

**VILLAGE OF NORTHFIELD
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SPECIAL MEETING
Minutes of December 20, 2010**

I. ROLL CALL. Chair Doug Lawson, Trustees Colin Bright (absent), Libby Hambleton, and Larry Porter. Also present was Village Manager Nanci Allard.

Chair Lawson called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (Scheduled): None.

III. DISCUSSION

- a. Judicial Appeal of BCA Decision on Water/Sewer Lines Tax Exempt Status.** Chair Lawson noted that the Village Trustees had asked the Northfield Board of Civil Authority (BCA) to decide whether or not utility lines located outside of the Village's borders were tax exempt. The BCA ruled against the Village. The Village Trustees, at their regular meeting of August 10, 2010, voted by majority to appeal this decision with the Vermont Superior Court. A status conference with the court on this matter is now scheduled for January 10, 2011. Chair Lawson would like to know if the Board would still like to pursue the appeal. Motion by Trustee Hambleton, seconded by Trustee Porter, to withdraw the appeal and cancel the status conference. A discussion then ensued on the pros and cons of going to court on this matter. **Motion passed 3-0-0.** The Board will continue to push for legislative action on this matter.
- b. Water/Sewer Property Tax Abatement.** Chair Lawson noted that this matter had been discussed at the previous regular meeting (12/14/10). At that time, Trustee Bright (absent tonight) had been reluctant to pursue a rebate from the Town on property tax overpayments. A short discussion on this matter followed. Motion by Trustee Porter, seconded by Trustee Hambleton, to pursue this matter with the Board of Tax Abatement and seek restitution. **Motion passed 3-0-0.** Should the Village be successful in this, a repayment arrangement would be negotiated with the Town.
- c. Village Trustee Resignation.** Motion by Trustee Hambleton, seconded by Trustee Porter, to accept with regret Samantha Baraw's letter of resignation from the Board. **Motion passed 3-0-0.** The Board thanked Ms. Baraw for her years of service to the Village.

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (Unscheduled). There was none.

V. ADJOURNMENT. Without objection, the Board adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nanci Allard

Nanci Allard, Acting Clerk

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