

TOWN OF NORTHFIELD, VERMONT
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SPECIAL MEETING
Minutes of May 19, 2015

- I. **ROLL CALL.** Chair John Quinn III, Selectmen Lynn Doney, Matthew Gadbois, Kenneth W. Goslant, and K. David Maxwell. Also present were Town Manager Jeffrey Schulz, Christopher Hoar (Officer, Northfield Police Department), and Brian Hoar (Sergeant, Northfield Police Department).

Chair Quinn called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

- II. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (Scheduled):** None.

III. **DISCUSSION**

- a. **Grievance of Police Department Staffing Levels.** Manager Schulz stated that the Northfield Police Department had submitted an official grievance to him, claiming that the Town is in violation of its current contract with the Police Department because it did not fund a sixth police officer in the FY 2015/2016 department budget. Manager Schulz added that he had denied this grievance at the managerial level. The Police Department then appealed this denial to the Select Board, which will review this matter at this special meeting.

Officer Christopher Hoar, representing the Police Department Union, stated that the reduced staffing level creates several issues for the department. For example, having only five (5) officers does not allow for proper staffing of the three (3) daily shifts. It also makes it more difficult for the officers to schedule their time off. Selectman Goslant asked if this was about need or want. Officer Hoar said it was both. As this is a contract matter, the Selectmen will further discuss this amongst themselves in executive session (see below).

- IV. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (Unscheduled).** There was none.

- V. **EXECUTIVE SESSION.** Motion by Selectman Gadbois, seconded by Selectman Goslant, to go into executive session, in accordance with 1 VSA 313 (a)(1), in order to discuss a contract matter with Manager Schulz present. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

The Board went into executive session at 7:05 p.m.

Motion by Selectman Goslant, seconded by Selectman Gadbois to come out of executive session. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

The Board came out of executive session at 7:15 p.m.

Motion by Selectman Gadbois, seconded by Selectman Goslant, to deny the grievance filed by the Northfield Police Department as regards to staffing levels. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

- VI. **ADJOURNMENT.** Motion by Selectman Doney, seconded by Selectman Gadbois, to adjourn. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

The Board adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey Schulz

Jeffrey Schulz, Acting Clerk

These minutes were approved at the regular Select Board meeting of May 26, 2015.