



# TOWN OF NORTHFIELD



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## NORTHFIELD BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING Minutes of the meeting of February 11, 2016

Present: Leif Martinson, Keith Murray, Bob Southworth Lisa Swancott.  
Also Present: Sheriff Hilliard, Dawn Schimberg, Paula Benski, Nancy Court, Wayne Crowley,  
Kevin Waldron, Chief Raffaely, Wayne Crowley, Kevin Waldron, Glenn Smith

The meeting was called to order at 7:04pm

### 1. Review of the Meeting Minutes

**Murray/Southworth** moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of February 3, 2016 as amended.  
**Motion passed.**

### 2. Public Hearing

Vice Chair Leif Martinson opened the public hearing on the 2016 budget proposal. He clarified that the hearing was for consideration of the budget, not the proposed warrant. Glenn Smith noted that he had a question about the prior week's vote on Article 15. Lisa Swancott confirmed that she had abstained from that vote.

Committee members reviewed the budget. Paula Benski inquired as to the cost of the audit and was told that the new contract had been signed. She also inquired as to the cost of the IMC program for the Police Department and was told that the costs for this system would be recurring. Lisa Swancott noted that police operating grants may be received even if they are not budgeted. Paula inquired about changes in the crack sealing, tree limbing, dust control and road projects accounts. She was told that the crack sealing program was new in 2016, it had been proposed as a contract service in 2015, the new crack sealer is proposed for 2016. Tree limbing and road projects have been cut back due to budget concerns and dust control costs have increased as for the last few years we have been using stockpiled chloride, which is now depleted.

Keith Murray asked Bob Southworth if more funds are needed for salt. Bob responded that additional funds are not needed at this time.

Scott Hilliard outlined reasons why the Youth Assistance Program had requested a budget increase in 2016. These include personnel costs and health insurance costs. He requested that the Budget Committee recommend full funding of the request. Lisa noted that the Committee recommended level funding because in 2015 they had told YAP that they needed to implement fundraising efforts. Since that did not happen the Committee is unwilling to provide increased funding. Dawn Schimberg said that she thought the Committee wanted her to apply for grant funding, which she has done. Sheriff Hilliard noted that many grants have such large reporting requirements that one-person organizations like YAP cannot complete the administrative requirements. Keith Murray asked Scott what the result

of not receiving the funding increase would be for the organization. Scott replied that they would need to cut employee costs. Sel. Waldron said that it was clear what the Budget Committee was asking for last year and that there is a Merrimack County program that duplicates the YAP services. Dawn responded that the County program does not provide prevention services or pre-offense referrals and that it is located in downtown Concord which is logistically difficult for the youth. Sel. Crowley advised YAP to explore websites, and go-fund-me campaigns.

Nancy Court spoke in favor of funding Hall Memorial Library and its role in the community.

Paula Benski questioned proposed Economic Development funding. Keith Murray outlined NEDC priorities and work on promoting the Rt. 140 sewer project. She also asked which truck was proposed for replacement and was told that it was truck 4.

Paula inquired about the proposed funding for CIP engineering. Keith Murray noted that several years ago the voters had asked for a road repair and reconstruction plan. The CIP committee has been working on one but the lack of hard data has frustrated these efforts. This proposal will provide this plan. He also asked the Selectmen why the article was on the warrant if the Selectmen do not recommend it. Sel. Crowley said that the Selectmen feel the CIP Committee has the right to present its proposal to the voters.

Paula Benski questioned TNFD support fees. Leif Martinson reviewed the situation, TNFD is serviced by LRMFA but Northfield is stuck with the bill. The problem is exacerbated by the fact that LRMFA operates without oversight and is completely out of control. The town feels that it should not pay this bill and TNFD should. Sheriff Hilliard affirmed that LRMFA overcharges its members.

There being no other input the public hearing was closed at 8:24pm

**Swancott/** moved to increase the recommendation for YAP funding by \$2,645. **Motion died for lack of a second.** Keith Murray asked the Selectmen in the audience for their input on this. Bob Southworth suggested a recess to provide for input from Selectmen about this. It was noted that this might constitute the Selectmen conducting town business outside of a warned meeting. **Swancott/Murray** moved to increase the recommendation for YAP funding by \$2,645. Lisa said that she made to motion because the organizations funding is tight and if the amount is not partially restored by the Committee it will be fully restored by town meeting. She would like to take the money from elsewhere in the budget. Leif opened the discussion for public input. Sel. Crowley noted that the increase is due to health insurance costs, the organization can shop this around. **Motion failed 1-3.**

Glenn noted that with the approved budget for article 20 is \$3,053,015. **Murray/Southworth** moved to recommend article 20 as amended to include the amount. **Motion passed.**

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 8:36pm.