

NORTHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
Minutes of the meeting of June 6, 2017 5:00pm

Present: Sel. Crowley, Sel. Southworth, Sel. Allen
Also Present: Chief Raffaely, Andy Buteau, Glenn Smith, Thomas Black, Don Stevens, Paul Blaisdell,
Rep. Pearl, Mary Lee, Greg Hill

The meeting was called to order at 5:00pm

1. Public Input

Rep. Howard Pearl updated the Board on matters before the state legislature, including budget items, full day kindergarten, biomass bill, voter domicile bill, education bills, and SB155. Rep. Hill reviewed processes associated with education funding as it relates to sending children to school in other towns. Tom Black reported that 13 students are not returning to WRSD next year, he is trying to find out why.

Rep. Hill provided additional information concerning the voter domicile bill.

The Chair recognized Don Stevens who stated that he feels that the roadside drainage ditch constructed in front of his home is unnecessary and causes more problems than the swale that used to be there. He asked that the drainage system be restored to its previous condition. Andy reviewed the system he installed on Bay Hill Road. Sel. Southworth said that there is a cost associated with such a change.

The Chair recognized Tom Black who reported that with recent repairs to Vine Street the road is closer to his home and now water is coming off the road flooding his yard. Chief Raffaely reported that the problems started after the T/N Water Department did repair work, leaving the road surface uneven. Sel. Southworth noted that there is a lot of very old drainage systems in this area. Andy said that TNWD waited until late in the year to do this project and the hot top plants were already closed for the year. Sel. Southworth asked Andy to look into the matter. Chief Raffaely said that the uneven road surface is so bad that people drive on the opposite side of the road to avoid it.

Mr. Black reported that people are using Arch Street as a through road to avoid the Park Street light. These drivers are speeding on the narrow road and asked if a speed bump could be installed on Arch Street. Chief Raffaely responded that a speed bump cannot be installed as the speed bumps damage cars, but that the town could put up speed limit signs. Board members agreed to look at putting up signs.

The Chair recognized Tom Sahrman. Sel. Crowley reviewed the Spaulding development proposal, citing concerns that much of the proposed development will be tax-exempt under statutes. Mr. Sahrman informed the Board that the Spaulding Youth Center Board of Directors has voted to create a for-profit LLC that will own the land on which the new development will be located. It is the plan of the Spaulding Youth Center Board of Directors to contract with a for-profit land management group to develop the land and manage the development. The land management group will lease the property to tenants. The tenants may be tax exempt organizations but because they are not owners this will be irrelevant from a tax perspective. Sel. Crowley said that he did not want agreements with Spaulding concerning tax status and would prefer to rely on statutes. Glenn suggested that agreements might help protect the taxpayer's interests and that we should start working on these soon.

The Chair recognized Paul Blaisdell who noted that there is a branch on Peverley Road hanging down in such a manner that it is striking passing vehicles. He would like to have it removed. Also, he reported that every Saturday and Sunday afternoon Zion Hill Road is covered with litter due to material blowing out of vehicles of people going to the transfer station. He would like the town to clean the road on Monday mornings.

2. Police Department

Chief Raffaely reported that one of his officers is attending school to get certified to drive the police motorcycle. Also, he has no word on the delivery of the new cruiser.

3. Public Works Department

Public Works Director Andy Buteau requested that the flip phone the town provides him be replaced with a smart phone. Currently he is using his personal smart phone to receive emails, etc. Sel. Southworth said that as a supervisor he should have the technology needed to get the job done. Board members approved the request.

Glenn informed the Board that the bid opening for the Zion Hill Road Phase I project has been completed. Six bids were received; the low bid was filed by Brandon Hiltz Construction in the amount of \$262,662.20. Underwood Engineers is reviewing the bids and will have a recommendation by early next week.

Andy reviewed progress to date on the Bay Hill Road project and informed the Board that he has the first bill in the amount of \$79,948.23 from R&D paving for the project. This is within \$113 dollars of the estimate. Board members authorized payment. Andy reported that R&D will install shoulder gravel for \$4,300. Sel. Southworth asked if this additional cost would bring the project in over budget and was told that it would not. Board members authorized Andy to work with R&D for the installation of shoulder gravel for this project. Striping will be done town-wide after Bay Hill Road is completed.

