

[NORTHFIELD SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES]

December 28, 2021

Northfield Town Hall
69 Main St

Selectboard Present: Heath Cummings, Chair; Barbara "Bee" Jacque, Vice Chair; Alexander Meisner; Bernard Boudreau, Clerk

Selectboard Absent: Mary Sullivan-Bowen

Also Present: Andrea Llamas, Town Administrator; Sandra L. Wood, Town Secretary; Otis Wheeler, BNCTV

Others Present: Bill Parios; Sgt Alex Pirozhkov

- Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm
- **Scheduled Appointments**
 - Bill Parios- request to rescind the Trespass Order
 - Claims discrimination from the Town Administrator; TA yelled at him
 - Went to court to have trespass rescinded and was advised by the judge to address with the town
 - Selectboard to take under advisement and address at a future meeting
- **Review and Approval of Warrants**
 - Motion by Meisner, seconded by Jacque the board voted to approve the 12/30/21 Payroll warrant of \$57,408.26
 - Motion by Meisner, seconded by Jacque the board voted to approve the 12/30/21 Vendor warrant of \$1,077,555.27
- **Review and Approval of Minutes**
 - Motion by Jacque, seconded by Meisner the board voted to approve the executive session minutes of 11/30/21 as written
 - Motion by Jacque, seconded by Boudreau the board voted to approve the minutes of 12/14/21 as written
- **Meetings/Events attended by Selectboard members**
 - Cummings: Pioneer Valley School District negotiations
 - Jacque: First Light settlement meeting
- **Business**
 - COVID UPDATE-Dept. of Public Health recommendation to mask indoors
 - Meisner concerned about what to believe, but what would be in the best interest of the residents.
 - The board discussed public and employee safety as a priority
 - Boudreau approved of masks in town buildings to protect the unvaccinated and children
 - Selectboard can require masks be worn in town buildings. Library and schools already have mask mandate in place
 - Town wide mandate would come from the Board of Health
 - Motion by Jacque, seconded by Meisner the board voted to require masks in town buildings subject to monthly periodic review.
 - Discussion:
 - Cumming's perspective was if someone felt it was necessary to wear a mask or not would be up to them.
 - Jacque's perspective was from the standpoint of those with susceptibility issues
 - Meisner referred to his previous comments
 - 3 yes/1 no. PASSED
 - Pioneer Valley Regional Merger /6 Town Regionalization
 - Cummings and Jacque attended the forum
 - Data projections conflicted with the presentation from the Superintendent in their meeting with the Selectboard earlier this fall
 - Higher salaries of the Montague staff would burden the town
 - Presently high school population is low but elementary level has increased. Technical School, School Choice and Charter schools have taken away local attendance from the high school level
 - Transportation costs would increase and are already major budget item

