

**TOWN OF NORTHFIELD  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
Minutes of November 23, 2009**

- I. **ROLL CALL.** Chair Kenneth Johnson, Selectmen Melvin Adams, Kenneth Goslant, Charles Morse, and Gregory Sanders. Also present were Town Manager Nanci Allard, Acting Clerk Kenneth McCann, David Defelice, Tracy Defelice, Douglas Allen, Joshua Jennings, Anastaja Zoecklein-Jennings, Fred White, Donald Wallace, and Kathleen Lott (*Northfield News*).

At 8:00 a.m. on the morning of the regular meeting, a Site Visit was held on Robinson Road. This was in response to a request from residents to close the eastern segment of the road due to safety and other concerns. Those present included Chair Kenneth Johnson, Selectmen Melvin Adams, Kenneth Goslant, Charles Morse, and Gregory Sanders. Also present were Town Manager Nanci Allard, Superintendent of Public Works William Lyon, David Defelice, Douglas Allen, Joshua Jennings, and Anastaja Zoecklein-Jennings. There was an inspection of the area and a discussion of the various options available.

At 7:00 p.m., immediately prior to the regular meeting, a Public Hearing was held regarding Robinson Road. Chair Johnson asked if any members of the public would like to address this issue. Joshua Jennings, who had made the original request to close the eastern segment of the road, thanked all those who attended this morning's Site Visit. He stated that he had thought that throwing up that part of the road was the best solution; however, now would like to table that option and look at other possible solutions. For example, the lack of signage on the road is a significant problem; perhaps the addition of 25 MPH speed limit signs and "no parking" signs might help. Another possibility is placing "speed tables" on the road to prevent drivers from going too fast. Also, since winter road maintenance is one argument against the partial road closure, temporary barricades could be installed during the spring and summer months. Chair Johnson thanked Mr. Jennings for coming forward with his concerns. He asked if anyone else living on the road had any other comments. David Defelice said that he had spoken to Mr. Jennings after the Site Visit and he agreed that it was best to postpone for now any consideration of partial road closure. Selectman Morse noted that adding the aforementioned signage to the road would require enforcing ordinances. Also, a traffic engineering study would need to be undertaken. Selectman Adams pointed out that a traffic engineering study was not necessary if the new speed limit was no less than 35 MPH. Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Sanders, to authorize Manager Allard to obtain a traffic engineering study with the intent of establishing a 25 MPH speed limit on Robinson Road and also create a no parking zone on the eastern section of the road. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

The Public Hearing was closed at 7:16 p.m. The regular meeting began immediately.

II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a. **November 9, 2009 (Regular Meeting).** Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Goslant, to approve the minutes. Selectman Morse has one correction: in section IV. a., he would like the phrase "when it is budgeted for" added to the end of the eighth sentence. **Motion to approve the amended minutes passed 4-0-1, with Selectman Adams abstaining.**

III. **APPROVAL OF BILLS**

- a. **Warrant #11-10.** Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Sanders, to approve Warrant #11-10 in the amount of \$50,112.79. Selectman Goslant asked about a \$165 travel reimbursement charge. Manager Allard stated that this was from a three-day Listers training session in Morrisville. Selectman Goslant then asked about a mat and gravel charge for Bull Run. Manager Allard said that this was the final payment for this project and we were able to (just) stay under budget. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

IV. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** None.

## V. MANAGER'S REPORT

### a. Status Reports: Various Projects

1. **Safety Training.** Manager Allard noted that the increased emphasis in safety training is having good results; the Municipality's workers compensation costs have decreased.
2. **Ambulance Volunteer Payments.** Manager Allard stated that information on this matter had been distributed earlier and will be discussed during the upcoming budget meetings. If approved, she would like to institute this change starting with the next calendar, not fiscal, year.

