

**TOWN OF NORTHFIELD  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
Minutes of January 26, 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, Tony Moulton (Northfield Boys & Girls Club), James Baraw (Supervisor, Northfield Ambulance Service/EMS District 6 Chair), Laurie Baroffio (Delinquent Tax Collector), Mark Podgwaite (Northfield Ambulance Service), Lisa Clark (Northfield Ambulance Service), Lynn Sanders, Thatcher Moats (*Times Argus*), and Kathleen Lott (*Northfield News*).

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

II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a. **January 12, 2009 (Regular Meeting).** Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Adams, to approve the minutes. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**
- b. **January 20, 2009 (Special Meeting).** Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Adams, to approve the minutes. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

III. **APPROVAL OF BILLS**

- a. **Warrant #15-09.** Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Sanders, to approve Warrant #15-09 in the amount of \$49,672.56. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

IV. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

- a. **Tony Moulton, Northfield Boys & Girls Club: 2009 Town Meeting Warning Request.** Mr. Moulton requested that the Northfield Boys & Girls Club be put on the 2009 Town Meeting Warning (\$3000). He misunderstood the process and was unaware that being placed on the ballot was not automatic this year. Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Sanders, to put the \$3000 request from the Northfield Boys & Girls Club on the 2009 Town Meeting Warning. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**
- b. **James Baraw, Northfield Ambulance Service and EMS District 6 Chair: Proposed Ambulance Vehicle Donation.** Supervisor Baraw clarified that the District 6 would like the vehicle intact. They cannot get folks into the vehicle to learn "on site." The goal is to keep it road worthy for a few more years. There was a concern of liability to Northfield; District 6 would waive the liability. Selectman Morse was concerned because the vehicle was deemed to be "unsafe" for our purposes; he is concerned that this vehicle may still be "unsafe." He stated that we also told the public that we would be selling it and returning the money to the general fund. Selectman Johnson felt the benefits would outweigh any money that could be gained. Motion by Selectman Adams, seconded by Selectman Sanders, to donate the retired Ambulance vehicle to District 6 for training purposes. **Motion passed 4-1-0, with Selectman Morse voting in opposition.** The Board would like to see lettering added to the side of the vehicle indicating that it had been donated by the citizens of Northfield.

V. **MANAGER'S REPORT**

- a. **Status Reports: Various Projects**
1. **Northfield Ambulance Volunteers, Inc. (NAVI).** Chair LeClair and Manager Allard met with NAVI regarding changes to their bylaws.
  2. **Town-Gown Meeting.** The next meeting between representatives of Norwich University and the Northfield Municipality is Thursday, February 5, 2009 at 8:30 a.m.

3. **Road Service Management Program (RSMP).** Highway Foreman Peter G. Demasi, Highway employee Chris Alger, and Manager Allard met with Robert Turner, a consultant for the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC), to discuss this program. The information is being installed on Mr. Demasi's computer.
4. **Tax Maps.** Listers Chair Warren Hagy finished the review of the tax maps. He expects that the results will be delivered in early March. If they are done in time, it would be nice to have them on display at the Town Meeting.
5. **Municipal Building.** Some Norwich University architectural design students met with Manager Allard and some Department Heads regarding a possible redesign/reorganization of the building's interior.
6. **Town Charter/Town Merger.** Manager Allard is looking for guidance from the Board on when to resurrect these issues. Chair LeClair would like to hold off until after Town Meeting Day (03/03/09)
7. **Geomorphic study of Dog River.** The Northfield Conservation Commission will provide a presentation at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 25, 2009, in the Community Room of the Brown Public Library.
8. **Banking Issues.** There are some concerns that Manager Allard would like to discuss with the Board in executive session.

## VI. SELECTBOARD

### a. Approval of 2009 Town Meeting Warning

1. **Article 5 (Picnic Shelter Reserve Fund).** Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Sanders, to approve Article 5. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**
2. **Article 10 (Increase from 5% to 10% the Number of Signatures Required on Reconsideration/Recession Petitions).** Lynn Sanders wanted to let people know that it is quite difficult to get enough signatures for 5%, let alone 10%. He is opposed to this item. Selectman Morse would like 10% percentage to be presented to the voters; they can decide the percentage (which can be up to 20%). Chair Leclair also would like to leave the article as is because there is an opportunity for voters to amend the exact percentage from the floor. Putting this article on the warning will allow the voters themselves to decide this issue. Motion by Selectman Adams, seconded by Selectman Morse, to add article 10 as written on the warning. **Motion passed 3-2-0, with Selectmen Johnson and Sanders voting in opposition.**

Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Adams, to approve 2009 Town Meeting Warning as voted and approved at this Board meeting. **Motion passed 4-1-0, with Selectman Sanders voting in opposition.**

- b. **Tax Sale Attorney:** Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Johnson, to authorize the legal firm of Stitzel, Page, and Fletcher to conduct a tax sale. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**
- c. **Status Reports: Various Projects.** None.

## VII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Non-agenda items

- a. **Lynn Sanders, Highway Tax Rate.** Mr. Sanders asked for information on what happens to the tax rate when you combine the Town and Village highways. Manager Allard responded that we all pay the same now; it will be up about \$0.04. Mr. Sanders confirmed that both the Town and the Village were in violation.

- b. **Thatcher Moats (*Times Argus*)**. Mr. Moats wanted to know what the Board thought of the letter to the Town of Northfield from the Vermont Attorney General regarding Police Chief Jeffrey Shaw. Selectman Morse stated that he is unsure if the Municipality has done any investigation but it appears to him that there is no cover up. It appears that there was full disclosure and admission of wrongdoing on the part of Chief Shaw. Mr. Moats would like to know what action will be taken by the Municipality. This matter will be discussed later during executive session.

**VIII: EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Motion by Selectman Johnson, seconded by Selectman Adams, to go into executive session to discuss a legal issue and a personnel issue (separate issues). **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

The Board went into executive session at 8:02 p.m.

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

The Board came out of executive session at 8:40 p.m. No action was taken.

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

The Board adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Samantha H. Baraw*

Samantha H. Baraw, Clerk

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