

**VILLAGE OF NORTHFIELD
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Minutes of January 12, 2010**

- I. ROLL CALL.** Chair Samantha Baraw, Trustees Colin Bright, Libby Hambleton, Doug Lawson, and Thomas McCarney. Also present were Village Manager Nanci Allard, Acting Clerk Kenneth McCann, and Kathleen Lott (*Northfield News*).

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

- II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (Scheduled):** None.

III. ACTION ITEMS

a. Approval of Minutes

- 1. December 15, 2009 (Joint Board Meeting).** Motion by Trustee Bright, seconded by Trustee McCarney, to approve the minutes. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**
- 2. December 21, 2009 (Joint Board Meeting).** Motion by Trustee Hambleton, seconded by Trustee Bright, to approve the minutes. **Motion passed 4-0-1, with Chair Baraw abstaining.**

b. Approval of Bills

- 1. Validation of Warrant #13-10.** Motion by Trustee Hambleton, seconded by Trustee Bright, to validate the previous approval (by signature) of Warrant #13-10. **Motion passed 3-0-2, with Chair Baraw and Trustee McCarney abstaining.**
- 2. Validation of Warrant #13-10A.** Motion by Trustee Hambleton, seconded by Trustee Bright, to validate the previous approval (by signature) of Warrant #13-10A. **Motion passed 3-0-2, with Chair Baraw and Trustee McCarney abstaining.**
- 3. Warrant #14-10.** Motion by Trustee Lawson, seconded by Trustee Hambleton, to approve Warrant #14-10 in the amount of \$456,908.36. Trustee Lawson stated that the heating fuel costs for the Municipal Building seemed rather high. Trustee McCarney suggested that thermostats be lowered when the building will be unused for some time, such as the recent holiday weekends. Chair Baraw noted that energy efficiency would be one of the agenda items for the Retreat this coming Saturday (01/16/10). Trustee Lawson also felt that paying LEMCO to provide traffic control during tree trimming was not cost effective. He felt that either the tree trimmer (Davey Tree Experts) or a municipal employee could be providing this service at a lower cost. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

- c. Property Tax on Utility Lines outside Northfield Village.** Manager Allard reported that the Town Selectmen had discussed this matter at their meeting last evening (01/11/10). They asked for Manager Allard to obtain from attorney Paul Gillies a solid legal opinion as to whether or not the Town has the ability to tax utility lines. Trustee McCarney thought the Trustees also should wait on this matter until Mr. Gillies has replied. He added his belief that the Vermont Supreme Court case usually cited in this matter (*Stiles v. Newport*, 1904) contains too many anachronisms. Trustee Lawson concurred and cited some examples, e.g. water provided to homes by the municipality is considered private usage rather than public. Ms. Lott suggested that the Board should consider looking at more recent Vermont laws that allow the State to directly control numerous water issues, especially groundwater.

- d. **Capital Expense Note (2009 International Dump Truck): \$85,018 at 2.25% Interest.** Motion by Trustee McCarney, seconded by Trustee Hambleton, to approve and sign the Capital Expense Note for the 2009 International Dump Truck in the amount of \$85,018 at 2.25% interest; approve and sign the Resolution for Capital Expense Borrowing; and approve and sign the No-Arbitrage and Use of Proceeds Certificate. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**
- e. **Capital Expense Note (2008 Ford F550 One Ton Truck): \$21,484 at 2.25% Interest.** Motion by Trustee McCarney, seconded by Trustee Bright, to approve and sign the Capital Expense Note for the 2008 Ford F550 One Ton Truck in the amount of \$21,484 at 2.25% interest; approve and sign the Resolution for Capital Expense Borrowing; and approve and sign the No-Arbitrage and Use of Proceeds Certificate. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**
- f. **2010 Village Highway Mileage Certificate.** Chair Baraw noted that there was no change in Village Highway mileage in 2009. Motion by Trustee Bright, seconded by Trustee Hambleton, to approve and sign the Village Highway Mileage Certificate. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

IV. REPORTS

a. Village Manager

- 1. **Northfield Falls Hydroelectric Project.** Manager Allard reported that she met with Richard Podolec and other interested parties this afternoon regarding his proposal. She stated that all is proceeding well but with some caution because of concerns about the level of asbestos on the site and potential liability issues.

b. Miscellaneous

- 1. **Trustees Retreat: Saturday, January 16, 2010.** Chair Baraw stated that the Retreat would begin at 9:00 a.m. and should be finished by noon. It will be held in the Police Station's training room. In addition to energy efficiency, the topics discussed will include municipal facilities, personnel, and sub-committee work.

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (Unscheduled). None.

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION. Motion by Trustee Hambleton, seconded by Trustee Bright, to go into executive session in order to discuss a personnel matter. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

The Board went into executive session at 7:40 p.m.

Motion by Trustee Bright, seconded by Trustee Hambleton, to come out of executive session. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

The Board came out of executive session at 7:59 p.m. No action was taken.

VII. ADJOURNMENT. Without objection, the Board adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth L. McCann

Kenneth L. McCann, Acting Clerk

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