

**TOWN OF NORTHFIELD, VERMONT
SELECT BOARD REGULAR MEETING
Minutes of September 8, 2026**

- I. ROLL CALL.** Chair K. David Maxwell (absent), Acting Chair Merry Shernock, Board members Tim Davis, Lydia Petty, and John Stevens. Also present were Town Manager Mary Smith, Acting Clerk Kenneth McCann, Kaitlyn Keating (Chair, Northfield Community Development Network [NCDN]), Natalie Kozlowski (NCDN), Kristina Kiarsis (NCDN), Lorna Doney, Kristin Pollard, Carolyn Stevens, Mary Nadon Scott, Pam Ricker, and Elroy C. Hill.

Acting Chair Shernock called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

- II. SET/ADJUST AGENDA.** There was no change to the posted agenda.

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

- IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (6:02 p.m.)**

- a. **August 25, 2026 (Regular Meeting).** Motion by Board member Stevens, seconded by Board member Davis, to approve the minutes. **Motion passed 3-0-1, with Board member Petty abstaining.**
- b. **August 27, 2026 (Special Meeting).** Motion by Board member Davis, seconded by Board member Stevens, to approve the minutes. **Motion passed 3-0-1, with Board member Petty abstaining.**

- V. APPROVAL OF BILLS (6:04 p.m.)**

- a. **Approval of Warrant #05-27.** Motion by Board member Stevens, seconded by Board member Petty, to approve Warrant #05-27 in the amount of \$3,094,924.24. Board member Stevens noted a \$501,612 payment related to the removal of the Cross Brothers Dam. Manager Smith confirmed that all dam removal expenses will be fully reimbursed by FEMA. Board member Stevens asked about several payments to Tyler Technologies. Manager Smith said this was for employee training on accounting software upgrades. This software is used by the Accounting Department and the utility departments so the payments were split between these departmental accounts. According to the invoices received, Acting Chair Shernock said it appears considerable work has been done in the public cemeteries lately. Board member Petty noted that most (\$2,099,126) of the warrant amount was related to the recent water project. **Motion passed 4-0-0.**
- b. **Receipt of Biweekly Payroll through August 30, 2026.** Motion by Board member Stevens, seconded by Board member Davis, to receive the biweekly payroll in the amount of \$117,981.65. **Motion passed 4-0-0.**

- VI. SELECT BOARD (6:09 p.m.)**

- a. **Approval of Special Town Meeting Warning (November 3, 2026).** Acting Chair Shernock said this warning is for a special article to be put on the general election ballot that reads as follows: "Shall the voters authorize the Select Board to borrow an amount not to exceed eight hundred and fifty-five thousand dollars (\$855,000) for a period not to exceed ten (10) years for the purchase of a Fire Pumper Truck?" Motion by Board member Stevens, seconded by Board member Petty, to approve and sign the special meeting warning. **Motion passed 4-0-0.**

- b. Time Change for September 22, 2026 Regular Meeting.** Acting Chair Shernock reported that the starting time of the next regular meeting will be delayed from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in order to accommodate those wishing to attend the annual "Night on the Common" that night. Kaitlyn Keating is Chair of the Northfield Community Development Network (NCDN) and she invited the Select Board members and all others watching to attend the festivities, which will recognize and honor all the volunteer groups and individuals who serve the Northfield community. At least twenty (20) volunteer groups will be represented in this event, which will be held on the Common from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in conjunction with the Northfield Farmers Market. There will be a photo booth, live music, refreshments, and other amenities. Local photographer Bill Croney will be taking the community photograph from atop the Northfield Fire Department (NFD) tower truck at 5:45 p.m. Board member Petty would like to have copies of the previous community photos so that they can be framed and put on public display. Acting Chair Shernock said the TDS Telecom window on the Common has been used recently for such displays. Ms. Keating said NCDN went through great efforts to choose a date that would not conflict with any local school events, etc. so that Northfield youth will be fully represented in this year's community photograph.

