

**TOWN OF NORTHFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes of February 22, 2010**

- 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, Sara Nevin (Good Beginnings of Central Vermont), Tony Moulton (Northfield Boys & Girls Club), Becky Raymond (Boys & Girls Club of the White River Valley), Roxanne Benson (Greater Northfield Coalition Council) Carol Seaver Holt (Greater Northfield Coalition Council), Mary Leahy (Central Vermont Adult Basic Education), 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 2, 2010, was warned to immediately precede the Selectboard's regular meeting.

Chair Johnson 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 4. Shall bonds or notes of the Town of Northfield in an amount not to exceed three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) be issued for the purpose of the Road Surface Management System (RSMS) Program? (Australian Ballot). See below.

Article 10. Shall the voters authorize the expenditure of \$6,000 for the Northfield Unit of the Boys & Girls Club of the White River Valley? (Australian Ballot). Tony Moulton, who is the outgoing director of the Northfield Boys & Girls Club, stated that the Teen Center continues to grow and provide needed services to Northfield youth. He stated that he is sorry to leave his position here, as he has become very fond of Northfield and its young people. Selectman Adams noted that the space occupied in the Gray Building by the Northfield Boys & Girls Club is used to capacity; is there any thought of expanding into some of the building's now empty spaces. Mr. Moulton stated that the current plan was to make more efficient use of the existing space. Becky Raymond, who is the director of the Boys & Girls Club of the White River Valley, stated that there wasn't money in the budget for expanded space; however, should another organization want to split costs on expanded shared space, this might be possible. She added that the Boys & Girls Club was looking into reopening its summer camp program, which had to be cancelled last year due to financial problems. Selectman Morse said that he had heard nothing but good about the Boys & Girls Club and its programs. He and the other Selectmen then wished Mr. Moulton the best of luck in the future.

Article 11. Shall the voters authorize the expenditure of \$3,000 for the Greater Northfield Coalition Council (the Drug Free Partnership) to prevent alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use by youth in Northfield? (Australian Ballot). Roxanne Benson, who is director of the Greater Northfield Coalition Council (GNCC), stated that her organization focuses on preventing drug use by Northfield (and Roxbury) youth. She added that since GNCC serves Roxbury as well as Northfield, it also will be seeking support from Roxbury voters. Ms. Benson stated that surveys indicate that one in forty (1/40) Americans meet the drug abuse standard and most of these individuals are between the ages of 14 to 25. She then noted some local statistics that indicated that recent (i.e. within the last thirty days) liquor consumption by youth had decreased but there also were indications that those who did drink used hard liquors. Ms. Benson stated that, per capita, Vermont ranked first in marijuana use and underage drinking and was second per capita for illicit drug use. She added that drugs clearly are a public health problem and that many young people cannot get jobs for the sole reason that they cannot pass pre-employment drug testing. Ms. Benson stated that the GNCC was in its tenth (and last) year of a ten-year federal grant so it definitely needed local support to keep operating. The Board thanked Ms. Benson for her informative presentation.

Article 12. Shall the voters authorize the expenditure of \$1,500 for the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program? (Australian Ballot). No discussion.

Article 13. Shall the voters authorize the expenditure of \$1,200 for Central Vermont Adult Basic Education? (Australian Ballot). Mary Leahy, Executive Team member for Central Vermont Adult Basic Education (CVABE), first thanked the Board for the invitation to speak tonight and well as the support shown by Northfield voters in past years. She stated that CVABE provides services to those 16 years or older, providing individualized instruction in basic reading, mathematics, and computer skills. CVABE also helps newcomers to our country learn English and assists them in passing their citizenship tests. In addition, CVABE helps older adults who want to improve their basic skills during their retirement years or in planning for a second career. Ms. Leahy stated that CVABE is the only option for free specialized instruction in the Central Vermont area. Chair Johnson noted that he himself was assisted by CVABE when he prepared for his GED tests several years ago. Ms. Leahy added that CVABE helps students prepare for these tests, as they can be very difficult to pass (75% failure rate). CVABE also helps by providing sample tests, as some of the questions can be quite tricky. In addition, GED testing is regularly scheduled at CVABE Learning Centers. The Board thanked Ms. Leahy for providing such a useful overview of CVABE and the services it provides.

Article 14. Shall the voters authorize the expenditure of \$1,000 for the Battered Women's Services and Shelter? (Australian Ballot). No discussion.

Article 15. Shall the voters authorize the expenditure of \$1,000 for the Central Vermont Community Action Council? (Australian Ballot). No discussion.

Article 16. Shall the voters authorize the expenditure of \$1,000 for the Central Vermont Council on Aging? (Australian Ballot). No discussion.

