

[NORTHFIELD SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES]

November 17, 2020

Northfield Town Hall
69 Main St

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

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

Others Present via remote: Susan O’Connor & Jim Van Natta, Energy Committee; Chief Leighton

- **Call to Order**

- Read for the Record: Pursuant to Governor Baker’s March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor’s March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the town of Northfield Selectboard will be conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible. Specific information and the general guidelines for remote participation by members of the public and/or parties with a right and/or requirement to attend this meeting can be found on the Town of Northfield’s website, at northfieldma.gov. For this meeting, members of the public who wish to watch the meeting may do so in the following manner: The meeting will be filmed and broadcast in live time by BNCTV, Channel 17 and a link will be posted on the Town’s website at northfieldma.gov. Limited in-person attendance of members of the public may be permitted. Every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means. In the event we are unable to do so, despite best efforts, we will post on the Town’s website an audio or video recording, or other comprehensive record of proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting

- **Review and Approval of Warrants**

- Motion by Meisner, seconded by Jacque the board voted to approve the 11/19/20 Payroll warrant of \$57,015.24
- Motion by Meisner, seconded by Cummings the board voted to approve the 11/19/20 Vendor warrant of \$112,306.48

- **Review and Approval of Minutes**

- Motion by Meisner, seconded by Jacque the board voted to approve the minutes of 11/4/20 as amended

- **Meetings/Events attended by Selectboard members**

- Meisner: Sewer Commission; DEP enforcement conference to be held 11/24/20
- Jacque: FRCoG Finance training on Policies & Procedures; Finance Committee; MassDOT

- **Appointments**

- Susan O’Connor/Jim Van Natta, Energy Committee – Green Communities yearly data and update on Green Communities grant.
 - Awarded Green Communities grant of \$162,000
 - Categories: Heating system upgrade at Nfld Elementary School (\$143,000); (\$5,000) hybrid police cruiser; (\$5,000) Clerk of the works; (\$12,000) mini split unit for DML office. Amounts are rounded up.
 - Kevin Seaman, PVRSD Building Maintenance, has HVAC experience and will be part of the process
 - The start date is projected for summer 2021 pending bid, acceptance, and school’s schedule for availability. Project will be headed by FRCoG.
 - Solar panels for the Town Hall roof would not be funded by Green Communities at this time.
 - Updates from the Energy Committee
 - There has been a 16.5% drop in EMBTU’s in lighting electricity. 170,00kW at PVRSD
 - The Highway Department is the Energy Committee’s top priority and will start with an audit
 - Cost of community aggregation has risen slightly but is greener and lower than Eversource’s
 - Requesting comments for the Hazardous Mitigation Plan
 - Data Source
 - Mass Energy Insight collects and track data since Northfield became a green community
 - Data is analyzed yearly and drives decision making. The FRCoG assists
 - DOER will meet with every community to review and help with direction
 - Goal is to decrease energy consumption by 25%
 - Focus to decrease NES by 22%. By end of project the goal is to decrease by 30-35%
 - There have been increases in consumption at the Highway garage, Transfer Station and Fire Department
 - Highway garage heats with wood and is inefficient.
 - Transfer Station is a small building, therefore high consumption with low use
 - Vehicle use- climbing over time
 - Police switching to hybrid
 - The Highway department is high use
 - Looking to reduce gas & diesel

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- Chief Leighton, Police – School Resource Officer Position
 - Superintendent Scagel has requested a Student Resource Officer be installed for the remainder of the school year
 - Position is a couple days a week
 - Chief Leighton requests William Kimball be appointed to the position
 - Kimball is a full-time firefighter and EMT for Greenfield
 - Interacts with children teaching fire safety curriculum
 - Has met with Supt. Scagel and the principal who felt Kimball would be a good fit
 - School Committee voted to accept the MOU between PVRSD and Northfield
 - The long-term plan is to fill the position as full time for the next school year
 - The SRO will have an email for parents and students' access
 - Kimball assured Chief Leighton he could fill the position along with his other duties
 - Funding was budgeted for the town and the school to split 50-50.
 - The Board would like an update in the future
 - Motion by Meisner, seconded by Jacque the board voted to accept and sign the Memorandum of Understanding for the School Resource Officer agreement to protect and educate
 - Motion by Meisner, seconded by Cummings the board voted to appoint William Kimball to our Hybrid SRO position for the Pioneer Valley Regional School District
- **Business**
 - Department of Fish and Game – Request for support of acquisition of land
 - Parcel is 9.22 acres located near Satan's Kingdom and abuts other open space parcels
 - Owner is Nourse Realty LLC off Old Vernon Rd
 - Motion by Meisner, seconded by Cummings the board voted to support the acquisition of the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game for the purchase of the 9.22-acre parcel #13-85-1 in the Town of Northfield
 - Complaint/Request to Schedule Dangerous Dog Hearing – Ewell
 - Motion by Meisner, seconded by Cummings the board voted to schedule a dangerous dog hearing for Ewell on December 1, 2020 at the Selectboard meeting
 - Change Personnel Policy to include Juneteenth holiday
 - Governor Baker proclaimed June 19 to be observed on the nearest Sunday to recognize the end of slavery
 - Holiday to be added to the personnel policy
 - Motion by Meisner, seconded by Cummings the board voted to accept the new law by the Governor of Massachusetts to include Juneteenth to the personnel policy
- **Town Administrator's update**
 - Auction results
 - \$8,170 total
 - Finance Committee Budget season schedule
 - Tax rate classification-Monday 11/23
 - Public Safety meeting-no changes to Town Hall open hours
 - Moody Center plans- the town has received nothing in lieu of permit applications
 - Charging station installation has begun
- **Correspondence:** Patricia Shearer retirement from the School Committee; Meghan Callahan, Squakheag monument request.
- **Motion by Meisner, seconded by Cummings the board vote to adjourn at 7:24 pm.**

Recorded by Sandra L. Wood, Secretary

Selectboard Clerk

12/01/2020
Date Approved