VII. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT (6:16 p.m.) Manager Smith said a lot has been happening over the past couple of weeks as summer projects are being completed and the work crews prepare for autumn and winter. She wanted to especially thank the emergency services and the Highway Department employees for their exceptional work getting the downtown prepared for the Labor Day Weekend festivities and for their service over the holiday weekend. Manager Smith also wanted to commend Northfield Ambulance Service (NAS) Chief Meggan McCusker and EMT Kalee Bouleris for recently completing their paramedic training so that they are now certified paramedics. She added that the Municipal Building will be closing at 1:00 p.m. this Thursday afternoon (09/10/26) so that an Employee Appreciation Day can be held.

VIII. BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS, CONCERNS, QUESTIONS

- a. Norwich University (NU) Cadet Road Obstructions.** Board member Davis has been told NU cadets have been running on Vermont Route 12 and Main Street in wide packs that hinder traffic. The same has been happening with their marching in the street with NU cadets directing traffic, which they are not authorized to do on their own. Board member Davis suggested that NU officials should be informed of this problem. Manager Smith said she was meeting with NU administrators within the next week and will mention this to them.
- b. Central Street Parking.** Board member Davis said public parking on Central Street was out of control over the recent holiday weekend, which impeded traffic and might have made emergency responses difficult if not impossible. He felt parking should be further restricted at the narrowest parts of the street and current restrictions strictly enforced. Manager Smith believes it probably would be best for all if there was parking on only one side of Central Street. That and other options can be discussed in full at a later time.
- c. NAS Union Negotiations.** Board member Stevens asked about the progress in negotiating the initial union contract for part-time NAS employees. Manager Smith said that can be discussed later in the meeting in executive session.

- d. **Labor Day Parade.** Acting Chair Shernock thought the parade was very good this year. She especially was pleased to see all the regional firetrucks presented at the parade's end but felt some really overdid it when demonstrating how loud their sirens could get. Perhaps they should tone it down next year in deference to the ears of pets, older people, and youngsters.
- e. **Memorial Park Summer Concerts.** Acting Chair Shernock wanted to thank Welcome Home Northfield (Leslie Striebe and Cara Gauthier) for putting on the Monday night concert series in Memorial Park this past summer. It was a very pleasurable experience and the presence of Tin Bucks Barbeque was welcome.
- f. **Community Garden Appreciation.** Acting Chair Shernock also wanted to thank the volunteers who helped organize the new community garden this growing season. She especially wanted to recognize new member Rebecca Dominquez who has proposed that surplus foodstuffs be distributed to Northfield residents who don't have easy access to fresh produce.
- g. **Dip on Union Brook Road.** Acting Chair Shernock asked if anything has been done to fix this problem. Manager Smith said eliminating the dip in the road will require considerable effort and potentially great expense. Board member Davis said this has been a problem at that location for over twenty (20) years.

IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (UNSCHEDULED) (6:28 p.m.)

- a. **Elroy C. Hill: Central Street Parking.** Mr. Hill agrees with Manager Smith that parking on Central Street should be limited to one side due to its narrowness. There is not enough room for two (2) lanes of traffic when cars are parked on both sides of the street. This situation also is dangerous for pedestrians walking along or crossing the street.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION. Motion by Board member Stevens, seconded by Board member Petty, to go into executive session, in accordance with 1 VSA 313 (a)(1)], in order to discuss legal matters, personnel issues, and contract negotiations with Manager Smith present. **Motion passed 4-0-0.**

The Board went into executive session at 6:32 p.m.

Motion by Board member Stevens, seconded by Board member Davis, to come out of executive session. **Motion passed 4-0-0.**

The Board came out of executive session at 7:05 p.m. No action was taken.

XI. ADJOURNMENT. Motion by Board member Davis, seconded by Board member Petty, to adjourn. **Motion passed 4-0-0.**

The Board adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth L. McCann

Kenneth L. McCann, Acting Clerk

A video recording of this meeting is available at: <https://youtu.be/49KV7ycRMXk>

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