

[NORTHFIELD SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES]

December 20, 2022

Northfield Town Hall
69 Main St

Select Board Present: Barbara “Bee” Jacque, Chair; Heath Cummings, Vice Chair; Bernard Boudreau, Clerk; Alexander Meisner; Mary Bowen
Also Present: Andrea Llamas, Town Administrator; Sandra L. Wood, Town Secretary; Tyler Bourbeau, BNCTV
Others Present: EMS Chief Mark Fortier; Jake Whitney; Asst. EMS Chief Camron Kennedy; Pam Veith; Kathy Bridges; Sara Kerns

- Meeting called to order at 6:01 pm
- **Scheduled Appointments**
 - 6:00 pm Mark Fortier
 - EMS appointment; Jake Whitney
 - Basic EMT certified
 - Firefighter for Town of Gill
 - Long time goal to work full time in fire service and part time in EMS
 - Motion by Meisner, seconded by Bowen the Select Board voted to appoint Jake Whitney to the Northfield EMS; term expires 12/31/23
 - Agreement with Town of Gill
 - Gill Select Board agreed to have Northfield EMS be their primary service.
 - \$15,000 annual fee
 - Chief Fortier was comfortable with adding another community to the roster of Northfield, Bernardston, and Erving
 - Fortier commended for the foundation of agreement
 - All towns in the roster are included in a Collins Center study on regionalization
 - Motion by Meisner seconded Jacque the Select board voted to enter into agreement by and between the Town of Northfield and the Town of Gill on the 20th day of December 2022 with an effective date of July 1, 2023
 - USDA update- see Town Administrator notes
 - 6:30 pm Board of Health
 - Secretary Appointment; Pam Veith
 - Veith ran real estate office in town
 - Served as election officer, formerly on the Board of Health
 - Experience with perc tests and title 5's and keeps up with housing code changes
 - Motion by Meisner, seconded by Cummings the Select Board voted to appoint Pam Veith as the administrative assistant to the Board of Health at grade 5, step 1 starting immediately.
 - Health District Memorandum of Understanding
 - Llamas gave an update on the changes needed to bring the MOU up to date.
 - Discussion on finding alternate options for cost effectiveness through the Franklin Regional Council of Government
 - Bridges explained town meeting vote put the town in the current district and it would have to go back to town meeting to dissolve the district
 - Erving would be the lead employer. Quarterly meetings of the Boards of Health are held
 - The changes to the MOU will increase the assessment
 - Motion by Cummings, seconded by Bowen the Select Board voted approve the Intermunicipal Agreement for Public Health Services. 4 yes/1 no MOTION PASSED
 - Motion by Bowen seconded by Meisner the Select Board voted to approve Barbara Jacque sign the intermunicipal agreement for the health district.
- **Review and Approval of Warrants**
 - Motion by Meisner, seconded by Boudreau the Select Board voted to approve the 12/14/22 Payroll warrant of \$83,679.41

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- Motion by Meisner, seconded by Boudreau the Select Board voted to approve the 12/14/22 Vendor warrant of \$202,181.82
- **Review and Approval of Minutes**
 - Motion by Bowen, seconded by Cummings the Select Board voted to approve the Select Board minutes of 12/6/22 as written
- **Meetings/Events attended by Selectboard members**
 - Bowen: Franklin Regional Transit Authority
 - Cummings: Emergency Services Facility Committee; Friends of Schell Bridge
 - Jacque: FirstLight FERC Stakeholder (2) + Settlement (1) meetings; School Committee; Public Safety Facility Committee; Regional meeting USDA & Western Mass delegation re: grants for EMS & Public Safety; ARPA Committee
- **Town Administrator's update**
 - Attended a joint meeting with Bernardston and Leyden with USDA representatives discussing possible funding programs for various town initiatives. Grant Coordinator is working to apply for some funding through a grant program they offer to help offset some of the cost of the new ambulance ordered.
 - Attended the Age-Friendly Initiative Needs Assessment Survey Data Presentation to the COA today in the Sr. Center. Laying out the results of the survey done to work on developing the Town's Action Plan for going forward.
- **Business**
 - Vote to sign Comcast Contracts
 - No changes from last review
 - Motion by Cummings seconded by Meisner the Select Board voted to approve the Cable Television Renewal License granted to Comcast of Massachusetts II Inc granted by the Select Board, Town of Northfield, MA with renewal term December 20, 2022, to December 19, 2032
 - Motion by Meisner seconded by Bowen the Select Board voted to enter into agreement the Town of Northfield, MA and Comcast of Massachusetts II Inc. for Broadband expansion project with an efficacy date of December 20, 2022
 - ARPA
 - Sewer Aerator,
 - For replacement of 40-year-old aerators
 - Motion by Jacque, seconded by Meisner the Select Board voted to approve the use of ARPA funds of \$24,848.00 to purchase two new aerators for the sewer department.
 - Storefront Program, Premium Pay-for future agenda. Bowen to review the storefront program with Grant Coordinator Mallory Sullivan. Jacque to meet with emergency services Chiefs for premium pay program
 - Appointment of Mallory Sullivan to Committee
 - Motion by Meisner, seconded by Bowen the Select Board voted to appoint Mallory Sullivan to the ARPA committee
 - Emergency Services Facility
 - Designer Contract Amendment and Notice to Proceed
 - Llamas explained the changes. Funds appropriated are sufficient.
 - Motion by Bowen, seconded by Cummings the Select Board voted to approve the designer contract amendment dated December 9, 2022, from the architectural firm
 - Motion by Cummings, seconded by Boudreau the Select Board voted to approve the notice to proceed to Caolo & Bienek from the Select Board
 - Building Committee size
 - Discussion requested due to quorum issues to reduce the size of the Emergency Services Building Committee. As the project moves forward meetings will be more often.

