

**TOWN OF NORTHFIELD, VERMONT  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
SPECIAL MEETING  
Minutes of March 16, 2017**

- I. ROLL CALL.** Selectmen Lynn Doney, Nathan Freeman (absent), Julie H. Goodrich, Kenneth W. Goslant, and K. David Maxwell. Also present were Town Manager Jeffrey Schulz and Josh Sanders.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.** The Board members and the public were asked to rise and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

**III. ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF THE SELECT BOARD**

- a. **Election of Chair.** Motion by Selectman Maxwell, seconded by Selectman Doney, to appoint Kenneth W. Goslant as Select Board Chair. **Motion passed 3-0-1, with Selectman Goslant abstaining.**
  - b. **Election of Vice-Chair.** Motion by Selectman Doney, seconded by Selectman Goslant, to appoint K. David Maxwell as Select Board Vice-Chair. **Motion passed 3-0-1, with Selectman Maxwell abstaining.**
  - c. **Select Board Committee Assignments.** Chair Goslant recommended that the committee assignments be filled as follows: **Budget and Financial Review** (Selectmen Goodrich and Maxwell); **Town Buildings & Energy** (Selectmen Doney and Maxwell); **Economic Development** (Selectmen Freeman and Goodrich); **Norwich University** (Selectmen Goodrich and Maxwell); **Highway Planning & Project Oversight** (Selectmen Doney and Goslant); **Public Safety Oversight & Planning** (Selectmen Doney and Goslant); and **Labor Agreement & Bargaining** (Selectmen Goodrich and Maxwell). In addition, Chair Goslant will continue to serve as the Select Board's representative on the Water/Wastewater Utility Commission and Selectman Freeman on the Electric Utility Commission. Selectman Freeman and Manager Schulz will serve as Northfield representatives to the Mountain Alliance. Stephen Fitzhugh will continue to serve as Northfield's representative to Vermont Public Power Supply Authority (VPPSA) and Manager Schulz will remain the VPPSA alternate representative.
  - d. **Regular Meeting Schedule (Dates, Time, and Location).** The Select Board will continue to meet on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Room located in the Brown Public Library.
  - e. **Designation of Official Newspapers.** The *Northfield News*, the *Barre-Montpelier Times Argus*, and the *Washington World* will remain the municipality's official newspapers for legal notices, advertisements, etc.
- IV. SET/ADJUST AGENDA.** Manager Schulz noted that tonight's special meeting was warned to replace the regular meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 14, 2017 but was cancelled due to a severe snowstorm. However, William Veve and Victor Veve from VWSD LLC, who were to be present that night regarding their proposed 500kw net metering solar project on Bull Run, were unable to attend tonight. This matter will be put on the next regular meeting agenda (03/28/17). In addition, Board of Listers Chair Arlington Supplee has asked Manager Schulz that the recent resignation (and possible replacement) of Lister Francis Bell be added to tonight's agenda. There was no objection.
- V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (SCHEDULED):** None.
- VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
- a. **February 28, 2017 (Regular Meeting).** Since Selectman Freeman is absent, there is not a quorum present of Selectmen who attended this meeting. Approval of these minutes was tabled until the next meeting.

## VII. APPROVAL OF BILLS

- a. **Warrant #18-17.** Motion by Selectman Maxwell, seconded by Selectman Doney, to approve Warrant #18-17 in the amount of \$1,679,057.32. Selectman Maxwell noted that the warrant amount is especially large because the municipality is forwarding \$1,055,500 in property taxes it collected to the Northfield School District. Chair Goslant noted sand, gravel, and salt purchases on the warrant. Manager Schulz said the Highway Department's sand and salt budgets are pretty much exhausted. Some funds still remain in the gravel account and there is a good amount of road material piled up at the Town Garage. **Motion passed 4-0-0.**
- b. **Warrant #18-17A.** Motion by Selectman Maxwell, seconded by Selectman Doney, to approve Warrant #18-17A in the amount of \$40,963.13. Manager Schulz said this was a refinancing of an old note that funded highway maintenance. Finance Director Laurie Baroffio was able to get better terms at another bank. **Motion passed 4-0-0.**
- c. **Approval of Bi-Weekly Payroll through February 26, 2017.** Motion by Selectman Maxwell, seconded by Selectman Doney, to approve the biweekly payroll in the amount of \$85,031.95. **Motion passed 4-0-0.**

## VIII. LIQUOR CONTROL COMMISSION

- a. **Liquor License Renewal Applications**
  1. **Convenience Plus.** Motion by Selectman Doney, seconded by Selectman Goodrich, to approve the liquor license renewal. **Motion passed 4-0-0.**
  2. **Dollar General.** Motion by Selectman Doney, seconded by Selectman Goodrich, to approve the liquor license renewal. **Motion passed 4-0-0.**

