

[NORTHFIELD SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES]

March 25, 2019

Northfield Town Hall
69 Main St

Selectboard Present: Tracy Rogers, Chair; Julia Blyth; Alexander Meisner

Also Present: Sandra L. Wood, Town Secretary; Tyler Bourbeau/ BNCTV

Others Present: Heather Tower, Senior Center Director; Bernard Porada; Ray Range; Paul Hill; Steve & Joan Stoia; Cheryl George; Caleb Dillenschneider; Karen Boudreau; Tammy Pelletier; Sam Browning; Susan Wright; Leslie Cameron; Bob MacEwen; Brian Bordner; Scott Milton

- Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm
- **Citizens' concerns**
 - Heather Tower: request for the Selectboard to support and sign a Dementia Friendly initiative to raise awareness in town. Tower explained the initiative included area businesses and how the community can interact with those afflicted. Document signed.
 - Bernard Porada, So. Mountain Rd.; Paul Hill, Orange Rd.; Steve & Joan Stoia, Main St.; Dolores Branco, Lower Farms Rd.; Cheryl George, Old Wendell Rd.; Karen Boudreau, Old Wendell Rd.; Tammy Pelletier, Warwick Rd.; Chris Maselli, Nfld part-time officer; Leslie Cameron, Cameron's Winery, Main St.- read/submitted statements or voiced support for the Police Chief
 - Ray Range, Gulf Rd.; Bob MacEwen, Pine Meadow Rd.- felt Police Chief contract was excessive
- **Review and Approval of Warrants**
 - 3/12/19 Payroll warrant of \$29,745.60
 - 3/19/19 Payroll warrant of \$36,272.18
 - 3/19/19 Vendor warrant of \$56,020.00
 - On a motion by Rogers, seconded by Blyth the board voted to approve the warrants as written.
- **Review and Approval of Minutes**
 - On a motion by Blyth, seconded by Meisner the board voted to approve the Selectboard minutes of 3/11/19 as written.
- **Interim Selectboard Meetings-** Joint 4 towns of the Pioneer Valley School District with Finance Committees
- **Meetings attended by Selectboard members**
 - Rogers: FRTA
 - Blyth: Open Space Committee; HEART
 - Meisner: Sewer Commission
- **Business**
 - Letter to Elementary & Secondary Education Commissioner Jeffrey Riley RE: Request to invalidate PVRSD Committee agreement with Interim Superintendent Jonathan Scagel
 - Letter signed
 - Brian Bordner: petition article to limit expenditure
 - Request to withdraw warrant article as submitted. Will pursue alternative means to limit spending.
 - Sam Browning: Current Police Chief Contract
 - Stated contract discussion was not about the Police Chief
 - Presented petition with request for the Selectboard to vote to delay signing the contract currently in negotiations
 - Rogers explained the town had a representative form of government, was not required to consult with the town and had no reason to delay the negotiations/signing. Requested the list of items the citizens' group wanted to submit but have not received.
 - Browning read the petition to delay a vote until the end of June
 - Blyth and Rogers declined to delay the vote
 - Meisner cited there was a problem in town, hostility, fiscal responsibility and the issue was not about Chief Leighton. He was in favor of delaying the contract.

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- Browning read excerpts of a letter from Dan Goodwin
 - Susan Wright asked that the Selectboard be respected to manage and negotiate contracts and that it is normal for contract negotiations to go 6-8 months.
- Citizen input for First Light/Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage relicensing: Shoreline erosion & recreation interests
 - Blyth announced there would be a study meeting on recreation and erosion on March 29
 - Reviewed a draft letter to the Secretary of the Federal Regulatory Commission with comments regarding the recreational assets for the town
 - Canoe & kayak access at Riverview Picnic area, and Bennett Meadow; improved access at Pauchaug boat ramp, Bicycle and walking paths; conservation restrictions by putting river front land in Chapter 61.
- Resident concerns on the sewer rate increase
 - Meisner explained the increases in the budget and the need to bring the sewer plant up to a more efficient facility.
- Budget/Warrant Article Discussion-tabled. Meeting scheduled for April 4 at 6:30pm for review.
- **Correspondence:**
 - Council on Aging: opposition to sharing Senior Center Director
 - Bernardston Selectboard letter to Elementary & Secondary Education Commissioner Jeffrey Riley
 - Laura Robinson resignation from the Council on Aging
- **Appointments:**
 - On a motion by Rogers, seconded by Blyth the board voted to appoint Elizabeth Whitcomb to the Council on Aging; term expires 12/31/20
- **Request for One-Day Temporary Liquor License:**
 - On a motion by Rogers, seconded by Meisner the board voted to approve Denis Murphy, Northfield Kiwanis' request for one day temporary liquor license on April 1, 2019, Town Hall Senior Center/Dining Room from 7pm-9pm.
- **Proposed Agenda Items**
 - FERC letter for signature

On a motion by Rogers, seconded by Blyth the board voted to adjourn at 7:50 pm

Recorded by Sandra L. Wood, Secretary

Selectboard Clerk

4/8/19
Date Approved