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- Discussion to limit to one representative per emergency department; fire, police, EMS, planning, Select Board and Finance Committee
 - To resize the building committee from 9 members to 6 members of Steve Serendynski, Bernie Porada, Heath Cummings, Chief Jon Hall, Chief Skip Dunnell, and Chief Mark Fortier to have a quorum of 4
- Discussion of Road Closure due to weather conditions; Gulf Rd., South Mountain
 - Only town road can be closed
 - As a public safety concern the Chair of the Select Board can close a road with input from police and highway
 - Motion by Bowen, seconded by Cummings the Select Board voted to authorize Jacque to work with the Highway Superintendent and Police Chief to work out Gulf Rd. situation. 3 yes/2 no MOTION PASSED
- Select Board Response to preliminary review meeting regarding Soul Fest
 - The Select Board discussed the letter constructed by Jacque based on feedback from the board and 14 public comments
 - Jacque to edit areas of scale and due diligence and return for final review on January 10
- **Citizens' Concerns:** Sara Kerns presented 3d mock-up of area for proposed Soul Fest event on Moody campus vs. Gunstock Mountain Resort in New Hampshire
- **Committee/Board Appointments**
 - Appointments
 - Motion by Boudreau, seconded by Cummings the Select Board voted to appoint Martha Morse to the 350th Anniversary Committee; term expires 12/31/23
 - Re-Appointments
 - Motion by Meisner, seconded by Cummings the Select Board voted to re-appoint Margaret Livingstone to the Council on Aging; term expires 12/31/25
 - Motion by Boudreau, seconded by Cummings the Select Board voted to re-appoint Barbara Jacque, Joe Graveline; Lisa McLoughlin to the Historical Commission; terms expire 12/31/25
 - Motion by Bowen, seconded by Cummings the Select Board voted to re-appoint Susan Ross, Judy Wagner and Jon McGowan to the Schell Bridge Advisory; term expires 12/31/25
 - Motion by Cummings, seconded by Bowen the Select Board voted to re-appoint Part time and Mutual Aid -as listed by Chief Hall; terms expire 12/31/23. Part-time: William Kimball, Christopher Maselli, John Cowan, Jeremy Lawler, Benjamin Welcome and David Shoemaker. Mutual Aid: Robert Holst, Adam Paicos, Brandon Bryant, Joshua Barber, Laura Gordon, Matthew Ziomek, Mitch Waldron, Scott Minckler, Steve Gould, Meghan Gallo, Angelia Rodriguez, Sean Connor, Christian Santiago, James Palmeri, John Richardson, Curtis Weaver, Thomas Chabot, Darren Gale, Michael Kelly, Jordan Zukowski, Christopher Redmond, Jason Bassett, Derek Worden, and Mark Ruddock.
 - Motion by Jacque, seconded by Meisner the Select Board voted to re-appoint to Northfield EMS-as listed by Chief Fortier; terms expire 12/31/23. List included: Mariah Anthony, Todd Czernich, Jill Fortier Mark Fortier, Shawn Garland, Martin Given, Talia Hicks, Camron Kennedy, Emily Mills, Dan Momaney, Yvonne Moreno, Jeremy O'Connell, Joseph Reed, Rachel Shearer, Ethan Sicard and Carolyn Warger Czernich
 - Thank you for service: Alex Strycky, Energy Committee; Jerry Wagener, Schell Bridge Advisory
- **Proposed Agenda Items**
 - Food Pantry; Special permit sewer/water; water commissioner appts; police/highway road closures; Moody response letter
- **Announcements:** Keeping the Raymond family of Bernardston in our thoughts after house fire
- **Recognition for Service**

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- Northfield EMS read a letter of commendation to Officer Oleg Cobileanschi- for assistance to the EMS on a recent call for acts above and beyond the call of duty. Cobileanschi will be awarded with a life save award pin by the Northfield EMS.
- **Executive Session:** Motion by Meisner, seconded by Cummings the Select Board voted to go into executive session at 8:45 pm for First Light contract negotiation; M.G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining in the matter of the renewal of Firstlight's license to operate a hydroelectric power facility if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining of the public body and the chair so declares and to adjourn. On a roll call vote Boudreau said yes, Bowen said yes, Cummings said yes, Jacque said yes and Meisner said yes.
- Meeting adjourned at 9:04 pm

Recorded by Sandra L. Wood, Secretary

Select Board Clerk

1/10/2023
Date Approved