

**VILLAGE OF NORTHFIELD  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
Minutes of May 26, 2009**

- I. **ROLL CALL** Chair Libby Hambleton, Trustees Samantha Baraw, Doug Lawson, and Thomas McCarney. Also present were Village Manager Nanci Allard, Superintendent of Public Works William Lyon, Richard Sutor, and Brian Callnan (VPPSA).

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

A Public Hearing for the purpose of providing written or oral views on the Warned Article (Water Distribution System Improvements Bond) to be voted upon by Australian Ballot at the Special Village Meeting on Tuesday, June 2, 2009 was warned to immediately precede the Trustees' regular meeting. However, the Village Trustees decided to postpone the Public Hearing until after a presentation on a proposed community wind project from Brian Callnan of Vermont Public Power Supply Authority (VPPSA).

Mr. Callnan went through his handouts on the proposed East Mountain Wind Project. VPPSA is looking for authorization for no more than \$19,600 to do a Project Development Study. There was some concern. Trustee McCarney did not want a repeat of Project 10, in which the project turned out to be much more expensive than originally estimated. Motion by Trustee McCarney, seconded by Trustee Lawson, to authorize the Manager to sign "Project Development and Regulatory Cost Support Agreement" with Northfield's contribution not to exceed \$19,600. **Motion passed 4-0-0.**

Chair Hambleton then called the Public Hearing to order at 7:58 p.m.

Superintendent Lyon explained the next phase of the Water Project that would be funded by the proposed bond. He also provided a visual display of the poor condition of the pipes in the affected region. He explained the cost of the project; it will be approximately \$1.42 extra a month for the average user. There is a 57% loan forgiveness; essentially, Northfield will only repay 43% of the project's total cost (\$1,470,000).

The Public Hearing adjourned at 8:08 p.m. The regular meeting resumed immediately.

- II. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (Scheduled):** None.

III. **ACTION ITEMS**

a. **Approval of Minutes**

1. **May 12, 2009 (Regular Meeting):** Motion by Trustee McCarney, seconded by Trustee Baraw, to approve the minutes. **Motion passed 3-0-1, with Trustee Lawson abstaining.**

b. **Approval of Bills**

1. **Warrant #23-09.**, Motion by Trustee McCarney, seconded by Trustee Lawson, to approve Warrant #23-09 in the amount of \$25,283.77. **Motion passed 4-0-0.**

c. **VPPSA Community Wind Project.** Please see above.

- d. **Board of Village Trustees Resignation.** James Wilson submitted his resignation electronically effective May 14, 2009. Motion by Trustee McCarney, seconded by Trustee Lawson, to accept Jim Wilson's resignation with regret. **Motion passed 4-0-0.** The Village will accept letters of interest until June 18, 2009, for the vacant position. The successful applicant will serve until the 2010 Village Meeting

- e. **Water Use Regulations Ordinance:** There are a couple of loose ends that Manager Allard still needs to tie up. Revisions will be made and prepared for the next meeting.

- f. **"Summer on the Common" (Paine Mountain Arts Council).** They have asked to use the Village Common to hold band concerts on the (Tuesday) nights of July 7, July 14, and July 21. They will set up at 6:30 p.m. and be done by 9:00 p.m. Motion by Trustee McCarney, seconded by Trustee Baraw, to approve the request. **Motion passed 4-0-0.** On the above dates, the Farmers Market will be held on the Common from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Trustee McCarney recommends that the Paine Mountain Arts Council coordinate with the Farmers Market should there be any space conflicts, etc.

#### IV. REPORTS

##### a. Village Manager

1. **Concerns regarding Norwich University Power Line.** Joseph Zuaro has contacted Manager Allard about a sagging power line (and old poles) that goes to Norwich University property. She is looking into this.
2. **Road Service Management Software (RSMS) Program.** This is still being updated but (hopefully) the report will be ready soon.
3. **Electric Tariff.** This is close to being updated.
4. **Inter-Company Charges.** These need to be reviewed by this September. Manager Allard asked a Village Trustee and a Town Selectman to work together on these to get them ready in time with recommendations for the Boards. Trustee Lawson and Selectman Kenneth Goslant have agreed to work on this.

##### b. Committee Reports:

1. **Town Charter Committee.** Trustee McCarney attended the meeting last week (05/20/09) and said that it had been productive. The next meeting will be held in the Northfield Municipal Building at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 10, 2009. The committee will review thirteen (13) other Vermont municipal charters.
2. **Paving Committee.** Trustee McCarney attended that meeting and reported that it too had been productive. A list has been generated regarding which streets will be paved this year.

##### c. Miscellaneous

1. **Annual Village Meeting: June 2, 2009.** Australian balloting will be held from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the Northfield High School Lobby; the Open Session will be held in the Mary Granai Corrigan Auditorium at 7:30 p.m.
2. **Special Village Meeting: June 2, 2009.** Australian balloting will be held from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the Northfield High School Lobby.
3. **Village Meeting Article 3.** Trustee McCarney stated that there had been a letter in last week's *Northfield News* about this article which (if approved by Village voters) would return to the old system of nominating and electing Village officers from the floor of the Annual Village Meeting's Open Session rather than through Australian Balloting. The letter's author didn't want to lose his right to vote and asked people to vote this article down. Trustee McCarney stated that this is not a matter of taking away people's right to vote but rather trying to avoid all the expenses involved with voting by Australian ballot (i.e. printing the ballots, programming the voting machines, having the Village Clerk and members of the Board of Civil Authority present from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., counting the ballots, etc.). Last year, less than fifty (50) Village residents cast Australian ballots.
4. **Chair Hambleton.** Trustee McCarney noted that this was Trustee Hambleton's last regular meeting as Chair. He thanked Chair Hambleton for her service over the last year.

#### V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (Unscheduled): None.

#### VI. ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Trustee McCarney, seconded by Trustee Lawson, to adjourn. **Motion passed 4-0-0.**

The Board adjourned at 9:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Samantha H. Baraw*

Samantha H. Baraw, Clerk

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