

**TOWN/VILLAGE OF NORTHFIELD
JOINT BOARD MEETING
BOARD OF TOWN SELECTMEN
BOARD OF VILLAGE TRUSTEES
Minutes of July 6, 2010**

- I. ROLL CALL.** Selectboard Chair Gregory Sanders, Selectmen Melvin Adams, Kenneth Goslant, Kenneth Johnson, and Charles Morse; Trustees Chair Doug Lawson, Trustees Samantha Baraw, Colin Bright, Libby Hambleton, and Larry Porter. Also present were Municipal Manager Nanci Allard, Acting Clerk Kenneth McCann, and Kathleen Lott (*Northfield News*).

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

- II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None.**

III. DISCUSSION

- a. 2010-2011 Town Tax Rates.** Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Johnson, to approve a Town Tax Rate (Homestead) of 2.5896. Selectman Goslant asked if the successful grievance filed by the Village regarding the water mains (see below) affected the Grand List total. Manager Allard stated that it had. **Motion passed 5-0-0.** Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Johnson, to approve a Town Tax Rate (Non-Residential) of 2.6940. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**
- b. 2010-2011 Village Tax Rates.** Motion by Trustee Baraw, seconded by Trustee Bright, to approve a Village Tax Rate (Homestead) of 2.5896. **Motion passed 5-0-0.** Motion by Trustee Baraw, seconded by Trustee Bright, to approve a Village Tax Rate (Non-Residential) of 2.6940. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**
- c. Property Tax on Utility Lines update.** Trustee Chair Lawson noted that there had been significant developments regarding this matter over the past week. The Board of Listers had declared that the sewer lines were property tax exempt and the assessed value of the water mains had been lowered from \$544,800 to \$196,800. In addition, the assessed value of all water lines had been lowered from \$18,000,000 to \$1,800,000. Chair Lawson noted that the higher value had been the result of a clerical error. The Village also had sought property tax exemptions for the reservoirs and the water lines (i.e. "aqueducts") south of the Village but the Listers declined to do so. This refusal will be appealed to the Board of Civil Authority (BCA). Selectman Adams asked why the Listers refused this request. Chair Lawson said he was unsure; he felt that there was ample legal precedent for them to do so. He added that other Vermont communities had similar situations and their water lines always were property tax exempt. Chair Lawson added that the Village is looking into abatements of past tax overpayments (based upon the new assessments).
- d. Town and Village Union Contracts [possible executive session under 1 VSA 313 (a) (1)].** Manager Allard stated that, contrary to previous indications, the proposed contracts were not ready for tonight's meeting. Discussion (and possible approval) of the proposed contracts will be on the agendas of next week's regular meetings.
- e. Summer Meeting Schedule.** Manager Allard noted that in the past, the Boards had chosen to cancel some of their regular meetings during the summer months. She asked if the Boards would like to continue that practice. Motion by Trustee Porter, seconded by Trustee Baraw, that the Village Trustees cancel their second regular meetings in July and August 2010. It was understood that the Trustees would need to come in to sign warrants and that the meetings would be reinstated if important matters arose that required a public meeting. **Motion passed 5-0-0.** The Town Selectmen will discuss this matter at their next regular meeting (07/12/10).

- IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Non-agenda items. None.**

- V. ADJOURNMENT.** Motion by Trustee Baraw, seconded by Trustee Bright, to adjourn. **Motion passed 10-0-0**

The Boards adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth L. McCann

Kenneth L. McCann, Acting Clerk

These minutes are subject to approval at the next meeting.