

[NORTHFIELD SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES]

August 23, 2022

Northfield Town Hall
69 Main St

Select Board Present: Barbara “Bee” Jacque, Chair; Bernard Boudreau, Clerk [remote]; Alexander Meisner

Select Board Absent: Heath Cummings; Mary Bowen

Also Present: Andrea Llamas, Town Administrator; Sandra L. Wood, Town Secretary; Tyler Bourbeau, BNCTV

Others Present: Peter Weis; Sarah Kerns

- **Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm**
- **Review and Approval of Warrants**
 - Motion by Meisner, seconded by Boudreau the Select Board voted to approve the 8/24/22 Payroll warrant of \$59,900.83 Roll call vote: Jacque yes, Meisner yes, Boudreau yes
 - Motion by Meisner, seconded by Boudreau the Select Board voted to approve the 8/24/22 Vendor warrant of \$128,220.88 Roll call vote: Jacque yes, Meisner yes, Boudreau yes
- **Review and Approval of Minutes**
 - Motion by Meisner, seconded by Boudreau the Select Board voted to approve the minutes of 8/9/22 as amended. Roll call vote: Jacque yes, Meisner yes, Boudreau yes
- **Meetings/Events attended by Selectboard members**
 - Meisner: with Chief Hall re: transportation & safety
 - Boudreau: remote with Senator Comerford re: Eversource line clearing
 - Jacque: American Rescue Plan; Northfield citizen meeting (remote); with Town Admin & Finance team re; audit
- **Business**
 - Vote revised language for Grandin Water District Legislation
 - The legislative article included terms to allow the Select Board to approve amendments
 - Amendment read by Jacque describing the District.
 - Motion by Meisner, seconded by Boudreau the Select Board voted to approve the revised language for Grandin Water District Legislation. Roll call vote: Jacque yes, Meisner yes, Boudreau yes
 - Vote to sign Engagement Letter for Auditor
 - See Town Administrator’s update for details
 - Motion by Meisner, seconded by Boudreau the Select Board voted to sign the Engagement Letter for Auditor. Roll call vote: Jacque yes, Meisner yes, Boudreau yes
 - ARPA Request – Water District Legal Expenses
 - This will provide legal assistance to help the water commissioners get started for negotiation of assets and define the district
 - Motion by Meisner, seconded by Boudreau the Select Board voted to approve the ARPA Request – Water District Legal Expenses at \$25,000. Roll call vote: Jacque yes, Meisner yes, Boudreau yes
 - Time Off Request
 - Motion by Meisner, seconded by Boudreau the Select Board voted to approve the Time Off Request. Roll call vote: Jacque yes, Meisner yes, Boudreau yes
 - Select Board Rep to Hiring Team (Police & Grant Developer)
 - Meisner and Jacque on the Police Hiring team
 - Boudreau on the Grant Developer screening team and on the hiring team with Meisner
- **Town Administrator’s update**
 - Draft of Town audit received. Met with the finance team and auditor to review. Response to the management letter. Will schedule auditor to meet with Select Board and Finance Committee to review and discuss
 - Community Compact Best Practices Program opened last week. Two applications filed:
 - Human Resources: updating the Wage & Classification plan
 - Financial Management: Establish a budget document to complement the new financial policies detailing revenue and expenditures and a clear and transparent communication of financial policies to residents
 - Town Hall automatic door openers have been installed and are active at the rear entrance.

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- Building Maintenance (Josh Neil) has evaluated the Boy Scout House building. Project list being developed. Possible CPA funded project.
- Participating in Western MA Solar Forum Planning Committee with UMASS and regional stakeholders.
- **Topics not reasonably anticipated by the chair 48 hours in advance of the meeting**
 - FirstLight FERC relicensing negotiations extension
 - Motion by Meisner, seconded by Boudreau the Select Board voted to approve the FirstLight FERC relicensing negotiations extension of December 31, 2022. Roll call vote: Jacque yes, Meisner yes, Boudreau yes
- **Citizens' Concerns**
 - Sarah Kerns, 30 Highland Ave: read a letter signed by 20 residents regarding the special permit application
- **Committee/Board Appointments**
 - Appointments
 - Peter Weis – Grandin Water District Commissioner Appointment
 - Weis has been a resident since 2021
 - Holds master's in library science and History
 - To apply his skills as a professional archivist Weis described how understanding the history of the present water company and transfer that understanding back to local interest
 - Weis explained education was important to understand technical problems that may come up. As a user in the district, he is sympathetic to all sides
 - Weis explained when in grad school he worked with Representative Silvio Conte making him familiar with legislative works. He was also a library trustee when he lived in Gill and understands community volunteerism. He has volunteered at the Senior Center. He also worked with Northfield residents Sue Ross, Marie Ferre and Joan Stoia on the publication of the history of Northfield
 - Weis disclosed he was encouraged to get involved for the position by Don Glasgoff of the East Northfield Water Co.
 - Motion by Meisner, seconded by Boudreau the Select Board voted to appoint Peter Weis as a Grandin Water District Commissioner; term expires at the next town election for a 1- year term. Roll call vote: Jacque yes, Meisner yes, Boudreau yes
 - Motion by Meisner, seconded by Boudreau the Select Board voted to appoint Victoria Luksha to the American Recovery Plan Advisory. Roll call vote: Jacque yes, Meisner yes, Boudreau yes
 - Re-Appointments
 - Motion by Meisner, seconded by Boudreau the Select Board voted to re-appoint Melissa Morgan Oakes as an Election Officer; term expires 8/15/23 Roll call vote: Jacque yes, Meisner yes, Boudreau yes
- **Proposed Agenda Items**
 - Traffic issues on Warwick, lower Old Wendell & East St
 - Special Event app
- **Announcements**
 - Next regular meeting on Wednesday, September 7 due to election on 9/6
 - Franklin County Solid Waste District Hazardous Waste Collection Day; Sat. September 24. Pre-register by Sept. 16
 - Caldwell Rd will be closed from Sept. 8 @ 5pm through Sept. 15 for railroad bridge repair. Signs will be posted
- **Recognition for Service-** Highway Department culvert job on So. Mountain Rd saving the town \$200,000 by doing the job in-house using Chapter 90 funds
 - Motion by Meisner, seconded by Boudreau the Select Board voted to adjourn at 7:28 pm. Roll call vote: Jacque yes, Meisner yes, Boudreau yes

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Recorded by Sandra L. Wood, Secretary

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Select Board Clerk	Date Approved