Article 17. Shall the voters authorize the expenditure of \$1,000 for Good Beginnings of Central Vermont? (Australian Ballot). Executive Director Sara Nevin stated that Good Beginnings provides basic information to new families on various topics, including literacy encouragement, child abuse prevention, the importance of carrying infants, fatherhood programs, etc. Good Beginnings also provides community gift baskets that include not only the information indicated above but also handmade blankets and baby bonnets. Ms. Nevin stated that Good Beginnings usually had about fifty (50) families in Northfield and Roxbury that were home visited for about three (3) months after the child's birth or adoption. Good Beginnings also helps new families obtain baby cribs and other furniture. Good Beginnings attempts to keep its expenses low by relying upon volunteer assistance and donations. The Board thanked Ms. Nevin and Good Beginnings for the good work.

Article 18. Shall the voters authorize the expenditure of \$850 for the People's Health and Wellness Clinic? (Australian Ballot). No discussion.

Article 19. Shall the voters authorize the expenditure of \$500 for the Family Center of Washington County? (Australian Ballot). No discussion.

Article 20. Shall the voters authorize the expenditure of \$500 for the Washington County Youth Service Bureau/Boys & Girls Club? (Australian Ballot). No discussion.

Article 21. Shall the voters authorize the expenditure of \$350 for the Sexual Assault Crisis Team of Washington County? (Australian Ballot). No discussion.

Kathleen Lott had some questions regarding Article 4. Manager Allard stated that the full Road Surface Management System (RSMS) program is presented in the Town Report, including the schedule for road maintenance of specific Town roads (pages 83-86) as well as an explanation of the funding mechanism (page 87). To begin this program, the Town is asking for a bond not to exceed \$300,000. Selectman Adams added that this same article will be on the next four (4) Town Meeting warnings as we attempt to catch up on needed road work. All of this money is for road maintenance expenses. Once we have caught up with the "bad spots," annual maintenance costs will decrease. Ms. Lott asked if this indicated that the mat & gravel program has been unsuccessful. Chair Johnson stated that the Board now was taking a more proactive approach on road maintenance. He added that members of the Highway, Water, and Sewer Departments have been working with a consultant on this program since last summer.

The Public Hearing adjourned at 7:42 p.m. The regular meeting began immediately.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. **February 8, 2010 (Regular Meeting).** Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Adams, to approve the minutes. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

IV. APPROVAL OF BILLS

- a. **Warrant #17-10.** Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Sanders, to approve Warrant #17-10 in the amount of \$35,264.22. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

V. MANAGER'S REPORT

a. **Status Reports: Various Projects**

1. **Northfield Conservation Commission (NCC).** Manager Allard noted that the NCC has applied for a wildlife grant.

VI. LIQUOR CONTROL COMMISSION

a. **Liquor License Renewals:**

1. **Convenience Plus.** Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Sanders, to approve the liquor license renewal. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**
2. **Cumberland Farms.** Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Sanders, to approve the liquor license renewal. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**
3. **GU Markets of VT (Grand Union).** Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Sanders, to approve the liquor license renewal. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

b. **Tobacco License Renewals:**

1. **Convenience Plus.** Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Sanders, to approve the tobacco license renewal. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**
2. **Cumberland Farms.** Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Sanders, to approve the tobacco license renewal. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**
3. **GU Markets of VT. (Grand Union).** Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Sanders, to approve the tobacco license renewal. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

VII. SELECTBOARD

- a. **Northfield Recycling Center.** Manager Allard stated that the group looking at this matter will meet this coming Wednesday (02/24/10) at 5:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building; the various options available will be explored.
- b. **Town Meeting Day: March 2, 2010.** The Australian Balloting will be held in the Northfield High School Cafeteria from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. The Open Session will be held in the Mary Granai Corrigan Auditorium starting at 10:00 a.m.
- c. **Public Hearing (VCDP Grant Application) & Special Meeting: March 2, 2010.** The Public Hearing will be held in the Municipal Building at 4:00 p.m. and the Special Meeting will follow immediately.
- d. **Public Hearing (Flood Hazard Area Regulations) & Joint Board Meeting: March 22, 2010.** Manager Allard added that, in addition to the zoning issues addressed at the Public Meeting, the Joint Meeting will include a presentation from Utility Assistant Doug Reed with information (and cost options) regarding a proposed upgrade to the municipality's computer servers. Another agenda item will be the drainage problems in Northfield Center.
- e. **Status Reports: Various Projects**
 1. **Emergency Services Regionalization.** Chair Johnson stated that there will be a meeting this coming Friday (02/26/10) at 4:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building with Barre Town Manager Carl Rogers on this issue. He added that this is a preliminary meeting only and we are only gathering information at this time.

VIII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Non-agenda items

- IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION.** Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Goslant, to go into executive session (with Manager Allard present) to discuss a legal matter. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

The Board went into executive session at 7:50 p.m.

Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Adams, to come out of executive session. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

The Board came out of executive session at 8:40 p.m. No action was taken.

- X. ADJOURNMENT.** Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Adams, to adjourn. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

The Board adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth L. McCann

Kenneth L. McCann, Acting Clerk

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