## IX. SELECT BOARD

- a. **Board of Listers Resignation.** Manager Schulz said Lister Francis Bell had submitted his formal letter of resignation. Former Lister Chris Bradley already has submitted a letter of interest for this position. As this is a very busy time of year for the Listers with home inspections, etc., Lister Chair Supplee would like Mr. Bradley appointed as soon as possible. He would serve until the next Annual Town Meeting (03/06/18). Motion by Selectman Maxwell, seconded by Selectman Doney, to appoint Chris Bradley to the Board of Listers. **Motion passed 4-0-0.**
- b. **Bond Anticipation Note (RSMS Program FY2013/2014).** Motion by Selectman Maxwell, seconded by Selectman Doney, to approve and sign the Bond Anticipation Note in the amount of \$35,275 at 2.25% interest; to approve and sign the Bond Anticipation Borrowing Resolution; and to approve and sign the Bond Anticipation Borrowing Tax Certificate. Manager Schulz noted that this borrowing was authorized by Northfield voters at the March 2013 Town Meeting and the final payment will be made in FY 2023/2024. **Motion passed 4-0-0.**
- c. **Northfield Ambulance Volunteers, Inc. (NAVI) Bylaws.** Manager Schulz said NAVI recently updated its bylaws, which were last revised in 2009. Since there is no one from NAVI present tonight to discuss the changes, Manager Schulz would like to table any action on this until the next meeting. There was no objection. Chair Goslant asked how many NAVI volunteers there were. Selectman Doney thought there were about thirty-five (35) and many of them are Norwich University students.

## X. BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS, CONCERNS, QUESTIONS

- a. **Northfield Police Department Polygraph Policy.** Selectman Doney asked if development of this policy was being delayed until the new Police Chief was on board next month. Manager Schulz said this was correct. He felt that the Town Manager and Police Chief should coordinate on this.
- b. **Rabbit Hollow Road Bridge.** Selectman Doney asked about the status of the dispute between the municipality and New England Central Railroad (NECR) regarding responsibility for this now-closed bridge. Manager Schulz said that he and local attorney William Smith worked together on drafting the municipality's petition to the Vermont Transportation Board. The petition now has been delivered and Manager Schulz is hopeful that this matter will be put on the Transportation Board's April 2017 agenda. Their normal meeting date is the third Thursday of the month.

Selectman Doney is concerned about further delays in this matter since it has been a great hardship for residents in the area to detour around the closed bridge. He would like the Select Board to authorize spending \$32,000 in surplus highway funds to apply temporary fixes to the bridge so that it could be put back in operation. Should the Transportation Board later rule in the municipality's favor, NECR would reimburse these funds. Selectman Maxwell agrees with Selectman Doney's sentiment but would like to delay any formal action for a couple weeks in order to see how the petition process plays out. Selectman Doney is worried that the Transportation Board may not take any action until June or later.

- c. **Municipal Parks Spring Cleanup.** Selectman Doney said that the Recreation Committee will be asking volunteers to show up at the Memorial and Falls parks on Sunday, April 23, 2017, in order to perform some park cleanup, minor repairs, etc. in exchange for a free lunch. Chair Goslant suggested that those interested should bring rakes, shovels, etc.
- d. **First Constable Vacancy Letter of Interest.** Selectman Goodrich noted Northfield resident Richard Wobby has submitted a letter of interest for the vacant position of First Constable. She asked if this something that the Select Board should act upon tonight. Selectman Maxwell would like this matter put on the next meeting agenda.
- e. **Northfield Savings Bank (NSB) Update.** Selectman Maxwell said that he, Manager Schulz, and Chair Goslant met with new NSB President Thomas Leavitt last week regarding plans to renovate its Northfield branch that will include sidewalk upgrades, etc. The municipality will supplement this work with its own sidewalk renovations near the Municipal Building, etc. There was a recent posting on the Front Porch Forum that suggested that the municipality did not do all it could to prevent NSB from moving its corporate headquarters from Northfield to a new facility in Berlin. Selectman Maxwell served on the Village Trustees at the time and he felt that the municipality did what it could to accommodate NSB but other factors led to the relocation. He felt that the extensive renovation of our NSB branch indicates the bank's commitment to remain a major presence in our community.
- f. **Video Streaming Select Board Meetings.** Chair Goslant stated there was support expressed on Town Meeting Day for having Select Board meetings, which now are televised locally by Trans-Video, made available on the internet. It was noted that not all Northfield residents live within Trans-Video's service area. Chair Goslant would like Manager Schulz to work with Trans-Video's George Goodrich III to see if this is economically and technically feasible. There already is money in the municipality's budget for the recording equipment, etc.
- g. **Recent Snowstorm and Mud Season.** Chair Goslant was pleased with the way the Highway crew responded to the snowstorm earlier this week. Now that the temperatures seem to be rising again, he asked if some of the backroads would be closed down to through traffic. Manager Schulz spoke to Highway Foreman Trent Tucker recently about this. They agreed that Aseltine Road should be closed down due to its poor condition. However, due to the work done last summer, Lover Lane is in pretty good shape and may not need to be closed. Chair Goslant inspected Aseltine Road recently and agreed it is in bad shape.

**XI. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT.** Manager Schulz had nothing to add to his written report.

**XII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (UNSCHEDULED).** There was none.

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT.** Motion by Selectman Maxwell, seconded by Selectman Doney, to adjourn.  
**Motion passed 4-0-0.**

The Board adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Kenneth L. McCann*

Kenneth L. McCann, Acting Clerk

An audio recording of this meeting is available in the Town Manager's Office.

These minutes were approved at the regular Select Board meeting of March 28, 2017.