

**TOWN OF NORTHFIELD, VERMONT  
SELECT BOARD SPECIAL MEETING  
Minutes of January 18, 2024**

- I. ROLL CALL.** Select Board Chair K. David Maxwell, Board members Charles Morse, Lydia Petty, Merry Shernock, and John Stevens. Also present were Manager Jeff Schulz, Laurie Baroffio (Finance Director), Susan Stillinger, Mary Nadon Scott, and Elroy Hill.

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

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

**III. DISCUSSION**

- a. FY 2024/2025 Town Budget.** Manager Schulz said that the proposed budget has been slightly revised based on the discussion at the last budget meeting (01/16/24). As the Select Board requested at that meeting, the hourly compensation for Northfield Ambulance Service (NAS) paramedics, which had been \$20.00 per hour, has been increased by \$2.00. This action had a minor impact on the overall budget. The other change was in the Town Highway Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) budget. Based on a conversation with an engineer, the estimated cost of replacing the Jerry Bridge has been reduced from \$220,000 to \$180,000. \$110,000 in Town General prior year surplus funds will be allocated for this purpose in FY 2024/2025. The \$70,000 remaining balance for this project will be in the FY 2025/2026 budget. Based on these most recent changes, the estimated increase in the local property tax rate is 8.9%.

Chair Maxwell asked when the deadline was to finalize the budget. Manager Schulz said it should be approved no later than the next regular meeting on Tuesday, January 23, 2024. Chair Maxwell asked if the budget could be formally approved tonight. Manager Schulz said there was no reason it could not. Motion by Board member Morse, seconded by Board member Stevens, to approve the FY 2024/2025 Town Budget as presented by management. Board member Petty asked how much in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds would be used in this budget. Finance Director Laurie Baroffio said the total amount is \$229,120. The Select Board members will be provided an updated summary that will show the current balance of designated and undesignated ARPA funds. **Motion passed 5-0-0.** Chair Maxwell then thanked the municipal staff for helping to put this municipal budget together and his fellow Select Board members for taking part in the long deliberations that led to this result.

- IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (UNSCHEDULED).** There was none.

- V. ADJOURNMENT.** Motion by Board member Morse, seconded by Board member Stevens, to adjourn. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

The Board adjourned at 6:13 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 Select Board regular meeting of January 23, 2024.