Andy updated the Board on road maintenance and repair work that needs to be done. There are 8-10 cross culverts that need to be replaced and a minimum of 12 catch basins that need to be changed out, not counting the ones on Howard and Cofran Avenues, at a cost of \$1,000 each. In addition he has 40 miles of ditching that needs to be done. The work cannot be done with existing staffing levels and available funding makes it difficult to get this work done. Sel. Southworth suggested using prison labor. Sel. Allen, Andy and Chief Raffaely reported difficulties with this option in the past. Selectmen advised Andy to review his remaining budget and prioritize work projects. Andy reported that Selectmen and residents are asking that individual projects be work done, as evidenced by Mr. Black and Mr. Blaisdell at tonight's meeting. Residents are insisting that the work be done and are not taking 'no' for an answer. Sel. Southworth noted that previous road agents had the same problem. Andy noted that in recent years highway crew staffing has been cut significantly, leaving too few people on staff to do the work that needs to be done. Selectmen instructed Andy to prioritize his work. Sel. Crowley stated that baring immediate safety needs Andy should do catch basins first, followed by ditching and cross culverts.

Glenn reported that the Chair of the Sewer District has asked that the town share the cost of repaving Howard Avenue after the water and sewer districts have completed their projects. Board members and Andy discussed the situation and affirmed that this work cannot be covered in the current year's budget.

Sel. Allen asked for an update on the sale of the one ton truck. Andy reported that he has one offer and that the ad is running on Craigslist. Board members agreed to continue accepting bids until the next meeting, at which time the truck will be sold.

4. Administration

Sel. Crowley outlined his proposal to reclassify Rangeway #4 as a class A trail. Board members discussed options and reclassification procedures. Sel. Southworth inquired about abutter access to their property if the road were reclassified. Board members agreed to take the matter up at a future meeting.

Board members reviewed the proposed MOU with Northern Pass concerning construction issues and

conditions if the project is approved. Resident Mary Lee said she is very concerned about the impact of this construction on town roads, provision of safety services, fire risk and water quality.

Town Administrator Glenn Smith reviewed the current list of town owned properties. Board members agreed to sell two properties, a land locked parcel off of Bean Hill Road and a parcel adjacent to I-93.

Glenn updated the Board on the transition from CCS to Cybertron as IT vendors.

Glenn noted that Belmont has responded positively to the town request that their code enforcement officer work in Northfield when the Northfield CEO has to recuse himself due to conflict of interest. Board members agreed to accept the terms proposed by the Belmont Selectboard.

Board members reviewed and approved in concept a proposal from HEB Engineers to amend the existing contract for the engineering of the Sandogardy Pond Road project to include study of the Cross Brook Bridge.

Glenn informed the Board that the preliminary assessed valuation numbers will be presented to the Board in July instead of June. Board members expressed concern that the specified citizen hearing dates all fall along a single weekend and worry that persons out of town on that weekend would be denied the opportunity to contest their assessing information. Glenn was asked to ensure that additional days are provided.

Board members discussed the status of the PILOT and sewer agreements relating to the Cormier development. The Chair asked that consideration of sewer lien collection be placed on the next agenda.

Sel. Southworth noted that Jackie Roy has resigned from the ZBA and asked that the vacancy be advertised.

5. General Business

Board members reviewed accounts payable, payroll manifests and general correspondence. **Crowley/Southworth** moved to accept the minutes of the meeting of May 25, 2017. Sel. Southworth noted several changes: In the second paragraph of the 'Public Input' section the reference to Ms. Nadeau is changed to Attorney Nadeau; in the third paragraph of the 'Public Works' section the reference to Sel. Allen is changed to Sel. Southworth and in the fourth paragraph of the 'Public Works' section the word chit is changed to voucher. **Motion passed as amended.**

6. Non-public session

Crowley/Allen moved to enter into non-public session under the provisions of RSA 91-A3II d at 8:30pm. **Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.** Also Present: Glenn Smith, Andy Buteau. **Crowley/Southworth** moved to reconvene the public session at 9:21 pm. **Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.**

Crowley/Southworth moved to seal the minutes of the non-public session just completed as divulgence of the minutes would adversely affect the reputation of a person not a member of the Board. **Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.**

Glenn noted that the town won its tax abatement case against PSNH in the NH Supreme Court.

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 9:23pm

Approved by the Northfield Selectboard on June 20, 2017