

**Joint Meeting of the Northfield Electric
and Water & Wastewater Commissions
Minutes of March 2, 2026**

Roll Call. Utility Commissioners Dennis Donahue, Steve Fitzhugh, Michael Kelley, John Stevens, and Charlie Morse (absent). Also present were Town Manager Steve Mackenzie and Utility Superintendent James Russo.

The meeting started at 6:32 p.m.

Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting. Motion by Mr. Stevens, seconded by Mr. Donahue, to approve the minutes. **Motion passed 4-0-0.**

Meeting of the Electric Commission.

Flatland Solar. Mr. Fitzhugh provided the commission members with a brief summary of this upcoming solar project based in Swanton VT, which would provide the Northfield Electric Department (NED) with much needed renewable energy in order to meet Tier II and Tier IV requirements. He would like authorization for NED to purchase up to twenty-eight percent (28%) of the solar power produced. Motion by Mr. Kelley, seconded by Mr. Donahue, to authorize the 28% maximum enrollment amount. Mr. Stevens said this sounds like a good deal to him. Mr. Fitzhugh agreed, stating that it is not going to get any easier in coming years to obtain renewable energy sources. At \$122.40 per megawatt hour, the energy purchased will be relatively inexpensive. **Motion passed 4-0-0.**

Northfield Electric Department (NED) Project Status

King Street Battery Storage Project. Mr. Fitzhugh said that Lightshift is getting its financing paperwork in order so it can start constructing the battery storage facility this spring.

Utility Pole Realignment Project. Mr. Fitzhugh said the twenty-one (21) day public comment period for this project has ended so the Public Utility Commission (PUC) filing is being prepared.

Smart Meters. Mr. Russo said three (3) additional test meters have been installed in Northfield Falls, on Water Street, and on the Electric Vehicle (EV) charger on Depot Square. When the project is completed, over 1,800 electric smart meters will be installed in the community.

Grid Resiliency Grant. Mr. Fitzhugh submitted the paperwork for this grant, which has been forwarded to the Department of Energy. We will need to provide paperwork certifying that the materials to be used were manufactured in the USA. Mr. Fitzhugh has reached out to Green Mountain Power (GMP) for their assistance with this.

Nantanna Mill Hydroelectric Facility. Mr. Stevens asked if there are any updates regarding this project. Mr. Fitzhugh said he has heard nothing from the Canadian-based property owners for some time.

Other Business. Mr. Russo will be looking into replacing some older transmission lines this coming summer. As home electric usage has increased in some parts of town due to heat pump installations, etc., some lines will need to be upgraded to handle the increased power load.

Meeting of the Water & Wastewater Commission

Northfield Water & Sewer Department Project Status.

Main Street Waterline Installation and Cheney Field Water Tank Replacement Projects. Mr. Donahue said we are now waiting for better weather so the project contractors can return and finish their work. Mr. Russo said the reservoir overflow screen will need to be changed out but everything else is fine with the projects. The contractors should return soon after the snow melts. Mr. Donahue said this could be anytime between March and May.

Adjournment. Motion by Mr. Fitzhugh, seconded by Mr. Kelley, to adjourn.
Motion passed 4-0-0.

The Board adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth L. McCann

Kenneth L. McCann, Acting Clerk