



TOWN OF NORTHFIELD



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NORTHFIELD BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING Minutes of the meeting of February 3, 2016

Present: George Corliss, Leif Martinson, Denni-s Allen, Linda Luedke, Keith Murray,
Bob Southworth Lisa Swancott.

Also Present: Chief Raffaely, Wayne Crowley, Kevin Waldron, Glenn Smith

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm

1. Review of the Meeting Minutes

Sel. Southworth proposed a change to the minutes, noting that the change in the cost of the lifts was an increase, not a decrease. **Murray/Luedke** moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of January 27, 2016 as amended. **Motion passed.**

2. Request to Record Minutes

Lisa Swancott said that she was not in favor of recording the meetings. George Corliss said that people who want to know what happens at the meetings should attend the meetings. Leif Martinson said that since no votes are being taken the Committee should not need to record its meetings. Keith Murray said that he does not see the point in recording the meetings. George said that people have the chance to participate, Lisa said she appreciates that the Budget Committee meetings are friendly and allows for free communication.

3. Consideration of 2016 Budget Proposal

Glenn Smith reviewed changes to the 2016 warrant. Keith Murray asked John Raffaely why the cost of the cruiser was changed. The Chief responded that he just found out that the cost of the Expedition was only \$4,000 more than the pickup. He had thought it was higher and so did not recommend the Expedition. With the new information he is now recommending the Expedition and so the amount was changed. Keith asked if the upfit items will be able to be reused. Chief Raffaely responded that he does not know as it will depend on the differences between the two model years. If the cage is reusable then that would save \$800. Leif asked how many miles were on the Expedition. Chief Raffaely responded that the vehicle had 68,000 miles on it and will have more before it is traded in in August.

Sel. Southworth outlined the changes in the anticipated cost of curbside recycling. Sel. Crowley reviewed the operational changes. Leif noted that the problem is that there is no market for recyclables at this time. Dennis Allen asked for confirmation that the town received only one bid during its recent RFP process and was told that this is true. Keith asked if Casella charges for handling recyclables and was told that they do. Sel. Crowley said that the problem is that few vendors want to get into the municipal trash collection business. Dennis asked if the trash will continue to go to Wheelabrator and

was told that it would. Dennis noted that Casella will be able to store trash at Rt. 140. Sel. Crowley noted that the contract commits them to bringing trash to Wheelabrator.

Dennis Allen asked why merit pay cannot be allocated to various departments. Sel. Crowley responded that the allocation will be determined by evaluations, which have not been completed.

Swancott/Murray moved to reduce Town Administrator postage by \$100. **Motion passed.**

Swancott/Murray moved to increase Planning & Zoning postage by \$100. **Motion passed.**

Keith Murray inquired as to the amount proposed for town hall cleaning. Glenn Smith reviewed the calculations.

Swancott/Allen moved to increase Police telephone account to \$5,593. **Motion passed.**

Murray/Swancott moved to decrease Police Department Supplies by \$700. **Motion passed.**

Murray/Luedke moved to reduce the TNFD subsidy to \$28,729. **Motion failed.**

Leif noted that LRMFA is out of control. Spending has increased by 5% per year; there is no oversight of the organization and no desire to keep costs under control. Committee members discussed the payments. Sel. Crowley said that town meeting has given us an obligation to pay. Sel. Waldron said that Northfield could leave the organization and TNFD could join. Leif said that even though it was the fair thing to do Tilton would never do this as it would mean higher costs for them.

Keith asked if we could reduce heating costs for the highway garage. Sel. Crowley noted that the increase is needed as DES has ruled that we cannot collect as much used oil as we can use.

Committee members asked why dust control expenses increased. Sel. Southworth responded that it was because we have been using stockpiles which are now depleted. The proposed \$3,000 will get us through a typical year. Lisa noted that summer dust can be a problem. **Murray/Allen** moved to decrease dust control expenses by \$1,500. **Motion passed.**

Keith inquired as to why the town is paying for NRRRA dues if the proposal is to implement curbside recycling. Sel. Crowley and Dennis Allen noted that even if curbside recycling is implemented there will still be a need to dispose of items such as tires, car batteries, etc. through NRRRA.

Allen/Murray moved to increase the incinerator contract amount to \$160,320. **Motion passed.**

Swancott/Murray moved to increase the Hall Memorial Library amount to \$123,950. **Motion passed.**

Swancott/Murray moved to increase Interest on Property Taxes amount to \$90,000. **Motion passed.**

Swancott/Murray moved to decrease OHRV revenues to \$5,000. **Motion passed.**

Murray/Martinson moved to include tallies for warrant article recommendations. **Motion passed.**

Murray/Swancott moved to recommend passage of Warrant Article 6. **Motion passed 6-0-1**

Murray/Luedke moved to recommend passage of Warrant Article 7. **Motion passed 6-0-1**

Murray/Allen moved to recommend passage of Warrant Article 8. **Motion passed 6-0-1**

Murray/Southworth moved to recommend passage of Warrant Article 9. **Motion passed 6-0-1**

Swancott/Luedke moved to recommend passage of Warrant Article 10. **Motion passed 6-0-1**

Martinson/Murray moved to not recommend passage of Warrant Article 11. **Motion passed 3-4**

Luedke/Swancott moved to recommend passage of Warrant Article 13. **Motion passed 6-0-1**

Martinson/Southworth moved to recommend passage of Warrant Article 14. **Motion passed 6-0-1**

Southworth/Martinson moved to recommend passage of Warrant Article 15. **Motion passed 4-1-1**

Martinson/Southworth moved to recommend passage of Warrant Article 16. **Motion passed 5-1-1**

Southworth/Swancott moved to recommend passage of Warrant Article 18. **Motion passed 6-0-1**

Southworth/Martinson moved to recommend passage of Warrant Article 19. **Motion passed 6-0-1**

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 9:10pm

Approved by the Budget Committee on February 11, 2016