

[NORTHFIELD SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES]

April 8, 2019

Northfield Town Hall
69 Main St

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

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

Others Present: Joe Kayan; Bill Kilpatrick; Heather Tower; Alyssa Algers; Sam Browning; Jeremy Underwood; Anna Joseph; Frederick Anthony; Dave Clark; Bernard Porada; Bob MacEwen; Dan Campbell, Town Clerk

- Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm
- **Citizens' concerns**
 - Joe Kayan: announcement for the Fixit Fair, April 27, 2019 at Nfld Elementary School. PTO serving breakfast and lunch items. Questions can be directed to the Transition Northfield website
 - Bill Kilpatrick: asked about the truck exclusion for Gulf Rd. Next step is article on the Town Meeting Warrant. Read statements of support for Chief Leighton from former Police Chiefs' Sibilis and Crossman.
 - Heather Tower asked who would update GPS on the topic of Gulf Rd. The state would be in charge of notifying GPS services.
 - Alyssa Algers: made a statement of support for Chief Leighton
- **Review and Approval of Warrants**
 - 03/26/19 Payroll warrant of \$29,245.87
 - 03/26/19 Vendor warrant of \$68,028.17
 - 03/27/19 Payroll warrant of \$1,034.43
 - 04/02/19 Payroll warrant of \$28,478.80
 - 04/02/19 Vendor warrant of \$100,132.76
 - On a motion by Rogers, seconded by Blyth the board voted to approve the warrants as presented.
- **Review and Approval of Minutes**
 - On a motion by Rogers, seconded by Blyth the board voted to approve the minutes of 03/25/19 as amended.
 - On a motion by Blyth, seconded by Rogers the board voted to approve the minutes of 3/27/19 with the Finance Committee as written. Meisner abstained.
- **Interim Selectboard Meetings**
 - 3/27/19 with Finance Committee
 - 4/4/19
- **Meetings attended by Selectboard members**
 - Rogers: Assessors; Police union representative
 - Blyth: Regional Planning Board; First Light stakeholder meeting
 - Meisner: Sewer Commission; bird walk
- **Business**
 - Letter to FERC with comments on recreational aspects
 - FERC is not receiving open comments at this time
 - Blyth looking for input from Conservation Commission and Historical Commission before finalizing the letter.
 - Sam Browning & Jeremy Underwood: list of proposals for new police chief contract
 - Proposal included: putting the Chief back on the wage scale with the option to work and be paid overtime; changes to authorized leave, indemnification, workers' compensation and injury on duty, death during term of employment and compensation
 - Object is to bring in line to the personnel policy
 - Requested salary set at \$82,000
 - Anna Joseph: support of Chief Leighton & the police department
 - Concerned the Chief is being under-mined and comments that the concerns are not personal are disingenuous

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- Changes to the contract by the Concerned Citizens group imply the Chief is deficient and he exploits his time
 - Finds the department personnel professional and decent
 - Discouraged with the events of the contract discussion
- Additional comments:
 - Frederick Anthony: requested the Selectboard bring the town back together
 - Dave Clark: has worked for the police department since 1981 and supported the Chief
 - Jeremy Underwood: concerned about the division between employees and looking for more equality
 - Bernard Porada: feels the proposed contract by the self-appointed negotiators is unprecedented
 - The Selectboard's responsibility, as voted by the town, to negotiate contracts
 - Once a labor agreement is settled it finished
 - Bob MacEwen: asked if it was wrong to question contracts or spending
- Police Union Contract
 - No changes to the agreement from the last review.
 - On a motion by Rogers, seconded by Meisner the board voted unanimously to sign the collective bargaining agreement between the Town of Northfield and the New England Police Benevolent Association, Inc. contract from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2021 as presented.
- J. Fowler property; 19 Four Mile Brook Rd. Right of First Refusal; Notice of Exercise
 - Motion by Blyth, seconded by Meisner the board voted unanimously to sign the Notice of Non-Exercise for the property of Joel Fowler at 19 Four Mile Brook Rd. Notarized by Town Clerk Dan Campbell
- Re-sign Llewelyn Notice of Exercise to correct typo
 - Property description was incorrect
 - Document signed
- Cell Tower easement agreement
 - On a motion by Rogers, seconded by Meisner the board voted to sign and approve the cell tower agreement as presented.
- Northfield EMS/Town of Bernardston MOU
 - Paramedic staffing for 16 hours per day
 - Agreement for July 2019 to June 2020
 - On a motion by Blyth, seconded by Meisner the board signed the agreement for Emergency Medical Services by and between the Town of Northfield with the Town of Bernardston
- Annual Town Meeting Warrant
 - Changes reviewed
 - Index of articles read
 - Meisner explained sewer plant repairs
 - On a motion by Meisner, seconded by Blyth the board voted to accept the annual town meeting warrant as amended with the changes discussed.
 - On a motion by Rogers, seconded by Blyth the board signed the election warrant as presented
- **Appointments:**
 - On a motion by Rogers, seconded by Blyth the board voted to appoint Stacy Bond to the Historical Commission; term expires 12/31/20
 - On a motion by Rogers, seconded by Meisner the board voted to appoint Mary King to the Historical Commission; term expires 12/31/21
 - On a motion by Rogers, seconded by Blyth the board voted to appoint Barbara Jacque as an election officer; term expires 8/15/19
- **Announcements**
 - Notification from the department of transportation of tercentenary marker restoration

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Executive Session

On a motion by Rogers, seconded by Blyth the board voted to go into executive session at 7:26 pm for **possible litigation-** M.G.L. c.30A, Sec. 21 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 body and the chair so declares

and

Selectboard/Police Chief Contract discussion- M.G.L. c.30A, Sec. 21 to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with non-union personnel. On a roll call vote Rogers said yes, Blyth said yes and Meisner said yes.

The Board came out of executive session and back into open session at 8:29 pm and announced they would not be coming back to open session and signing the Police Chief contract after their negotiation with the chief due to questions for the town administrator and town counsel.

On a motion by Rogers, seconded by Blyth the board voted to go into executive session at 8:31pm for **Negotiation with Police Chief--** M.G.L. c.30A, Sec. 21 to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with non-union personnel and to adjourn. On a roll call vote Rogers said yes, Blyth said yes and Meisner said yes.

Meeting adjourned at 9:32 pm.

Recorded by Sandra L. Wood, Secretary

Selectboard Clerk

4/29/19

Date Approved