swancott moved to enter into non-public session under the provisions of RSA 91-A3IIb at 8:34 pm. Present at the non-public session were Glenn Smith and Bob Southworth. **Ziminsky/Swancott** moved to reconvene the public session at 10:05 pm. **Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.**

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 10:05pm

APPROVED BY THE NORTHFIELD SELECTBOARD ON JULY 12, 2011