

**TOWN OF NORTHFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes of April 26, 2010**

- I. ROLL CALL.** Chair Gregory Sanders, Selectmen Melvin Adams, Kenneth Goslant, Kenneth Johnson, and Charles Morse. Also present were Superintendent of Public Works William Lyon, Acting Clerk Kenneth McCann, and Kathleen Lott (*Northfield News*).

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

- II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** None.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. April 12, 2010 (Regular Meeting).** Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Johnson, to approve the minutes. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

IV. APPROVAL OF BILLS

- a. Warrant #21-10.** Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Adams, to approve Warrant #21-10 in the amount of \$90,461.78. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

V. SELECTBOARD

- a. Executive Summary: Proposed Purchase of Tractor and Boom Mower.** Superintendent Lyon summarized his memorandum to the Board in which he recommended that the current 1994 tractor and boom mower be replaced. He had looked around and found a used 2006 tractor and boom mower available for \$52,500. This purchase would be funded by \$35,600 in CIP monies and \$16,900 in borrowing. The old tractor would be sold through the bid process and the proceeds used to reduce the borrowing amount. Selectman Goslant asked if the tractor could be used for other tasks than mowing. Superintendent Lyon stated that it could be used year-round to tow other equipment, i.e. chipper, winter loader, etc. Selectman Morse asked how much mowing was done last with the current mower. Superintendent Lyon said that it had been only about forty (40) hours due to poor condition of the equipment, which spent a lot of time in the repair shop. He added that renting this type of mower can be expensive and it is hard to find a contractor with the specialized equipment needed for difficult roads. He felt that the price for the 2006 replacement tractor was very reasonable. Motion by Selectman Johnson, seconded by Selectman Morse, to authorize the purchase of a used 2006 tractor and boom mower for \$52,500. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**
- b. Executive Summary: Vermont AOT Annual Town Highway Plan.** Superintendent Lyon had prepared the paperwork that needs to be annually forwarded to the Vermont Agency of Transportation; it includes a breakdown of estimated income (state funds, local taxes, etc.) and expenses (winter maintenance, general maintenance, bridges, etc.) for the Town Highway Department during fiscal year 2010/2011. Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Adams, to approve and sign the Annual Town Highway Plan. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**
- c. Ordinance 2010-2 (25 MPH Speed Limit on Robinson Road).** Selectman Morse stated that Robinson Road residents had asked that a low speed limit be established on the road as there had been some speeding. The Police Department provided a traffic study of the road that the Selectmen reviewed before their decision at the last meeting to set the limit at "the lowest possible speed." That was subsequently determined to be twenty-five miles per hour (25 MPH). Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Johnson, to approve and sign Ordinance 2010-2, which will establish a 25 MPH speed limit on Robinson Road. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**
- d. Northfield Recycling Depot Update.** Selectman Adams noted that at the Special Town Meeting held last week (04/22/10), Northfield voters approved (91-26) the proposal for the Town to withdraw from the Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District (CVSWMD) and join the Mad River Resource Management Alliance (MRRMA). The MRRMA Board has already approved Northfield's membership application but it must go the individual member communities for their approval. He added that the only real adjustment for most Northfield residents is that the dates and locations of hazardous waste collections will be different. Other changes should be transparent. Selectman Morse believes that the voters made the right call; reduced bureaucratic expenses, lower per capita charges, etc. will result in real cost savings.

- e. **Green Up Day: Saturday, May 1, 2010.** Northfield residents who want to take part should meet behind the Northfield Fire Station (128 Wall Street) at 9:00 a.m. Please bring gloves, warm clothing, rain gear, work boots, and (if possible) your own pick-up truck. Superintendent Lyon reminded people that only roadside trash will be collected (not household refuse).
- f. **Inter-Local Agreement Committee Meeting: Monday, May 3, 2010.** The committee will meet at 6:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building in order to review the proposed water and sewer rates (prior to their approval next month by the Village Trustees). The public is welcome to attend.
- g. **Status Reports: Various Projects.**
 - 1. **Lovers Lane.** Superintendent Lyon reported that he was in the process of selecting a contractor to provide probing, drilling, and blasting services on Lovers Lane. This would be funded out of a 2009 AOT grant and the intent is to improve the drainage and guardrail situation. The road will need to be closed during the blasting. Kathleen Lott asked if the blasting would be done at the side of the road. Superintendent Lyon explained that borings were done a couple years ago to locate the ledge, which acts like a dam and creates very muddy conditions on the road in the spring. Where it is determined that the ledge is less than eight feet (8') below the surface, it is drilled and blasted in order to break it up. The road is then repaired with stone, mat & gravel, etc. and culverts installed where needed. We should end up with a high quality road. Resetting the guardrails is the last step in the process.
 - 2. **Central Street Culvert Replacement Project.** Superintendent Lyon has been working with engineer Bernie Chenette (Chenette Associates) to create a design build RFP for the construction work. There has been a slight alteration in the plan that has to be approved by FEMA. That section of Central Street will be closed for about a month during construction, which is tentatively scheduled for this coming July.
 - 3. **Backroads Conditions.** Superintendent Lyon reported that the roads are coming along well. He currently is asking truckers to run first thing in the morning but, pending the weather, such restrictions may be lifted in a couple of weeks.
 - 4. **Charter Committee update.** Selectman Morse stated that the committee is preparing the document for public review. The public is always welcome to attend the meetings, which usually are held on alternate Wednesday nights.
 - 5. **Response to Alleged Violations of Open Meeting Law.** After the last regular meeting, Selectman Morse was under the impression that the Town Attorney would be attending tonight's meeting so that a formal response letter would be reviewed and approved by the full board. Instead, a response letter from our attorney already has been sent with only the Chair's approval. Selectman Morse would like this matter on the next regular meeting agenda so that the other board members will have the opportunity to review and ratify this action.

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

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

The Board adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth L. McCann

Kenneth L. McCann, Acting Clerk

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