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- Cummings and Jacque advised more people should get involved and attend meetings. Concerns about attendees and the school committee being bullied by members of the Regional Committee.
- Parking on Main Street -tabled
- Northfield Citizen Award-tabled
- Town Mission Statement
 - Meisner gave examples of area towns and facilities with mission statements
 - Selectboard will attend a training on January 25 with a consultant for goal envisioning
 - Topics to think about: Inclusion, diversity, commitment, transparency and values representing the town
- Sign: Pauchaug-Schell Greenway Project Municipal Project Agreement
 - Request from MassDOT to clarify if the town wishes to do something outside of the bridge contract, the town is responsible for the cost
 - Motion by Meisner, seconded by Jacque the board voted enter into agreement between the Massachusetts Department of Transportation and the Town of Northfield Massachusetts for the Municipal Project agreement state funded design
- Sign Special Town Meeting Warrant
 - Motion by Jacque, seconded by Meisner the board voted to sign the Special Town Meeting Warrant
- **Town Administrator's update**
 - **Water Company** – Met with John Alden (retiring president of Water Company) and RCAP Solutions – a non-profit company to consult and provide services for build-out, regulatory, and operational support for community development and infrastructure projects. They will be in touch with a “scope of work to help facilitate the creation of a water district, working with, the Water District, DEP, the Town, and the College. They also help with funding/financing for improvements and funding options, potentially USDA, or other public financing possibilities. ENWC has signed an engineering agreement to explore well locations.
 - **SRO/Officer Position** -estimated the cost of having an additional full-time officer who would train for the SRO position. Funding is available. Could have someone start in February. The Chief will make a formal budget request with the Finance Committee. The advertisement has been posted.
 - **Emergency Services Building** - Site evaluation contractor (Places Associates) started their evaluation and are gathering all information needed to report on the site details for development.
 - **Massworks (Warwick Road)** – The engineers are finished with the scope of work and cost estimates. They are working on putting together the bid and construction oversight information. The timeline is to bid this winter with a spring start to construction.
- **Committee/Board Appointments**
 - Re-appointments to the Police Department
 - Motion by Meisner, seconded by Jacque the board voted to re-appoint William Kimball, Christopher Maselli, John Cowan, Jeremy Lawler, Benjamin Welcome, Jakob Davidson, David Shoemaker and Igor Komerzan as Part-Time Officers; terms expire 12/31/22
 - Motion by Jacque, seconded by Boudreau the board voted to re-appoint Vivien Venskowski as Matron; term expires 12/31/22
 - Motion by Meisner, seconded by Jacque the board voted to re-appoint Gary Sibia as an Auxiliary officer; term expires 12/31/22
 - Motion by Meisner, seconded by Jacque the board voted to re-appoint Chief James Palmeri, Chief Chris Redmond, Chief Rob Holst Sgt. John Richardson, Sgt. Jason Bassett, Sgt. Adam Paicos, Officers Curtis Weaver, Greg Moretti, Brandon Bryant and Mitchell Waldron as Mutual Aid; terms expire 12/31/22
 - Re-appointments to the EMS Department
 - Motion by Jacque, seconded by Boudreau the board voted to re-appoint Chief Mark Fortier, Deputy Chief Camron Kennedy, Maria Anthony, Mark Brouillette, Todd Czernich, Jason Edson, Jill Fortier, Shawn Garland. Martin Given, Talia Hicks, Rebecca Houle, Eric Kanavos, Mitchell LaClaire, Emily Mills, Jeremy

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O'Connell, Rachel Shearer, Ethan Sicard, McClellan White and Amy Weeks to the EMS Department; terms expire 12/31/22

- Re-appointments to the Energy Committee
 - Motion by Meisner, seconded by Jacque the board voted to re-appoint Andrew Vernon and Judith Wagner to the Energy Committee; terms expire 12/31/24
- Re-appointments to the Historical Commission
 - Motion by Jacque, seconded by Meisner the board voted to re-appoint Mary King and alternate Mary Mayshark-Stavely to the Historical Commission; terms expire 12/31/24
- Re-appointments to the Council on Aging
 - Motion by Meisner, seconded by Jacque the board voted to re-appoint James Whitcomb, Virginia Hastings and Howard Hastings to the Council on Aging; terms expire 12/31/24
- Motion by Meisner, seconded by Jacque the board voted to appoint Chief Jon Hall to the Emergency Services Facility Committee; term expires 12/31/24
- **Proposed Agenda Items**
 - Parios Trespass Order and Civil Conduct Code
 - Executive session re: First Light
- **Announcements:**
 - Transfer Station will close at 3pm on 12/31 and will not open on 01/01/22
 - Public Safety survey on the homepage of the website available until 1/3
 - Fred Wells Fund Scholarship application is available in the main hallway at Town Hall
- **Recognition for Service**
 - Northfield Highway department and Eversource for profound collaboration on Four Mile Brook culvert project
- **Executive Session:**
 - Motion by Meisner, seconded by Boudreau the board voted to go into executive session at 7:46 pm in accordance with G.L. c. 30A, §§21(a)(2) and 21(a)(3) to conduct collective bargaining sessions and to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining (NEPBA) and to return to open session. On a roll call vote Boudreau yes, Cummings yes, Meisner yes and Jacque yes
- **Return to open session**
 - The Selectboard returned to open session at 8:57pm with Sgt. Alex Pirozhkov
 - Cummings reported Pirozhkov requested increase in pay. Cited additional training and temporary position as department chief
 - The Selectboard proposed a higher step within his grade
 - Motion by Jacque seconded by Boudreau the board voted to appoint Alex Pirozhkov at grade 9 step 9 effective Jan. 9 2022. Vote 3 yes/1 no. PASSED
- Motion by Cummings, seconded by Jacque the board voted to adjourn at 9:00 pm

Recorded by Sandra L. Wood, Secretary

Selectboard Clerk

1/11/22
Date Approved