

[NORTHFIELD SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES]

September 20, 2022

Northfield Town Hall
69 Main St

Select Board Present: Barbara “Bee” Jacque, Chair; Heath Cummings, Vice Chair; Bernard Boudreau, Clerk; Alexander Meisner

Select Board Absent: Mary Bowen

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

Others Present: Austin Harpin, Eversource; Aiden Oakes; Chief Dunnell; Chief Fortier; Stacy Bond, Bob Emberley, Josh Roman, Courtney Lawler, Laura Fries; Terry McKeon; John MacMillan, Caolo & Bieniek; Tony DiLuzio, Colliers Engineering; Patter Field; James Vohr; Kate Pontius; Sarah Kerns; Joe Graveline

- Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm
- **Scheduled Appointments**
 - 6:00 pm-Pole Hearing
 - Motion by Meisner, seconded by Cummings the Select Board voted to open the pole hearing located at 111 Birnam Rd. Northfield MA at 6:02 pm
 - Jacque read the public notice
 - Under the provisions of Chapter 166 of General Laws and any additions thereto, or amendments thereof, the Selectboard will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, September 20, 2022, at 6:00 pm on the petition of NSTAR Electric Company dba Eversource to place 1 solely owned pole, #7/38, located on the eastern side of the road one hundred ten (110) feet northeasterly from existing pole # 17/B39. The hearing will be held at the Northfield Town Hall, 69 Main Street, Northfield, MA 01360.
 - Austin Harpin of Eversource explained the pole to be installed underground at the request of the residents of 111 Birnam Rd. in place of an above ground pole, with minimal noise disturbance. The depth would be approximately 6 feet
 - No written public comment submitted. Joe Graveline asked if there would be blasting due to ledge. Harpin was unsure.
 - Motion by Meisner, seconded by Boudreau the Select Board voted to approve the request from Eversource for the installation of 1 solely owned pole, #7/38, located on the eastern side of the road one hundred ten (110) feet northeasterly from existing pole # 17/B39 at 111 Birnam Rd.
 - Motion by Cummings, seconded by Boudreau the Select Board voted to close the pole hearing at 6:10 pm
 - 6:10 pm-Aiden Oakes FD appointment
 - Chief Dunnell introduces Aiden Oakes to the Select Board and reported Oakes has completed all training requirements.
 - Oakes has been in the Junior Firefighters for a few years and is interested in helping people and the town
 - Long term goals included welding and bringing knowledge from that industry to the fire department
 - Chief Dunnell reviewed actions taken for debriefing staff after a difficult call
 - Motion by Meisner, seconded by Cummings the Select Board voted to appoint Aiden Oakes to the Fire Department; term expires 1/31/23
 - 6:20 pm-Recreation Commission appt w/ Recreation Commission
 - Stacy Bond resigned as a member of the Recreation Commission to take the role of Director. The Recreation Commission accepted the resignation.
 - Laura Fries was recommended to fill the vacancy
 - Fries background includes coaching
 - Motion by Cummings, seconded by Meisner the Select Board and Recreation Commission voted unanimously to appoint Larua Fries to the Recreation Commission, term expires May 1, 2023
 - 6:30 pm-Special Permit application – Terry McKeon/Monster Dash
 - McKeon gave a brief history of the event and changes during COVID. Bringing the course back to its original form with cyclists starting the race, then runners
 - Event to benefit First Parish Unitarian upkeep
 - Motion by Meisner, seconded by Boudreau the Select Board voted to approve the special application for the Monster Dash on October 29, 2022, as described
 - Motion by Boudreau, seconded by Cummings the Select Board voted to waive the permit fee for the 501C3 non-profit
 - 6:45 pm-Emergency Services Facility Committee - Phase 1 conclusion

