

**TOWN OF NORTHFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes of June 28, 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, 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. June 14, 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 #25-10.** Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded Selectman Adams, to approve Warrant #25-10 in the amount of \$973,647.03. Selectman explained that the large amount of the warrant was due to the transfer to the Northfield School District of tax funds collected by the Town. Chair Sanders thought that the cost of electricity at the Police Station seemed high. Selectman Morse noted that it was about the same as for the Town Garage, which has some heavy equipment. Selectman Johnson asked Manager Allard to look into this and determine if any simple steps can be taken to reduce the usage. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**
- b. Warrant #01-11.** Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Johnson, to approve Warrant #01-11 in the amount of \$31,313.00. This warrant covered two payments in the next fiscal year; one was a tax payment to Washington County and the other was for the cemetery maintenance contract. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

V. SELECTBOARD

- a. Ancient Roads Project.** Manager Allard stated that the maps indicating possible ancient roads have been delivered from the surveyor (American Consulting Engineers & Surveyors) and are available for public review. There is one large master map and there are smaller maps of sections. Interested members of the public will be encouraged to assist with the project by doing research on potential ancient roads on or near their own property (or any part of town that they might be interested in). Selectman Adams thought that it would be helpful if these maps were coordinated with the tax maps for better identification. Selectman Johnson suggested contacting the Conservation Commission, local snowmobiler groups, hikers, etc. regarding ancient roads that they might be currently using as trails. Selectman Morse noted that these ancient roads were discovered by our contracted researcher (James LaMonda) who went through old deeds. Our highway system grew out of this old trail system. Selectman Adams stated that the Town needs to respond to the State by 2015 whether or not it would like to keep any of these roads. He felt that the number of suggested ancient roads (over two hundred) was excessive; most of these, he felt, would be unusable as public trails. This list will be filtered out as further on-site research is done. Manager Allard noted that some of these trails went back two hundred years. She felt that the surveyor, Rob Townshend, did an excellent job in creating the master map. Selectman Adams stated that he would be pleased to assist with the project (even after he leaves the Board next March).
- b. Joint Board Meeting (Tax Rates): Tuesday, July 6, 2010.** This meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building. The Town Selectmen and Village Trustees will be asked to approve the tax rates so that the tax bills can go out in time.
- c. Status Reports: Various Projects**
- 1. Mad River Ridge Runners Snowmobile Club.** Chair Sanders noted that this organization had sent the Selectmen a "thank you" letter for their "continued support of the Vermont Association of Snow Travelers (VAST)." It was agreed that this was a very thoughtful gesture.

VI. MANAGER'S REPORT

- a. Status Reports: Various Projects**

- 1. Northfield Recycling Depot.** Manager Allard stated that John Malter, Administrator of the Mad River Resource Management Alliance (MRRMA), will be present at the next regular Selectboard meeting (07/12/10). The first MRRMA board meeting that Northfield's representative(s) will attend as a member community will be held on Monday, June 19, 2010. Regarding the new contract with Earth Waste Systems to operate the Northfield Recycling Depot, Manager Allard noted that two members of the ad hoc committee on this matter were currently on vacation. Selectman Adams, who also is a member of this committee, suggested that the committee members who are in town could meet with Manager Allard for some preliminary discussion on this matter.

2. **VMERS Board of Trustees Election.** Manager Allard stated that there was an expired term on the Vermont Municipal Employees Retirement System (VMERS) Board and that the Town of Northfield was being asked to submit its preference amongst the candidates. Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Johnson, to nominate Steven Jeffrey for the vacant position on the VMERS Board of Trustees. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**
3. **VLCT Committee Appointment.** Manager Allard reported that she has been appointed to serve on the Vermont League of Cities & Towns' Finance, Administration, and Intergovernmental Relations (FAIR) Committee. FAIR advises the member communities on local government priorities before and during state legislative sessions.
4. **Energy Audit Grants.** Manager Allard stated that Northfield had received grants for energy audits of the Town Garage and the Fire Station. The information gathered will be considered during the next budget process in order to address any problems found.
5. **Succession Plan.** As the Board requested at the last meeting, Manager Allard distributed a succession plan specific to Superintendent of Public Works William Lyon's various duties. This is in addition to the generic succession plan previously distributed. Manager Allard now will develop similar specific plans for other departments.
6. **Police Chief Search Committee.** Manager Allard stated that the committee will hold its initial interviews of applicants this coming Tuesday and Wednesday. She emphasized that this is only the beginning of what may be a long process to find the best candidate. She added that forty-eight applications had been submitted from around the country (and overseas).

VII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Non-agenda items. None

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION.

- a. **Legal Matter.** Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Adams, to go into executive session, in accordance with 1 V.S.A. § 313(a), in order to discuss a legal matter with Manager Allard present. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

The Board went into executive session at 7:42 p.m.

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

The Board came out of executive session at 7:50 p.m.

Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Johnson, to execute the legal settlement with Jamie Demasi. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

- b. **Personnel Issue.** Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Johnson, to go back into executive session, in accordance with 1 V.S.A. § 313(a), in order to discuss a personnel issue (Town Union negotiations) with Manager Allard present. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

The Board went into executive session at 7:51 p.m.

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

The Board came out of executive session at 7:55 p.m. No action was taken.

- c. **Personnel Issue.** Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Johnson, to go back into executive session, in accordance with 1 V.S.A. § 313(a), in order to discuss a personnel issue without Manager Allard present. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

The Board went into executive session at 7:56 p.m.

Motion by Selectman Johnson, seconded by Selectman Morse, to come out of executive session.

The Board came out of executive session at 8:25 p.m.

Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Johnson, to authorize Chair Sanders to sign the letter to Manager Allard once it has been emailed to all the Board members. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

IX. ADJOURNMENT. Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Johnson, to adjourn. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

The Board adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth L. McCann

Kenneth L. McCann, Acting Clerk

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