## VI. SELECTBOARD

- a. **Northfield Recycling Center update.** Selectman Adams has been working on a committee with Northfield's CVSWMD Representative Fred White, and Donald Wallace on this matter; Chair Johnson asked him to provide an update. Selectman Adams recalled that Mr. White had reported at the Board's October 26, 2009 meeting that the Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District (CVSWMD) had imposed at its various recycling centers an immediate increase in trash drop off fees and instituted a new charge for recyclables. In addition, the CVSWMD Board was seeking a two dollar (\$2) increase (from \$3.10 to \$5.10) in the per capita assessment per community. The member communities' representatives will vote on whether or not to accept this proposed increase for the CVSWMD's FY 2011 budget at its next monthly meeting (12/02/09). In short, he stated, CVSWMD wants to divest itself from directly managing the recycling centers and has gone out to bid to see if private subcontractors would run some or all of the facilities. Another option is for the communities to run the recycling centers themselves; Selectman Adams and Messieurs White and Wallace have been looking into this possibility for Northfield. Unfortunately, they have been unable to obtain some important information from CVSWMD, i.e. what would happen to the infrastructure (i.e. trash bins, etc.) now in place; whether the per capita charge would have to be increased should Northfield manage the recycling center itself; how much it would cost to hire haulers to remove the trash and recyclables; etc. Selectman Adams estimated the labor cost for staffing the facility for a day and one-half each week at about \$30,000 per year. He thought that if the Town purchased a compactor, it might significantly reduce the hauling costs.

The question before the Board tonight is whether or not to authorize Mr. White to vote in support of the per capita charge increase at this next CVSWMD meeting. Mr. Wallace stated that if the per capita increase is approved, it meant that CVSWMD would be willing to operate the Northfield Recycling Center through June 30, 2011. If the increase is not approved, the CVSWMD will not operate any of the recycling centers after the end of the current fiscal year (June 30, 2010). Therefore, approving the per capita charge increase would provide Northfield with an extra year to decide whether it would like to operate the recycling center itself, hire a subcontractor to do it, or close it down altogether. Mr. Wallace has spoken to Roxbury's CVSWMD Representative and he supports the increase. This also is Mr. Wallace's recommendation, as it would provide this extra time for Northfield to make a proper decision. Selectman Adams concurred that the options remain the same, only the timeframe is changed.

Selectman Morse asked when the per capita increase, if approved, would begin. Mr. White said that it would begin with CVSWMD's next fiscal year (July 1, 2010). Selectman Morse said that this was good; this increase could be included in the Town's budgeting for its next fiscal year. He added that some residents have told him that they would be willing to pay a little more for bagged trash if it meant that free recycling could be restored. Is this possible? Mr. White said that when (or if) Northfield decides to run the recycling center itself, it would have the ability to make this and all other management decisions.

Motion by Selectman Adams, seconded by Selectman Morse, to authorize Northfield CVSWMD Representative Fred White to vote in favor of the proposed two dollar (\$2) increase in the per capita assessment. In addition, the committee will continue to meet and review all options regarding the operation of the Northfield Recycling Center. **Motion passed 4-0-1, with Selectman Goslant abstaining.** Mr. Wallace suggested that Board members might want to attend the December 2, 2009 meeting themselves and let their views be known. Chair Johnson thanked the committee for its work on this matter.

- b. **Northfield Boys & Girls Club.** The Board has received a letter from the Northfield Boys & Girls Club describing its services and stating that it will increase its funding request on the next Town Meeting warning from \$3000 to \$6000. Manager Allard stated that although the letter itself does not make the specific request, the Boys & Girls Club would like this request put directly onto the warning without having to petition. Selectman Adams felt that a one hundred percent (100%) increase in the funding request should require a petition. The other Board members concurred with this. Manager Allard will inform the Boys & Girls Club of the Board's position.
- c. **Town Budget Meetings.** The Board members were provided tonight with their budget books. The initial budget meetings are scheduled for next Monday (11/30/09) and Tuesday (12/01/09) nights at 6:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building.
- d. **December 2009 Meeting Schedule.** The regular meeting scheduled for Monday, December 28, 2009 has been cancelled. The Board, however, may reconsider this decision if new circumstances make holding the meeting necessary.
- e. **Status Reports: Various Projects**
  - 1. **Residential Burglaries.** Selectman Adams noted in Chief Shaw's report that there had been recent increase in residential burglaries in the region. He wondered if Chief Shaw might write something in the local paper that would advise residents on how to avoid becoming victims. Chair Johnson believed that Chief Shaw has done something like this before but it would not hurt to remind people again to take precautions.

**VII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** Non-agenda items

- a. **Kathleen Lott: CVSWMD Per Capita Assessment.** Ms. Lott asked if the Board knew the exact breakdown on how CVSWMD spent the money obtained through the per capita assessment. Selectman Adams stated that he did not have the figures with him but they are contained in the proposed CVSWMD budgets that Mr. White distributed at the earlier meeting (and also available at the CVSWMD website).

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

The Board adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Kenneth L. McCann*

Kenneth L. McCann, Acting Clerk

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