

NORTHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
Minutes of the meeting of Tuesday, June 9, 2015

Present: Sel. Waldron, Sel. Crowley, Sel. Southworth

Also Present: Jon Pike, Ruth Mooney, Jeanne Beaudin, Cindy Caveney, Chief Raffaely, Johnny Van Tassel, Glenn Smith, Neil Bilodeau, Doug Miner, Chief Parenti, Chief Sitar, Tim Camerato, George Flanders, Don Stevens, Dick Stevens.

The meeting was called to order at 5:00pm

1. Joint meeting with Belmont Board of Selectmen

The Chair recognized the Belmont Selectmen and thanked them for attending the meeting. He also recognized Fire Rangers Bilodeau and Miner and Chiefs Parenti and Sitar. Ranger Miner noted that the initial decision to split the cost of the Rt. 140 fire between Northfield and Belmont was agreed to by the two fire chiefs. He clarified that the cost of the fire is not borne by the originating community, but that Belmont and TNFD had decided that Northfield would be the point community for paying these bills. He reviewed the fire, showing a short video taken early in the incident. He stated that no one may ever determine the exact origination point. Selectmen inquired as to the status of the investigation and were told that it was ongoing with no set time when it might be completed. Chief Parenti noted that splitting the cost 50/50 is easiest. Ranger Miner estimated that the final cost will probably be about \$10,000, of which the state will pay half. After discussion, Selectmen of both towns agreed that the towns would split the municipal portion of the cost of fighting this fire 50/50, Northfield would pay the bills initially, Belmont would pay 50% of the total cost of each invoice. When reimbursement was received from the state 50% of the reimbursement would be forwarded to Belmont.

The meeting was recessed at 5:40pm

The meeting was reconvened at 5:47pm

2. Public Input

None

The Selectmen presented Town Administrator Glenn Smith with an Employee of the Year award.

3. Public Hearing

The Chair opened a public hearing on the proposed changes to the Highway Ordinance and reviewed the proposal. Don Stevens expressed appreciation that the weight limit was being increased to 12 tons.

There being no other public input the Chair closed the public hearing. **Waldron/Southworth** moved to enact the Highway Ordinance as amended. **Motion passed.**

Don Stevens noted that there used to be no parking signs on Rt. 132 across from the ball field and asked

that they be replaced. He said that the state will replace the signs upon request of the town. Glenn said he would follow up on this.

4. Opening of Sealed Bids – Surplus Trailers

Town Clerk Cindy Caveney opened and read sealed bids received for the surplus trailers. Two bids were received for trailer #1, one bid for trailer #2 and no bids for trailer #3. **Waldron/Southworth** moved to accept the high bid for trailers #1 and #2. **Motion passed, Sel. Crowley recusing himself from the vote.** Johnny Van Tassel was instructed to dispose of trailer #3.

5. Police Department

Chief Raffaely reported that the new cruiser is at OME for outfitting and that the new officer will be sworn in on July 7th. He informed the board that he will be disposing of seized drugs and other items on Friday.

6. Highway Department

Highway Superintendent Johnny Van Tassel reported that the Elm Street fence project has been completed and reviewed the repairs. Superior Fencing donated metal posts for the project and as a result the total cost was \$400. Board members authorized him to return unused lumber with a restocking fee of up to 20%.

Johnny distributed a proposed RFP for replacement of the WB Hill Road culvert for discussion at later meeting. Board members reviewed the proposal. He also distributed quotes for Glines Park playground mulch. The low bid was submitted by Dirt Doctors. Board members reviewed quantity calculations. **Waldron/Crowley** moved to accept the quote of Dirt Doctors for playground mulch in the amount of \$2,000. **Motion passed.**

Sel. Waldron noted that Johnny and Peter Fife have achieved certified culvert maintainer designation by DES and thanked Johnny for his work on the fence.

Dick Stevens asked if the Peterbilt truck has been returned yet. He was told that it hadn't as it had lost its place in the repair queue while the town was deciding on a course of action. He asked for an update on recruitment of a Truck Driver/HEO and was told that the interviews would begin on Friday. He also expressed concerns about the operation of the leaf-vac that the board voted to purchase recently. Johnny agreed to research the matter and inform him of the results.

7. Administration

Glenn reviewed a proposed location for a tree to be planted in memory of John Conde, which Board members approved.

Board members reviewed a proposed change in the schedule for the Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector which would increase hours from 35 to 40 per week. Cindy Caveney outlined the impact this would have on operations. Sel. Waldron expressed support for the idea but said that it should be considered in the budget process. **Crowley/Southworth** moved to increase the hours for the Deputy Town Clerk/Tax

Collector from 35 to 40 hours effective the first pay period in July, with the understanding that the change will be brought to the budget committee and may not be approved for 2016. **Motion passed 2-1.**

Board members signed a recommendation for appointment of Fire Wardens as developed by Sel. Waldron.

Board members discussed the composition of the Joint Loss Management Committee. They agreed that the JMLC should consist of six members, the three Department Heads and an employee representative from each Department.

Glenn informed the Board that the town has been authorized to move forward with the construction phase of the Winnepesaukee River Trail Phase IIa. He also told Board members that Sean Chandler has offered the town a framed photo of Bert Southwick. Board members accepted the gift and instructed Glenn to hang it in Town Hall.

Board members asked Glenn to obtain additional information on retaining Upton and Hatfield as attorneys in the matter of the PSNH and Fairpoint abatement hearings given that the lead attorney is leaving the firm. They also declined to extend town health benefits to partners of town employees who are not married or in a civil union

Board members reviewed the town Cash Management Policy and Use of Town Property Policy.

8. General Business

Board members reviewed accounts payable, payroll manifests and general correspondence. **Waldron/Crowley** moved to accept the minutes of the meeting of June 2, 2015. **Motion Passed.**

Board members discussed upcoming meeting schedules and decided to adopt a summer bi-weekly schedule. Sel. Southworth suggested holding non-public meetings before regular meetings instead of during the regular meeting.

Sel. Waldron expressed concern that manifests are sometimes processed with two approvals and asked that three approvals be required. Sel. Southworth and Crowley agreed.

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 9:22pm

Approved by the Northfield Board of Selectmen on June 23, 2015