

# NORTHFIELD BUDGET COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting of January 31, 2013

Present: George Corliss, Gretchen Wilder, Keith Murray, Steve Bluhm, Jared Hebert, Dennis Allen

Also Present: Lisa Swancott, Chief Adams, Bob Southworth, Glenn Smith, Bill Wilder,

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm

Committee members discussed road line painting, Bob Southworth presented updated costs for striping. Committee members reviewed the merits of single vs. double yellow lines and fog lines. **Murray/Bluhm** moved to propose funding of the Highway Contracts account of \$27,720. **Motion passed.**

Glenn Smith informed the Committee of the budget impacts of the Selectmen's acceptance of the trash collection and transfer station service bid on the previous Tuesday. Under the new bid, the annual cost of \$115,440, later corrected to \$111,198 to account for the fact that the current contract rate is in effect until March. Dennis Allen expressed his concern that for this particular item the successful bidder did not provide the low bid. Sel. Bluhm explained that the Board looked at the bottom line and awarded the contract to CM Witcher as that company provided the overall low bid, even though Bestway had the low quote for this particular item within the overall bid package. Dennis responded that he did not think curbside trash collection and transfer station services should have been combined into a single bid package. Sel. Bluhm responded that initially they were not, but after reviewing earlier bids for just curbside collection and quotes for transfer station services the Board thought they could obtain better prices by bundling the services under a single bid so the previous bids were rejected and the services were rebid. Committee members discussed the bids and bid process. Sel. Bluhm noted that there were certain irregularities with the Bestway bid & changes to it proposed by Bestway after they had reviewed the other bids and that the Board had sought legal advice on the matter. Dennis suggested that the Budget Committee recommend a funding trash collection at the level proposed by Bestway, noting that he will be speaking to this issue at town meeting.

**Murray/Hebert** moved to propose funding for the Refuse Collection Contract account of \$111,198. **Motion passed.**

Committee members discussed the remaining items under the new contract, hauling fees, amnesty portable compactor and c&d disposal costs.

**Murray/Bluhm** moved to propose funding for the Landfill Costs account of \$24,771. **Motion passed.**

**Wilder/Murray** moved to propose funding for the WD-Transportation costs account of \$14,000. **Motion passed.**

Dennis Allen presented minutes from a recent Concord Regional Solid Waste/Resource Recovery Cooperative meeting confirming that the town will be receiving a \$10,731 credit

against fees charged in 2013. **Allen/Hebert** moved to propose funding for the Incinerator Contract account at a level of \$169,629, a reduction of \$10,731 from recommended amount. **Motion passed.**

Committee members discussed the possible addition of funds to the budget for merit increases in 2013. Conditions discussed include the cost of merit increases, items affecting the overall budget in 2013 and impact the town and school budgets will be placing on the taxpayers this year.

Glenn Smith reviewed revenue proposals.

Committee members agreed by consensus that the public hearing on the 2013 budget proposal will be held on February 7, 2013 at 7:30pm in Northfield Town Hall. Glenn informed that Committee that in anticipation of this decision he had posted notices stating such on January 30<sup>th</sup>, thus meeting the statutory posting requirement.

**Murray/Wilder** moved to accept the minutes of the meeting of January 24<sup>th</sup> as amended. **Motion passed.**

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 9:04pm

APPROVED BY THE NORTHFIELD BUDGET COMMITTEE ON FEBRUARY 7, 2013