



TOWN OF NORTHFIELD



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NORTHFIELD BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING Minutes of the Meeting of January 21, 2016

Present: Linda Luedke, Lisa Swancott, Dennis Allen, Bob Southworth, Keith Murray
Also Present: Wayne Crowley, Gretchen Wilder, Bill Wilder, Greg Hill, Andy Buteau, Glenn Smith

The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm

Swancott/Luedke moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of January 7, 2016. **Motion passed.**

Review of the minutes of the meeting of January 14, 2016 and the request to record meetings was postponed.

Andy Buteau outlined his recent research into lifts for the Highway Department. He has heard the committee's reluctance to spend \$40,000 on this item and proposed that instead he be allowed to purchase indoor lifts for \$20,000. The new lifts would not be portable and thus not able to perform all the functions of the model previously proposed but they would be very helpful in creating a vehicle maintenance program.

Lisa Swancott said that she does not agree with the proposal to pay for the lifts using the unreserved fund balance. Linda Luedke agreed, saying it was more transparent to raise the funds by taxation. Wayne Crowley said that the net effect is the same.

Committee members discussed the structure of the budget. Keith asked if the budget numbers included warrant article requests. Lisa responded that they did, these are working numbers only. Dennis Allen noted that the Budget Committee can recommend approval or non-approval of warrant articles.

Glenn Smith reviewed the revenue proposals in the budget.

Committee members thought that the interest on property taxes should be increased to \$90,000.

Glenn noted that motor vehicle registration revenue, although much higher than last year, did not reach expectations. Greg Hill noted that this revenue stream will take a hit in future years as he is proposing to the legislature a program of multi-year trailer registration. Dennis asked about registration for trailers that are not moved from year to year. Linda noted that trailers in campgrounds are often required to be registered so the campground owners are not assessed for them as housing units. Keith Murray proposed reducing the 2016 amount to \$800,000.

Keith asked why miscellaneous income was above budget. Glenn responded that this was due to penalty collected on a property that was repurchased after being accepted by the town by tax deed.

Committee members expressed concern that the commercial tipping fee was too high.

Glenn reviewed the proposals for a new phone system and a road assessment study.

Lisa Swancott said that the \$40,000 price tag for the road study was too much money for a 'windshield survey'. Dennis Allen noted that the town will be well served by having an engineer review the roads instead of citizens. Linda Luedke asked if the cost was for developing the plan, not for the windshield survey. Keith Murray said that it is necessary to have a plan but he is not sure if this is the way to go. Dennis Allen said that the CIP committee members do not have the time or expertise to review the road system and recommend improvements. Greg Hill said that the town cannot afford to spend \$40,000 on this plan.

Committee members reviewed the new Hall Memorial Library request and asked Glenn to invite Jen Davis to the next meeting.

Committee members reviewed the year-end financial information from the Tilton Northfield Recreation Council. Lisa expressed appreciation for the work Jim Doane has done, other committee members agreed. Keith noted that the children's auction did not meet its goal this year and the TNRC will likely take a hit.

Committee members agreed to meet on Wednesday next week if Leif Martinson was available.

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 8:53pm.

APPROVED BY THE BUDGET COMMITTEE ON JANUARY 27, 2016