

March 7, 2017

Northfield Town Hall
69 Main St

Selectboard Present: Jack Spanbauer, Chair; Tracy Rogers

Selectboard Absent: Julia Blyth

Also Present: Sandra L. Wood, Town Secretary; Kayla Drumgool & Tyler Bourbeau, BNCTV

Others Present: Pat Shearer & Bill Wahlstrom, PVRS School Committee; Richard Parsons, 340 Caldwell Rd.; Rich Hubbard, Franklin Land Trust; Lois Stearns, Finance Committee Chair; Shelby Ashline, The Recorder

- The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm
- **Citizens' concerns**
 - Richard Parsons: Parsons told the Selectboard he completed the cleanup of his property as outlined in the agreement and Building Commissioner Jim Hawkins told him verbally it was done. He would like to settle the matter and collect the \$10,000 being withheld.
 - The Selectboard does not recall the Building Commissioner coming to the Selectboard and saying it was okay to release the funds from the Franklin Land Trust.
 - Rich Hubbard of the Franklin Land Trust addressed the board and said he was present at the site review with Hawkins in December of 2007 or January of 2008 when Hawkins gave the clean up a "thumbs up" and told them a letter would be sent to the Selectboard to release the funds. Hubbard would like to move the funds out of escrow.
 - The Selectboard requested Hubbard send a letter outlining the testimony given as to when the meeting took place and the vocal affirmation.
- **Review and Approval of Warrants**
 - On a motion by Rogers, seconded by Spanbauer the board voted to approve the 3/7/17 Payroll warrant of \$27,584.24
 - On a motion by Rogers, seconded by Spanbauer the board voted to approve the 3/7/17 Vendor warrant of \$260,877.49
- **Review and Approval of Minutes**
 - On a motion by Rogers, seconded by Spanbauer the board voted to approve the 2/21/17 Executive Session minutes as written.
 - On a motion by Rogers, seconded by Spanbauer the board voted to approve the minutes of 2/28/17 as written.
 - 2/28/17 Executive Session-tabled.
- **Interim Selectboard Meetings**
 - Joint meeting with the Finance committee 3/6
- **Meetings attended by Selectboard members**
 - Spanbauer: Zoning Revision Info session at the Senior Center on 3/7 and with Rich Fitzgerald on 3/1 at the NES PTO
 - Rogers: H.E.A.R.T. meeting
- **Old Business**
 - Beta Engineering proposal & Pavement Management Report
 - The Selectboard agreed to request the final report from Beta Engineering.
 - Tax Collector position
 - The Selectboard discussed combining the Tax Collector and Treasurer positions into one in 2018.
 - On a motion by Spanbauer, seconded by Rogers the board voted to appoint Barbara Brassor for a one (1) year term as Tax Collector, until the 2018 election.
 - SBA Cell Tower-Tabled
 - FY18 Budget
 - Spanbauer has spoken with former Town Administrator Brian Noble who feels the elementary school parking lot should be redone as a safety issue and should take precedence over the electrical project. Funds for the electrical audit and design could be reduced to \$15,000.00 leaving \$60,000. 00 for the parking lot.

[NORTHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES]

March 7, 2017

Northfield Town Hall
69 Main St

- Noble also recommended doing the Library energy audit as it can be grant funded. A transfer could be used with approval of the Finance Committee.
- Both items will be discussed at the Finance Committee meeting on 3/13.
- **New Business**
 - Northfield School Committee Budget Representatives Pat Shearer & Bill Wahlstrom; School budget explanation
 - The Selectboard asked School Committee representatives Shearer and Wahlstrom to explain the lack of transparency in regards to the district budget. Shearer agreed there was a lack of transparency.
 - The Selectboard asked about the proposed staff cuts not being reflected in the budget and with the enrollment dropping an explanation for the \$700,000 increase. Shearer and Wahlstrom cited 10 staff cuts to be replaced by 4 and costs to insurance, contracts, spending increases and reimbursements from the state are lower. They are have issues understanding the new accounting software and getting information from the accountant.
 - The School Committee to meet tonight to discuss a 1% and 3% budget would entail.
 - Preliminary articles for ATM-tabled
 - Signing of the warrant; permission for the Town Administrator to sign as necessary.
 - On a motion by Rogers, seconded by Spanbauer the board voted unanimously to authorize the Town Administrator to sign the warrants as necessary when the Board of Selectmen does not have a majority of the board.
 - Authority of the Selectboard to negotiate PILOTs-tabled
- **Town Administrator's update-** TA absent
- **Boards and Committees /Announcements**
 - New Openings: A number of committees and boards have openings. A list is available for viewing on the Current Openings page of www.northfieldma.gov and on the Town Hall posting board.
 - From the Dickinson Library
 - **Pi(e) Day** : March 14 -2pm the library is offering pie and coffee.
 - **Trivia Night**: March 16 (Thursday), 6:30pm at Cameron's Winery
 - **"Understanding Bigfoot: History and Culture"**: March 18, 1:00pm.
 - **No-Till Gardening** : March 21, 6:30pm
 - **The Mentalist**: March 28, 6:30pm -- Preston Heller will read your mind!

On a motion by Rogers, seconded by Spanbauer the board voted to adjourn at 5:40 pm

Recorded by Sandra L. Wood, Secretary

Selectboard Clerk

03/21/17
Date Approved