

**TOWN OF NORTHFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes of January 12, 2009**

- I. **ROLL CALL:** Chair Roger LeClair, Selectmen Melvin Adams, Kenneth Johnson, Charles Morse, and Gregory Sanders. Also present were Town Manager Nanci Allard, Clerk Samantha Baraw, Warren Hagy (Chair, Board of Listers), and Kathleen Lott (*Northfield News*).

Chair LeClair called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a. **December 8, 2008 (Regular Meeting).** Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Sanders, to approve the minutes. **Motion passed 4-0-1, with Selectman Adams abstaining.**

III. **APPROVAL OF BILLS**

- a. **Warrant #14-09.** Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Adams, to approve Warrant #14-09 in the amount of \$1,108,527.30. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**
- b. **Validation of Warrant #13-09.** Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Johnson, to validate the previous approval (by signature) of Warrant #13-09. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

IV. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** None.

V. **MANAGER'S REPORT**

a. **Status Reports: Various Projects**

1. **New Ambulance Unit.** The new vehicle has arrived and is in service.
2. **New Police Station.** Construction has been completed and the Police Department has moved into the building. They are very pleased with their new home.
3. **Tax Mapping Project update.** The project is coming along well. We are reviewing the last (hopefully) set of maps and are trying to finish this week.
4. **VLCT PACIF Property Insurance.** Manager Allard met with the insurance agent who was reassessing all the properties. Rates will go up a little bit because of the new police station. Annual safety training is required for all employees and this will be scheduled.
5. **GMTA Free Shuttle Bus.** The Green Mountain Transit Agency (GMTA) now is operating a free shuttle bus in Northfield each Wednesday from 9:00 a.m. to 11:40 a.m. with stops at the Northfield Senior Center, the Green Mountain Apartments, Dogwood Glen, the Commons, CERV, and the Grand Union. For more information (or to request a route deviation), please call GMTA at 223-7287. Again, this is a free service and is not limited to just senior citizens.
6. **Elected Town Officer Petitions.** If you would like to run for elective office (i.e. Selectboard, School Board, etc.), you need to return your petition to the Town Clerk's Office by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, January 26, 2009. Please contact the Town Clerk's office (485-5421) if you have any questions.

VI. **SELECTBOARD**

- a. **Bond Anticipation Note (Fire Truck): \$120,000 at 2.40% interest.** Motion by Selectman Johnson, seconded by Selectman Morse, to approve the note and adopt the resolution. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**
- b. **DRAFT 2009 Town Meeting Warning.** The draft warning was included in the packets; the final version will be available for signature at the next regular meeting (01/26/09). There was discussion of two (2) specific articles:

1. **Article #3 (Town Treasurer's Term of Office).** This proposed article would ask the voters' approval for lengthening the Town Treasurer's term from one (1) year to three (3). Motion by Selectman Adams, seconded by Selectman Morse, to put this article on the 2009 Town Meeting Warning. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**
2. **Article #7 (Reconsideration Petitions).** This proposed article would raise the percentage of voters required on a petition to reconsider an article (or articles) approved at a regular or special Town Meeting from 5% to 10%. There was a discussion on the purpose of this. Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Adams, to include this article on the 2009 Town Meeting Warning. Chair LeClair suggested that the revised percentage should be limited to Australian Ballot articles only. We will check with the Secretary of State's office to see if this is legally possible. The motion will be tabled until next meeting.
- c. **Ambulance Vehicle Donation Request.** The Town Manager and the Selectboard Chair both received letters from the medical director for Vermont EMS District #6 who is asking that the Northfield Ambulance vehicle that is to be "retired" be donated to District #6 for "training purposes." Selectman Johnson feels that if this happens, he would like to have it noted that the vehicle would be taken "as is" and that it should be noted as a donation by the citizens of Northfield. Selectman Morse stated that it would be better to sell the vehicle; a little money is better than none. Selectman Johnson stated that the money value (which would be minimal) would be far less than the training value. The selling value would be between \$500 and \$1000. The Selectmen would like more information on this before making a decision.
- d. **Informational Meeting (The Veterans' Place): January 19, 2009.** This meeting will take place in the Brown Public Library's Community Room at 7:00 p.m. All interested Northfield residents are strongly urged to attend.
- e. **Status Reports: Various Projects**
 1. **Washington County Proposed FY 2009/2010 Budget.** A copy of the budget summary was in the packets. The Board has some concerns as the budget seems much higher than normal. The Board would like to see a copy of the itemized budget (if possible).
 2. **Special Town Meeting Reconsideration Petition.** A petition was turned into the Town Clerk's office with the following three (3) articles: 1) Shall the voters of the Town of Northfield vote to reconsider the article below as was lastly voted on November 18, 2008?; 2) Shall the voters authorize the Select board to assess the combined Town and Village highway tax against the entire town Grand List to create a new line expenditure in the Town highway budget - "Maintenance of Village Highways?"; and 3) Shall the Town of Northfield vote all public questions by Australian ballot. If this is a valid petition, the Board has sixty (60) days from receipt to act. The third article appears to be an attempt to eliminate Town Meeting; this issue was neither warned nor discussed at the Special Town Meeting. The Board will check with the Secretary of State's office to see if this is a valid reconsideration petition.

VII. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** Non-agenda items: none.

VIII. **ADJOURNMENT:** Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Sanders, to adjourn. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

The Board adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Samantha H. Baraw

Samantha H. Baraw, Clerk

These minutes are subject to approval at the next regular meeting.