

## [NORTHFIELD SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES]

June 29, 2021

Northfield Town Hall  
69 Main St

Selectboard Present: Heath Cummings, Chair; Barbara “Bee” Jacque; Alexander Meisner; Bernard Boudreau; Mary Sullivan-Bowen

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

Others Present: Bill & Joanne McGee, 9 Main St; Shelby Hasanbasic & Ed Snow, Northfield Golf Course; Deb Potee, Library Trustee

- Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm
- **Review and Approval of Warrants**
  - Motion by Cummings, seconded by Meisner the board voted to approve the 6/30/21 Payroll warrant of \$51,243.37
  - Motion by Cummings, seconded by Meisner the board voted to approve the 6/30/21 Vendor warrant of \$206,024.80
  - Motion by Cummings, seconded by Meisner the board voted to approve the 7/1/21 Warrant of \$275,908.20
- **Review and Approval of Minutes**
  - Motion by Cummings, seconded by Jacque the board voted to approve the minutes of 06/15/21
- **Meetings/Events attended by Selectboard members**
  - Boudreau: Franklin Regional Council of Government Planning Board
  - Jacque: Regional Animal Control Committee; Historical Commission; Planning Board; Board of Health; 6 Town Regional Committee
- **Business**
  - Appointment of Library Trustee: Alex Strycky
    - With the resignation of Library Trustee Margot Fleck, the Trustees represented by Deb Potee, requested the Selectboard appoint Alex Strycky to the Library Trustees to fill the vacancy.
    - Motion by Jacque, seconded by Meisner, the board voted to appoint Alex Strycky to the Dickinson Library Trustees
  - End of Year Department Transfers
    - Motion by Meisner, seconded by Jacque the board voted to transfer \$39,168.99 from Hwy Dept Wages Reg, with \$38,909.59 to Snow Removal and \$259.40 to Snow Removal Services
    - Motion by Meisner, seconded by Jacque the board voted to transfer \$2,434.24 from Selectboard meetings, \$1,500 and Town Admin meeting, \$934.24, to Tax Titles Advertising and Tax Titles Reg of Deeds.
  - Town Noise Bylaw
    - Noise bylaw from the Town General Bylaws read
    - MA General Law Chapter 138, Liquor license holder exception clarified
    - Discussion on extreme motor vehicle acceleration
    - Letters from Kelly Gowan, Glenwood Ave. and Caitlin Sheridan, Highland Ave. read regarding noise events at Northfield Golf Course
    - Options for measuring noise levels and alternate solutions considered. Two written complaints received; one complaint received by the police department
    - Golf Course owner Ed Snow addressed the board and said he was trying to work through the problems by physically modifying the area and change venue time length to reduce the noise from events. Residents with complaints can contact Mr. Snow directly or the police department
    - The situation will be monitored
    - Joanne and Bill McGee of Main St. requested the Selectboard install signs prohibiting trucks from using air/jake brakes on Main St., Route 10 and Route 142
    - Requests in the past to MassDOT resulted in the state citing safety issues for the use of the air brakes and refusal to provide signage
    - Llamas to reach out to MassDOT again and asked for the emails the McGee’s collected
    - Changes to the noise bylaw included striking the section on extreme acceleration and replacing with “noise and include air/jake brake language. Llamas to research language from other towns

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- Changing the bylaw time of 11:00 pm to 10:00 pm to be discussed at a later date
- Mosquito Control Update
  - Jacque apprised the board of the latest information on mosquito spraying citing the article in The Recorder by Senator Comerford. The article summarizes the actions taken by the state since last summer. Jacque spoke to residents John Schuster and Martha Rullman who had expressed concerns on the decision to not opt-out of spraying.
  - The Selectboard members reiterated their concerns with spraying & their interest in addressing any budgetary concerns with respect to mosquito control at the Special Town Meeting, anticipated this fall
  - The Board of Health is discussing the topic with member Karen Boudreau focusing on health indications
  - Gathering information from area towns may take 2-3 months.
  - The state task force is expected to publish their findings later this summer.
  - Jacque to continue communications with the Board of Health and to bring the topic of impact to small towns to the FRCOG Executive Council. She will continue to update the Selectboard as information becomes available over the next 2-3 months.
    - Selectboard member Bowen left the room at 7:22 pm and returned at 7:23pm.
- Police Chief Screening Committee
  - Members of the Selectboard wishing to be on the committee explained why they would like to be selected. Paper ballots cast and tallied. Selectboard members to the committee: Cummings and Bowen
  - Emergency Services members selected: Cameron Kennedy and Skip Dunnell
  - Residents selected: Cate Woolner and Heather Tower
  - Resident with policing experience selected: Melissa Gamache
    - Motion by Bowen, seconded by Cummings the board voted to appoint Cate Woolner and Heather Tower as the community members for the Police Screening Committee ; Cameron Kennedy, Skip Dunnell, Heath Cummings, Mary Bowen and Melissa Gamache to complete the Police Screening Committee
  - Llamas has solicited four consulting agencies
- Acting Police Chief position
  - Sgt. Pirozhkov submitted the sole application to serve as Acting Chief
  - Application reviewed with qualifications
  - Has signed up for sexual assault investigation training
  - Plans to apply for the permanent position
  - Explained supervision experience, organization methods and reported the department moral was good and working on the transition
  - Two years' experience as sergeant; full time status since November 2017; has current chief's support
  - Fills in current chief's position when he is out on vacation, sick time. Continues to take training classes; trained in administrative duties when promoted to sergeant. Wants to stay in Northfield, has declined offers from other town departments
  - Motion by Cummings, seconded by Boudreau the board voted to appoint Alex Pirozhkov as Acting Police Chief until hiring a full time Chief starting July 8, 2021; grade 14 step 2; \$34.68/hr. Vote: 4 yes, 1 no. Passed.
- Agenda Format - Citizen Comments
  - Clarification of how comments are handled. Non agenda items should not be discussed until posted on an agenda if needed.
  - The board agreed to keep the item Citizen Concerns where it is currently located on the agenda
  - Discussion to stop addressing social media comments during the meeting. Previous to COVID the source was not used. Problem with time lag.
    - Motion by Cummings, seconded by Bowen to discontinue monitoring comments on social media

