



TOWN OF NORTHFIELD



21 Summer Street, Northfield, New Hampshire 03276
Tel. 603-286-7039 Fax 603-286-3328
www.northfieldnh.org

NORTHFIELD BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING Minutes of the meeting of January 29, 2015

Present: George Corliss, Dennis Allen, Jared Hebert, Lisa Swancott, Kevin Waldron, Leif Martinson

The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm

The Chair recognized Jenna Davis representing Hall Memorial Library. Leif Martinson recused himself due to his status as a Library Trustee. Ms. Davis presented an updated budget request for Hall Memorial Library. Sel. Waldron inquired as to what programs are offered this year that were not offered last year. Ms. Davis responded that the library now has a telescope donated by the Rotary that it loans out. Committee members inquired as to the requested increase in staff hours if hours of operation are unchanged. Leif Martinson responded that the current staffing level does not provide for adequate coverage on both floors of the library, especially during peak use times.

Sel. Waldron asked if the library provided services in private day care centers. Mr. Martinson responded that they did, just as the police and fire departments provide presentations in such facilities.

Ms. Swancott asked Sel. Waldron why the Selectmen did not recommend funding as requested. Kevin responded that this was done out of recognition of the burden this places on the taxpayers.

Several citizens spoke in favor of the library and the services it provides.

Jared Hebert asked Ms. Davis of the impact of level funding Hall Memorial Library. Ms. Davis responded that they would make do with the funding provided.

Swancott/Hebert moved to recommend funding for Hall Memorial Library at a level of \$121,750. **Motion passed, Martinson abstaining.**

The Chair recognized Town Treasurer Roland Seymour. Roland stated that he feels his stipend should be increased due to the experience he brings to the position and the duties he provides. He presented a report prepared earlier by the town administrator for the Board of Selectmen comparing Northfield's treasurer stipend with that of other towns. Committee members reviewed the hours involved in performing the duties of the position and the skills involved. **Allen/** moved to increase the Treasurer stipend to \$4,000. **Motion died for lack of**

a second. Swancott/Hebert moved to recommend a Treasurer stipend of \$2,900. **Motion passed, Martinson, Swancott, Hebert voting in favor, Waldron and Allen voting against.**

The Chair recognized Peg Shepard who reviewed the funding requested by the Old Home Day Committee. After reviewing the information presented Committee members agreed to affirm the Selectmen's recommendation of \$3,000 for this event.

Sel. Crowley informed the Committee of the Selectmen's decision to include as separate warrant articles proposals to increase the stipends provided to elected officials and recommended funding levels for outside agencies, citing a preference to increase transparency. Committee members expressed concern with the plan, stating that voters already have access to recommended funding levels for outside agencies and placing these on the warrant as a separate article negates the work done by the Budget Committee. They are also concerned that the extra articles will increase the length of town meeting which will decrease attendance.

Sel. Waldron inquired as to what funding level the Committee would recommend for Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid. Committee members noted that LRMFA services the fire district, not the town. **Martinson/Allen** moved to recommend a funding level of \$26,174 for LRMFA in the 2015 budget. **Motion passed.**

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm