

**TOWN OF NORTHFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes of February 23, 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, Tony Moulton (Northfield Boys & Girls Club), Sarah Nevin (Good Beginnings of Central Vermont), Roxanne Benson (Greater Northfield Coalition Council), Anthony DiMarineau (Greater Northfield Coalition Council), Jane Bryant (Greater Northfield Coalition Council), Kate D'Amico (Greater Northfield Coalition Council), Mary Leahy (Central Vermont Adult Basic Education), Terri Gray, Randy Gray, and Kathleen Lott (*Northfield News*).

A Public Hearing for the purpose of providing written or oral views on the Warned Town Articles to be voted upon by Australian Ballot at the Annual Town Meeting on March 3, 2009, was warned to immediately precede the Selectboard's regular meeting.

Chair LeClair called the Public Hearing to order at 7:00 p.m. He then opened the floor to any member of the public who wished to discuss the Australian Ballot articles (listed below).

Article 12. Shall the voters authorize an increase in the veterans' tax exemption for real property located in the Town of Northfield from \$20,000 to \$40,000 of assessed value, first applicable to the Grand List of 2009, as provided for in Title 32 of the *Vermont Statutes Annotated*? (Australian Ballot): No discussion.

Article 13. Shall the voters authorize the expenditure of \$3000 for the Northfield Boys & Girls Club? (Australian Ballot): Unit Director Tony Moulton presented some statistics on the Northfield Boys & Girls Club. This is the third year that they have asked for Town funds. They have after-school programs, a summer program, and the Teen Center. They provide free snacks, programs for topics such as substance abuse, etc. There are larger issues – there working with kids that are homeless, kids on drugs, parents on drugs, etc. Northfield sees the same issues as larger communities. The Teen Center is open from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday during the school year (1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. during the summer).

Article 14. Shall the voters authorize the expenditure of \$2000 for the Greater Northfield Coalition Council? (Australian Ballot). Jane Bryant and Kate D'Amico first spoke on behalf of the Greater Northfield Coalition Council (GNCC). They are in their ninth year of operation and have one more year of federal grant money. They collaborate with the Boys & Girls Club, Good Beginnings, etc. This is the first time they have asked for Town money. They are located on the Village Common are there are brochures, computers, etc. available. Roxanne Benson is the Executive Director and she also provided an overview of the programs offered.

Article 15. Shall the voters authorize the expenditure of \$1500 for the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program? (Australian Ballot). No discussion.

Article 16. Shall the voters authorize the expenditure of \$1200 for Central Vermont Adult Basic Education? (Australian Ballot). Mary Leahy spoke of behalf of the Central Vermont Adult Basic Education. This ia a non-profit organization that provides literacy services for adults. Last year, they served nineteen (19) people from Northfield. They are a free program with an open door policy.

Article 17. Shall the voters authorize the expenditure of \$1000 for the Battered Women's Services and Shelter? (Australian Ballot). No discussion.

Article 18. Shall the voters authorize the expenditure of \$1000 for the Central Vermont Community Action Council? (Australian Ballot). No discussion.

Article 19. Shall the voters authorize the expenditure of \$1000 for Good Beginnings of Central Vermont? (Australian Ballot): Sarah Nevins provided an overview of their programs. They provide assistance to new parents. They do not ask for funds from the families that they serve and they receive referrals from all over. They have thirty-six (36) volunteers, a ten (10) person board, and three (3) part time staff members. They assist thirty-five (35) families in Northfield.

Article 20. Shall the voters authorize the expenditure of \$850 for the People's Health and Wellness Clinic? (Australian Ballot). No discussion.

Article 21. Shall the voters authorize the expenditure of \$500 for the Family Center of Washington County? (Australian Ballot). No discussion.

Article 22. Shall the voters authorize the expenditure of \$500 for the Washington County Youth Service Bureau/Boys & Girls Club? (Australian Ballot). No discussion.

Article 23. Shall the voters authorize the expenditure of \$350 for the Sexual Assault Crisis Team of Washington County? (Australian Ballot). No discussion.

Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Sanders to adjourn the public hearing. **Motion passed 4-0-0.**

The Public Hearing adjourned at 7:27 p.m. The regular meeting began immediately.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. **February 9, 2009 (Regular Meeting).** Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Sanders, to approve the minutes. **Motion passed 4-0-0.**

III. APPROVAL OF BILLS

- a. **Warrant #17-09.** Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Sanders, to approve Warrant #17-09 in the amount of \$28,376.73. **Motion passed 4-0-0.**

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- a. **Terry Gray: Abandoned Trailer.** Ms. Gray just received the Town Health Officer's Report. She is looking for the Board's intentions. There will be a meeting of the Board of Tax Abatement on Thursday, February 26, 2009; trailer owner Jeffrey Staab has requested tax abatement. Ms. Gray stated that the Town Health Officer's report stated that there was no public health risk and the trailer appears to be habitable after cleaning is completed. Ms. Gray stated that Manager Allard stated that the Town Health Officer entered the building. Ms. Gray said this is false because there are no tracks around the trailer. Manager Allard spoke to Mr. Staab and she said that he planned to go back and pick up more of his stuff. Manager Allard spoke to him about cleaning it up the trailer but he made it clear that he has no intentions to do so. There is \$11,494 federal tax lien; a state tax lien of \$12,826; and there could be a Northfield tax lien of \$5,621. Ms. Gray's concern is that it is not habitable and there is nothing that is saleable. Ms. Gray questioned the validity of the report. As indicated above, this matter will be discussed at the tax abatement hearing. Even if the taxes are abated in Northfield, there are still federal and state liens on the property. Ms. Gray is willing to work on these other liens once the Northfield lien is resolved.

V. MANAGER'S REPORT

- a. **Status Reports: Various Projects:**
 1. **Village Water Use Regulations Ordinance.** The Village Trustees are preparing a water usage ordinance. They are looking at a second draft tomorrow night (02/24/09) and they will get the Inter-Local Agreement Committee involved.
 2. **Police Station Roof.** The ice situation on the roof is being looked at.
 3. **Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC) Report.** CVRPC reviewed Northfield roads and found safety concerns at two (2) locations: Union Brook Road (near Hockman Hill intersection) and Depot Square.

VI. LIQUOR CONTROL COMMISSION

- a. **2009 Tobacco License Renewals:**
 1. **Champlain Farms.** Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Sanders, to approve the tobacco license renewal. **Motion passed 4-0-0.**
 2. **Convenience Plus.** Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Sanders, to approve the tobacco license renewal. **Motion passed 4-0-0.**

3. **Falls General Store.** Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Sanders, to approve the tobacco license renewal. **Motion passed 4-0-0.**
4. **GU Markets of VT (Grand Union).** Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Sanders, to approve the tobacco license renewal. **Motion passed 4-0-0.**

VII. SELECTBOARD

- a. **Amendments to Northfield Municipality's Personnel Policies & Procedures.** Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Johnson, to approve the amendments. Manager Allard stated that this wording met Town and Village Union requirements. **Motion passed 4-0-0.**
- b. **Police Station Official Dedication and Open House: Saturday, February 28, 2009.** The Open House will begin at 11:00 a.m. and the official dedication to former Police Chief Burton Sanders will be at 12:00 noon. Light refreshments will be provided.
- c. **Annual Town Meeting Day: Tuesday, March 3, 2009:** The Australian Balloting will be in the Northfield High School Cafeteria from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. The Open Session will be in the Mary Granai Corrigan Auditorium starting at 10:00 a.m. This year, the Town will go first and the School Board second.
- d. **Status Reports: Various Projects**
 1. **Vermont EMS District 6.** The Selectmen received a "Thank You" letter from EMS District 6 Board of Directors for the used ambulance unit donation. They have offered the Town Ambulance Service a 75% discount on training costs for two (2) EMS students.
 2. **Chair Roger LeClair.** This is the final regular meeting for Chair LeClair, who is leaving the Board after five (5) years. His fellow board members thanked him for years of service.
 3. **Northfield Ambulance Volunteers, Inc. (NAVI).** The NAVI by-laws are being rewritten. Manager Allard would like Chair LeClair to assist in this rewriting, even after his departure from the Board.

VIII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Non-agenda items: None.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Motion by Selectman Johnson, seconded by Selectman Sanders, to go into executive session to discuss a personnel issue. **Motion passed 4-0-0.**

The Board went into executive session at 8:20 p.m.

Motion by Selectman Sanders, seconded by Selectman Johnson, to come out of executive session. **Motion passed 4-0-0.**

The Board came out of executive session at 8:35 p.m. No action was taken.

X. ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Selectman Johnson, seconded by Selectman Sanders, to adjourn. **Motion passed 4-0-0.**

The Board adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Samantha H. Baraw

Samantha H. Baraw, Clerk

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