

[NORTHFIELD SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES]

August 24, 2021

Northfield Town Hall
69 Main St

Selectboard Present: Heath Cummings, Chair; Barbara “Bee” Jacque, Vice Chair; Alexander Meisner

Selectboard Absent: Bernard Boudreau, Clerk; Mary Sullivan-Bowen

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

Others Present: Highway Superintendent Tom Walker; Bill Kilpatrick 166 Gulf Rd

- Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm
 - With two members absent, clarification of votes made by the remaining quorum discussed. Two is not a majority of the board, therefore, votes must be unanimous. If not, the motion/vote fails.
- **Review and Approval of Warrants**
 - Motion by Meisner, seconded by Jacque the board voted to approve the 08/26/21 Payroll warrant of \$54,525.72
 - Motion by Meisner, seconded by Jacque the board voted to approve the 08/26/21 Vendor warrant of \$174,173.13
- **Review and Approval of Minutes**
 - Motion by Jacque, seconded by Meisner the board voted to approve the minutes of 08/10/21 as written
- **Meetings/Events attended by Selectboard members**
 - Police Search Community Forum- see Business agenda item
- **Citizens’ Concerns**
 - Bill Kilpatrick: improvement of blockade of Gulf Rd. for storm repair was appreciated
- **Business**
 - Comcast Response to Non-Compliance letter
 - Comcast disagreed with the non-compliance claim. No change will be made to office location.
 - Llamas is in negotiations with Comcast for build-out and will keep the letter on record
 - Amended Draft of Designer Selection Procedures
 - Amendment reviewed
 - Motion by Jacque, seconded by Meisner the board voted to adopt the Designer Selection Procedures as drafted on August 1, 2021
 - Schell Pedestrian Bridge Order of Taking
 - Once voted and signed, town counsel will file with Registry of Deeds
 - Motion by Meisner, seconded by Jacque the board voted to approve and execute the Order of Taking for the easements on the private properties for the pedestrian bridge over the Connecticut River, and authorize Town Counsel to record the Order of Taking and plans with the Registry of Deeds
 - Settlement Negotiations with Northfield Mountain – Appoint Lead Negotiator
 - A representative is needed to attend negotiation meetings. Jacque has been involved from Historic Commission
 - Motion by Meisner, seconded by Cummings the board voted to nominate/appoint Barbara Jacque and Andrea Llamas as lead negotiators for settlement negotiations with Northfield Mountain
 - Update on Police Search Public Forum
 - Comments to be posted on town website.
 - The board thanked Skip Dunnell for moderating the event
 - Former Chief Leighton was thanked for community events, i.e. pumpkin carving, Easter Bunny; and for being a presence at the school crossing
 - COVID was cited as an interruption of community involvement over the past two years
 - Changes in police regulations may need to be addressed in a future meeting
 - Timeline of the hiring process reviewed

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- **Town Administrator's update**
 - Green Communities grant for HVAC Improvements at the Elementary School has been bid and awarded.
 - Town Street Light inventory received. Waiting to see how much Eversource is going to quote for a buyout. Informational at this time. Some towns own their own streetlights to reduce the cost – you can change them to LED to reduce the cost of the electricity. Looking into to do a cost benefit analysis.
 - COVID Update – The Town is listed as 61% vaccinated which is lower than the county average of 69%. Highest group: over 75 years at 91% and lowest group 12-15 years at 45%. With the increase of DELTA variant, the Board may be interested in changes to Town protocols. The Senior Center hasn't officially opened, the library has opened.
- **Topics not reasonably anticipated by the chair 48 hours in advance of the meeting**
 - Highway Superintendent Tom Walker: Gulf Rd update
 - Road conditions worse than originally thought
 - Undersized culverts to be replaced next year
 - Has attended MEMA & FEMA meetings for funding
 - Pratt Hollow culvert has shifted and needs work
 - Onsite meeting to be scheduled with utility company
- **Committee/Board Appointments**
 - Motion by Meisner, seconded by Jacque the board voted to re-appoint Barbara Lemoine, Deb Potee and Jerry Scott as Election Officers; terms expire 8/15/22
- **Proposed Agenda Items-COVID**
- **Recognition for Service**
 - Highway dept. for response to weather event damage to several roads
 - Participants of the Police Chief Forum in person and via email
- Motion by Cummings seconded by Meisner the board voted to adjourn at 7:14 pm

Recorded by Sandra L. Wood, Secretary

Selectboard Clerk

9/7/21
Date Approved