

**TOWN OF NORTHFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes of February 9, 2009**

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

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

II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a. **January 26, 2009 (Regular Meeting):** Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Sanders, to approve the minutes. Amendments: the executive session did have action: they voted to hold a Special Meeting. Section VII, a: it was Selectman Adams (not Mr. Sanders) who confirmed that the Village was in violation. Also, Selectman Sanders referred to the letter from Mr. Monti. **Motion to approve amended minutes passed 4-0-0.**
- b. **January 29, 2009 (Special Meeting):** Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Sanders, to approve the minutes. **Motion passed 4-0-0.**

III. **APPROVAL OF BILLS**

- a. **Warrant #16-09:** Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Sanders, to approve Warrant #16-09 in the amount of \$59,362.54. **Motion passed 4-0-0.**

IV. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** None.

V. **MANAGER'S REPORT**

- a. **Status Reports: Various Projects**
1. **Northfield Ambulance Vehicle Donation.** The title transfer was signed and will be sent to the State soon.
 2. **New Police Station.** As many residents have noted, there are ice problems with the building's roof. Manager Allard is aware of this and is trying to resolve it with the engineering firm E.F. Wall & Associates. She will be meeting with them soon.
 3. **Mapping Project.** Manager Allard has an RFP from Rutland that they used for their mapping project. She is reviewing to see if it's something that we might be able to use.
 4. **Tax Maps.** A significant amount of changes have been made and they were sent to the contractor. Board of Listers Chair Warren expects that corrected maps will be here in March.
 5. **Northfield Falls Drainage Survey.** We are still waiting for the draft report.

VI. **SELECTBOARD**

- a. **2009 Liquor License Renewal Applications.** There was a letter from Police Chief Jeff Shaw that, from a law enforcement perspective, there are no problems with any of the applicants below.
1. **Champlain Farms.** Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Sanders, to approve the liquor license renewal. **Motion passed 4-0-0.**
 2. **Convenience Plus.** Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Sanders, to approve the liquor license renewal. **Motion passed 4-0-0.**
 3. **Depot Square Pizzeria.** Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Sanders, to approve the liquor license renewal. **Motion passed 4-0-0.**
 4. **Falls General Store.** Motion by Selectman Johnson, seconded by Selectman Sanders, to approve the liquor license renewal. **Motion passed 4-0-0.**

5. **GU Markets of VT (Grand Union).** Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Sanders, to approve the liquor license renewal. **Motion passed 4-0-0.**
- b. **Executive Summary: Certificate of Town Highway Mileage:** Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Sanders, to approve and sign the Certificate of Highway Mileage. There were no changes from last year. **Motion passed 4-0-0.**
- c. **Abandoned Mobile Home (Jeffrey J. Staab).** Terry Gray came to discuss her letter dated January 28, 2009. Chair LeClair is concerned that the Town could destroy the mobile home but the owner would return and want the Town to buy him a new one. Ms. Gray is willing to have the home turned over to R.W. Tucker for Tucker's Trailer Park but is not willing to do this until the Town is willing to abate the taxes. Ms. Gray is requesting that the Selectboard call a Board of Abatement meeting to discuss this. Ms. Gray is referencing item 3 in her letter. Selectman Morse wants the Town Health Officer to investigate the trailer and then report whether or not this is a public health concern. Chair LeClair would like to have the Town Health Officer see the trailer and make a report.
- d. **DRAFT Choice of Provider Policy.** This would be an addendum to the personnel policies. Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Sanders, to add this as an addendum to the Personnel Policies. **Motion passed 4-0-0.**
- e. **Public Hearing (Australian Ballot Articles): February 23, 2009:** There will be a public hearing to discuss the warned Town Articles to be voted by Australian Ballot. The various organizations involved have been contacted in case they would like to send representatives.
- f. **Status Reports: Various Projects:** There was nothing additional.

VII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Non-agenda items

- a. **Larry Drown: Special Town Meeting Petition.** Mr. Drown outlined email trail with discussions on the petition. Mr. Drown stated that he personally wrote the petition and brought it to Kathy DeWolfe at the Secretary of State's office. Mr. Drown stated that if the Selectmen chose to break the law, Mr. Drown will come after them. Mr. Drown asked the Board to have Manager Allard check with her lawyer and to have the lawyer send this a letter in writing. Selectman Johnson stated that the Board was unaware that they had erred in the dates. Mr. Drown stated that the Board could still strike the article (Article 6) from the warning. Selectman Sanders stated that we could strike it because we were in violation because of the fifteen (15) days. Mr. Drown is willing to accept that the Board made a mistake as long as they withdraw the item from the warning. If they do not, the Board will intentionally violate the law. Selectman Morse is requesting that Manager Allard make a report to the Secretary of State, providing all the details, and then find out what the Secretary of State gives for a response as to whether the warning needs to be changed and, if so, how to rectify the situation. Mr. Drown agrees that this would be acceptable to him. Mr. Drown would like to discuss the role of the Town Moderator in this.
- b. **Larry Drown: Northfield Police Chief.** Mr. Drown asked what the status of Police Chief Shaw was. At this point, an appeal has been filed. Mr. Drown confirmed that the town is not paying for Mr. Shaw's attorney.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Selectman Sanders, seconded by Selectman Morse, to adjourn the meeting. **Motion passed 4-0-0.**

The Board adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Samantha H. Baraw

Samantha H. Baraw, Clerk

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