September 20, 2022

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69 Main St

- Chief Dunnell stated the proposed location on Main St. fills the needs of the departments and explained how the original concept design was modified reducing the footprint, bringing the structure away from the buffer zone and logistics for vehicle storage and use
- Chief Fortier could not recommend any further cuts
- Conversation continued under Emergency Services Facility Committee site & conceptual design recommendation below in Business section
- **Review and Approval of Warrants**
 - Motion by Meisner, seconded by Cummings the Select Board voted to approve the 9/21/22 Payroll warrant of \$69,221.73
 - Motion by Meisner, seconded by Cummings the Select Board voted to approve the 9/21/22 Vendor warrant of \$466,983.22
- **Review and Approval of Minutes**
 - Motion by Boudreau, seconded by Cummings the Select Board voted to approve the minutes of 9/7/22 as written
- **Meetings/Events attended by Selectboard members**
 - Boudreau: Friends of Northfield Seniors; Grant Developer Screening
 - Jacque: FirstLight 50th Anniversary; meeting with TA Llamas and Hwy. Sup. Walker; UMASS Solar Planning; FERC relicensing
- **Town Administrator's update**
 - **Comcast**
 - Negotiations ending. A document for Select Board review and signing to be sent soon. A side agreement with Comcast to buildout 7 residences on Four Mile Brook Road to be signed at the same time.
 - **Grandin Water District**
 - The bill has passed the Senate and is in the House.
 - Met with Commissioners and Reps from Thomas Aquinas College and East Northfield Water Co.
 - Commissioners are working to establish the Commission structure and review materials sent from TAC (financial estimates/projections) and ENWC (i.e. DEP correspondence/proposed assets) in order to understand the issues and then set up a meeting with DEP.
 - Website control, emails and other technical information
 - **Hiring:**
 - **Grant Development Director Position**
 - Screening interviews are done, finalist interviews are scheduled for this week.
 - **Police Officer**
 - Screening Interview complete, scheduling hiring interviews in the next two weeks.
 - **LGAC (Local Government Advisory Council)**
 - Spoke to the Lt. Governor's accomplishment of the Community Compact Program. Described all the Community Compact Grants the Town of Northfield has had since 2020 and how they have helped the Town to work toward improved services for the residents leading to a better sense of confidence for residents in their local government. Northfield has had 6 Community Compacts totaling over \$150,000:
 - 2 Best practice grants in 2020 totaling \$25,000
 - One for continuity of services for Emergency Departments – looking at current retirements and needs (including operational space) for the Fire, Police and EMS.
 - One to write our Financial Policies – To memorialize what we are doing now, and to improve and strengthen other areas with best practice ideas for going forward.
 - 1 Community Compact IT grant for \$30,000 – that allowed us to replace our 2 aging servers and go to a managed server environment – allowing for remote work and an IT provider that was able to support us – i.e. the recent lightning strike that took us down – there was someone on site within hours to help assess and begin replacing equipment.

September 20, 2022

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69 Main St

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- 1 Regionalization Grant for \$40,000 – we are working on to assess the operations and regional implications, etc. of the Northfield EMS ambulance services.
- 2 Best practice grants for FY2023 totaling \$50,000
 - One to evaluate and update our job descriptions and review our classification plan – to help keep current employees and present ourselves as the best we can to be the employer of choice when we need to.
- As this is toward the end of the current administration – and therefore the end of Lt. Governor Polito leading the LGAC it was great to be able to speak to one of her proudest accomplishments (her words not mine) and discuss the substantial impact the funding really has had for Northfield.

- **Business**

- Emergency Services Facility Committee site & conceptual design recommendation
 - John MacMillan of Caolo & Bienek Associates Inc. gave a presentation on the current configuration of the proposed emergency services facility.
 - The site design will not create excess stormwater runoff. The building is designed to accommodate the town's needs for 50 years. Chief Dunnell was confident in the design
 - Public Comments
 - Patter Field, Highland Ave: Pollutant disposal, designed below water table/flooding, what will building look like
 - Designed with decontamination area directly to wastewater
 - Pitch of lot to address flooding. FEMA flood zone not affected
 - Exterior design will be in future phase
 - James Vohr, Pierson Rd: did not want project to disturb Main St. and inquired about fill needed
 - Fill has not been estimated at this time
 - Kate Pontius, School St- preservation of Mill Brook, traffic study, Conservation Commission approval, light pollution, community center
 - No study to date. MassDOT will require traffic study and other requirements and approval
 - Conservation Commission will become involved at 90% design completion
 - No footlights beyond facility
 - The section originally designed for a public room has been reduced in the latest concept
 - Sarah Kerns, Highland Ave-Dispatching, other towns financially assisting for EMS services, noise pollution
 - Shelburne Control is primary dispatch with in-station dispatch after initial call
 - Cost sharing of other communities to be discussed later
 - Natural borders to be installed to reduce noise.
 - Sirens only used when needed
 - Joe Graveline, Old Ferry Rd-Federal/State funds
 - Colliers will focus on grants and additional funding during the process
 - Motion by Meisner, seconded by Cummings the Select Board voted to approve the conceptual design recommendation 2B as put forward by the Emergency Services Facility Committee and to move to the next phase of design
 - Discussion:
 - wastewater contaminants will be treated as they are now
 - Tasks completed: test pits, borings, wetlands delineation
 - Solar Planning Opportunity Letter of Support
 - For participation in the Solar Planning Opportunity for Massachusetts Communities through UMASS Clean Energy Extension

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- Energy Committee will be the Solar Planning Committee
- Not cost to the town
 - Comment- Joe Graveline: inquired if municipal solar will be included i.e., Town Hall parking lot
- Motion by Meisner, seconded by Boudreau the Select Board voted to participate and sign the letter of support
- **Announcements**
 - Open House at Northfield Elementary Thursday September 22, 6pm
 - Fall Festival 24 Main St. Saturday September 24
- **Recognition for Service**
 - Emergency Services Facility Committee
 - Police overnight coverage of Town Hall (lightning strike)
 - Officer Cobileanschi EBike demo
 - BNCTV's Tyler & Otis for repairs to damaged broadcasting equipment (lightning strike)
- Motion by Meisner, seconded by Cummings the Select Board voted to adjourn at 8:32 pm

Recorded by Sandra L. Wood, Secretary

Select Board Clerk

10/4/22
Date Approved