

**TOWN OF NORTHFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes of May 10, 2010**

- I. ROLL CALL.** Chair Gregory Sanders, Selectmen Melvin Adams, Kenneth Goslant, Kenneth Johnson, and Charles Morse. Also present were Town Manager Nanci Allard, Acting Clerk Kenneth McCann, Chris Bradley (Grand Juror), Bill Croney (*Northfield News*), 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 26, 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 #22-10.** Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Johnson, to approve Warrant #22-10 in the amount of \$49,181.37. Chair Sanders thought the electric bill for the Police Station seemed high. Selectman Johnson said it looked about right to him. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

V. MANAGER'S REPORT

a. Status Reports: Various Projects

- 1. Per-Diem Emergency Medical Technician Positions.** Manager Allard stated that the Northfield Ambulance Service had advertised for paid EMT positions in order to provide reliable daytime coverage. Twelve (12) applications have been submitted so far.
- 2. Road Surface Management System (RSMS) Program Update.** Highway Foreman Peter Demasi is working on an update of the RSMS Program for presentation at next week's Town/Village Highway Subcommittee meeting (05/20/10).
- 3. Ancient Roads.** Manager Allard stated that the digital maps should be available soon for public review. Some residents already have indicated their willingness to help with researching potential ancient roads.
- 4. Joint Board Meeting.** Manager Allard would like the Town Selectmen and Village Trustees to hold a Joint Board Meeting on Tuesday, May 25, 2010 in order to catch up on various issues affecting both boards.

VI. SELECTBOARD

- a. Validation of Town Attorney's Response Letter regarding Alleged Violations of Vermont's Open Meeting Law.** Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Adams, to validate the letter sent by Town Attorney J. Scott Cameron to Assistant Attorney General Michael McShane regarding Alleged Violations of Vermont's Open Meeting Law. Selectman Morse stated that he asked that this matter be put on the agenda so that the whole board would have the opportunity to approve (retroactively) the language in Mr. Cameron's letter. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

It was noted that Mr. Cameron recently has received a response letter from Mr. McShane (dated May 6, 2010); the Selectmen received copies of the letter this evening. Mr. McShane stated that the "central issue" of the complaint filed was the allegation that the Town Selectmen improperly held an executive session at their budget meeting of December 3, 2009. After reviewing state law on this matter, Mr. McShane's conclusion was that use of the executive session at that meeting "was not inconsistent with the Open Meeting Law." Selectman Goslant hopes that the *Northfield News* will publicize Mr. McShane's conclusion with the same fanfare as it did the original allegation.

Town Juror Chris Bradley, who filed the complaint with the Attorney General's Office, noted that the State must have taken his complaint seriously since it could have been dismissed at several points in the process before reaching the Assistant Attorney General's desk. Mr. Bradley added that he had other complaints about the lack of transparency during the Town Budget meetings that were not addressed in Mr. McShane's letter.

- b. Renewal of Personal Services Contract.** Charlene Lathrop provides technical support for the Board of Listers and her current contract expires June 30, 2010. Motion by Selectman Adams, seconded by Selectman Johnson, to renew the personal services contract of Charlene Lathrop for the period from July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**
- c. Ratification of Existing Policies.** Motion by Selectman Johnson, seconded by Selectman Morse, to ratify the existing policies of the Town of Northfield. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**
- d. Northfield Skateboard Park.** Selectman Goslant stated that there had been much discussion in the past regarding the poor condition of the existing skateboard park. He looked at it again recently and thought it was even worse than he remembered. He believes that it is both unusable and unsafe. He felt that the current structure should be dismantled and the space it occupies devoted to other recreational usage. Selectman Adams believes that during the next budget process, the Town should look into purchasing a solidly-built skateboard facility that could be maintained properly (rather than allowed to deteriorate over time). There also was some discussion of relocating the facility (or its replacement) to another part of Memorial Park. It was the consensus of the Board that the current skateboard park should be disassembled and that the matter of its possible replacement be reviewed during the next budget session.
- e. Status Reports: Various Projects**
 - 1. Northfield Recycling Depot update.** Selectman Morse reported that he had attended the Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District (CVSWMD) meeting on May 5, 2010. He stated that the CVSWMD Board is aware that the Town of Northfield will challenge any attempt to make it pay for long-term notes incurred by CVSWMD should Northfield withdraw its membership this summer. It is possible that the sale of containers and other equipment from the depot could offset any debt.
 - 2. Property Tax on Utility Lines outside Northfield Village.** The Board has received a copy of a letter from the Board of Listers in their packets. The Listers see no reason to change the current situation. This matter will be on the agenda of the Joint Board Meeting with the Town Selectmen on Tuesday, May, 25, 2010.

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

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

The Board adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth L. McCann

Kenneth L. McCann, Acting Clerk

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