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- Vote: 2 yes, 3 no. Motion failed

- **Town Administrator's update**

- Received ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan; Selectboard to review
- Comcast proposed response to RFP; negotiations pending, not final
- Schell bridge appraisals. Letters to abutters to be sent by end of week. Damage total \$3,750 for all parties
- MassDOT response to crosswalk and speed issue on Rte. 10 near Camp Northfield. Declined due to lack of sidewalk in area
- Emergency Services Building Committee meeting voted to release RFQ for Owners Project Manager
- Received \$57,000 from FEMA for COVID fund

- **Correspondence:**

- Alane Smith: Police Chief search
- Jon McGowan, Library Trustee Chair: Electric Charging Station
- Caitlin Sheridan, Kelly Gowan: Noise issue
- Megan Helen & Tom Adams/ Stacy Bond/ Fred & Roni Anthony: police chief search
- Joann Coutu: police chief search

- **Committee/Board Appointments**

- Reappoint
  - Motion by Cummings, seconded by Jacque the board voted to re-appoint Jose Madiedo to the Agricultural Commission; term expires 6/30/2024
  - Motion by Cummings, seconded by Meisner the board voted to re-appoint Carol Pike, Lindsay McCarthy and Lara Dubin to the Community Preservation Committee; term expires 6/30/2022
  - Motion by Cummings, seconded by Boudreau the board voted to re-appoint Robin Conley to the Conservation Commission; term expires 6/30/2024
  - Motion by Cummings, seconded by Bowen the board voted to re-appoint Barbara Lemoine to the Cultural Council; term expires 6/30/2024
  - Motion by Cummings, seconded by Bowen the board voted to re-appoint Andrew Vernon to the Stewardship Advisory Subcommittee; term expires 6/30/2024
  - Motion by Cummings, seconded by Bowen the board voted to re-appoint Jesse Wiggin to the Trust Fund Committee; term expires 6/30/2024
  - Motion by Cummings, seconded by Jacque the board voted to re-appoint Denis Brennan as Veteran Graves Officer; term expires 6/30/2022

- **Proposed Agenda Items**

- Social media input; Citizen interest night for police chief search; Veterans Memorial upkeep; Bylaw/ordinance: excessive empty store fronts & businesses

- **Announcements – REMINDER:** July 7th and 8th Route 142 will be closed. They are replacing the railroad crossing. Proper road closures will be implemented and there will be jersey barriers blocking the road. The Town will be putting up our message board to notify and remind residents of the dates. Local residents on each end will be able to access their homes. Fire, EMS and police have been notified in advanced. Proper detours and signage will be set up.

- **Recognition for Service**

- Chief Robert Leighton – Certificate of Appreciation for 34 years' service to the town
- Library Director Deb Kern- Certificate of Appreciation 20 years' service to the town

- **Executive Session & Adjourn**

- Motion by Meisner, seconded by Cummings the board voted to go into executive session at 9: 21 pm to discuss Collective Bargaining: Under M.G.L. c.30A, Sec. 21 (3) To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public

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body and the chair so declares and to adjourn. On a roll call vote: Jacque yes, Meisner yes, Cummings yes, Bowen yes and Boudreau yes.

- Meeting adjourned at 9:50 pm

Recorded by Sandra L. Wood, Secretary

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Selectboard Clerk

7/13/2021  
Date Approved