

**TOWN OF NORTHFIELD, VERMONT
SELECT BOARD REGULAR MEETING
Minutes of March 26, 2019**

- I. ROLL CALL.** Select Board Chair K. David Maxwell, Board members Lynn Doney, Julie H. Goodrich (absent), Kenneth W. Goslant (absent), and Nathaniel Miller. Also present were Acting Clerk Kenneth McCann, Carolyn Stevens (Northfield Community Development Network), Chris Alger, Alana Alger, Laura Ranker, and Elroy Hill.

Chair Maxwell called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Chair Maxwell noted Town Manager Jeff Schulz is on vacation this week so he will be absent from tonight's meeting.

- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.** The Board members and the public were asked to rise and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

- III. SET/ADJUST AGENDA.** There were no changes to the posted agenda.

- IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (SCHEDULED):** None.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. March 12, 2019 (Regular Meeting).** Motion by Board member Miller, seconded by Board member Doney, to approve the minutes. **Motion passed 3-0-0.**

VI. APPROVAL OF BILLS

- a. Warrant #18-19.** Motion by Board member Doney, seconded by Board member Miller, to approve Warrant #18-19 in the amount of \$140,943.89. Board member Doney noted a \$3,088 payment for repairs to the sidewalk plow. He would like to know if this is due to an aging machine or because of poor maintenance. **Motion passed 3-0-0.**
- b. Approval of Biweekly Payroll through March 10, 2019.** Motion by Board member Doney, seconded by Board member Miller, to approve the biweekly payroll in the amount of \$98,155.13. **Motion passed 3-0-0.**

VII. LIQUOR CONTROL COMMISSION

a. Liquor License Renewal

- 1. Good Measure Brewing Company.** Motion by Board member Doney, seconded by Board member Miller, to approve the liquor license renewal. **Motion passed 3-0-0.**

VIII. SELECT BOARD

- a. Appointment of Various Town Officials.** The terms of several Select Board-appointed Town positions will expire at the end of this month. The vacancies were advertised and the current office holders were contacted to determine whether they would like to be reappointed.
- 1. Conservation Commission.** Motion by Board member Miller, seconded by Board member Doney, to appoint Joe Dalrymple and John Sears and reappoint Deborah Zuaro to the Conservation Commission. **Motion passed 3-0-0.**
- 2. Development Review Board.** Motion by Board member Miller, seconded by Board member Doney, to reappoint William S. Smith to the Development Review Board. **Motion passed 3-0-0.**

3. **Planning Commission.** Motion by Board member Miller, seconded by Board member Doney, to reappoint Aaron Rhodes to the Planning Commission. **Motion passed 3-0-0.**
4. **Recreation Committee.** Motion by Board member Miller, seconded by Board member Doney, to reappoint Sally Davidson to the Recreation Committee. **Motion passed 3-0-0.** One position on the Recreation Committee remains vacant and will be re-advertised.
5. **Tree Warden.** Motion by Board member Miller, seconded by Board member Doney, to reappoint Russ Barrett as Tree Warden. **Motion passed 3-0-0.**
6. **First Constable.** Motion by Board member Miller, seconded by Board member Doney, to reappoint Richard Wobby as First Constable. **Motion passed 3-0-0.**
7. **Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC) Representative.** Motion by Board member Miller, seconded by Board member Doney, to reappoint Laura Hill-Eubanks as CVRPC Representative. **Motion passed 3-0-0.**
8. **CVRPC Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) Representative.** Motion by Board member Miller, seconded by Board member Doney, to reappoint Jeff Schulz as CVRPC TAC Representative. **Motion passed 3-0-0.**
9. **Central Vermont Fiber Alternate Representative.** Motion by Board member Miller, seconded by Board member Doney, to appoint John Quinn III as Central Vermont Fiber Alternate Representative. **Motion passed 3-0-0.**

IX. BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS, CONCERNS, QUESTIONS

- a. **East Street Parking.** Board member Doney has been informed the handicapped parking sign by Good Measure Brewing has been missing for some time. He will contact Highway Foreman Trent Tucker tomorrow about reinstalling it as soon as possible. In addition, he would like the Northfield Police Department to do a better job of overseeing the parking in that area. Board member Doney felt parked cars often extend too far into the street, which makes it difficult for drivers to maneuver safely around them.
- b. **Norwich University (NU) Men's Ice Hockey Team.** Chair Maxwell recently travelled to Wisconsin in order to watch the NU Men's Ice Hockey team compete in the Frozen Four championship tournament. The NU team did win their semi-final game against SUNY Genesco but lost the championship game in overtime to host team UW-Stevens Point. Chair Maxwell congratulated the NU Men's Ice Hockey team for a very successful season and noted they lost the championship game to the first NCAA Division III men's hockey team to complete an undefeated season.

X. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (UNSCHEDULED)

- a. Chris Alger, Road Maintenance Concerns.** Mr. Alger is a former employee of the Northfield Highway Department and he has some concerns about how local roads were maintained this past winter. He would like to know whether the municipality has an approved winter road maintenance policy and, if so, can he get a copy. It was noted the municipality did adopt such a policy several years ago (2013) and Mr. Alger will be provided with a copy. Mr. Alger also would like to be able to attend Highway Planning & Project Oversight Subcommittee meetings but this group normally holds daytime meetings while he is working. He asked if it is possible for them to occasionally hold nighttime meetings. Board member Miller said in the past these meetings have been scheduled during the day to accommodate Highway Foreman Tucker's work schedule but he believes something can be worked out.
- b. Laura Ranker, Road Maintenance Concerns.** Ms. Ranker lives on Onion River Road off Berlin Pond Road. She feels her road and Berlin Pond Road were not maintained properly over the winter and she has additional concerns now that Mud Season has arrived. In addition, one of the Highway Department crew recently made an inappropriate remark to her son that she would like the municipality to address. She said the employee implied her son was using Onion River Road as "a private mud bog." Ms. Ranker said there are three (3) water springs in close proximity to her road so it is always having drainage issues. In addition, because of rising temperatures due to climate change, her road now has Mud Season conditions for ten (10) months out of the year. Ms. Ranker noted the Highway Department did drop a load of gravel on her road today but she still felt Onion River Road and Berlin Pond Road do not receive the attention they deserve. She also would like to attend a future Highway Subcommittee (preferably in the nighttime) to bring these concerns to the attention of Manager Schulz and Mr. Tucker. Ms. Ranker added she supported the budget increases for the Highway Department on Town Meeting Day. She also agreed with the Select Board members who felt the \$21,000 spent each year on the Northfield-Montpelier Commuter bus service would be better spent improving the local road infrastructure. Chair Maxwell encouraged Ms. Ranker to attend a future Highway Subcommittee to discuss her road maintenance concerns. In addition, due to Manager Schulz's current absence from the community, Chair Maxwell would like Ms. Ranker to email him directly regarding the personnel issue with the Highway Department employee. Chair Maxwell would like this matter addressed with Mr. Tucker as soon as possible.

XI. ADJOURNMENT. Motion by Board member Doney, seconded by Board member Miller, to adjourn. **Motion passed 3-0-0.**

The Board adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth L. McCann

Kenneth L. McCann, Acting Clerk

An audio recording of this meeting is available in the Town Manager's Office.

These minutes were approved at the regular Select Board meeting of April 9, 2019.