

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

April 5, 2021

PRESENT: Cindy Silver, Select Board Chair, Kevin Meehan and Norman Brown, Select Board members comprising a quorum of the board.

ALSO PRESENT: Kathi Marshall, Assistant to the Select Board, Hank Verret, Emergency Management Director, Jason Call, Trustee of the Trust Funds Chair, Cheryl Marshall, Trustee of the Trust Funds member, Julia Gilmore and Joe Marshall, Jefferson Representatives for the County Broadband Committee, and Skip Marshall

Cindy Silver called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. It was noted that internet service from Spectrum was not operating, and would be out of service until approximately 10:00 p.m. that evening. While the Zoom option was not possible, the public meeting at the Community Center building continued as scheduled.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE/PAYROLL

Norm made a motion to approve Accounts Payable and Payroll items for the week ending April 3, 2021 and to authorize Kathi to pay invoices and payroll. Kevin seconded the motion. In discussion Kevin asked Kathi to clarify the hours she worked the previous week, as they were recorded differently in two places. She corrected the error. A roll call vote was taken with Norm voting "aye," Kevin voting "aye," and Cindy voting "aye." The motion passed, and accounts payable and payroll were approved.

PUBLIC INPUT

Julia Gilmore/Broadband Committee: Julia checked with Kathi to confirm that letters had gone out to the various internet providers in the area, as well as the letter requesting E911 maps. Kathi confirmed they had been mailed. Companies are given sixty days to respond, and Julia said the committee recommends follow-up contact in order to stay on top of things.

The Broadband Committee continues to reach out to other towns to join this effort to establish reliable internet service here in the North Country. As the process continues it will be beneficial for towns to join together in order to obtain this service in a cost-effective manner.

Currently legislation is being worked on in Concord dealing with funding for internet service and a study of actual ongoing installation services by providers. Julia and Joe attended a Zoom session with three senators that both said was information-intense and no questions were allowed. Julia is going to try to obtain minutes from the meeting.

Julia had earlier provided a copy of the Northern Border Regional Commission's grant information. The deadline for the grant is coming up, and Joe mentioned the application process requires a great deal. It would be difficult to complete in time without having a definitive project for which to apply. But the grant is annual, so there will be other opportunities. Julia mentioned the grant is for infrastructure, so there could be other projects that might benefit the town in the future as well. Joe said communities will have to find a way to fund the internet program, and that is why towns are joining together to take on the project and hopefully to mitigate costs.

Hank Verret/Emergency Management Director: Hank informed board members that the High School (White Mountains Regional High School) has plans to install a large generator in an effort to have the high school become

a primary shelter in the event of area emergencies. The cost of the generator is estimated to be around \$600,000 and would be acquired with grant assistance. The school would likely have a better chance if they included surrounding towns as opposed to simply school-family occupancy. They are asking Jefferson to sign on to utilize their emergency services as a primary or secondary shelter. Hank said he knew the board was ultimately planning on installing a generator at the Community Center in order to qualify as an emergency shelter. He wondered if the town used WMRHS as a secondary shelter, if it might inhibit the town's chances for grant funds in the future.

Norm said it could diminish Jefferson's possibilities. If the town were to sign on, it should designate Lancaster as a secondary shelter. Hank felt strongly the town should have a secondary site, but he wanted to run it by the board first. Cindy and Kevin both agreed Lancaster should be a secondary shelter.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR 3.29.2021

Norm made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from 3.29.2021 as recorded. Kevin seconded the motion. There was discussion with Norm requesting that in the portion of the minutes that include the roll call, that members be identified by their office or title. Kathi made note of that. A roll call vote was taken with Kevin voting "aye," Norm voting "aye," and Cindy voting "aye." The motion passed and the minutes were approved.

REPORT OF DEPARTMENTS AND/OR BOARDS

Board members accepted the Highway-Business Office report for the week.

NEW BUSINESS

Current Use Application/Torr: Kathi presented an application for Current Use from David Torr for just under twelve acres of land on Old Cherry Mountain Road. Kevin noted he was combining two lots in order to meet the minimum requirements. He said as long as the two lots are contiguous, they can be considered one parcel.

Norm spoke for the need to include the other boards when looking over such things as building permits and applications for current use. Everyone representing the town should be on the same page and have the same understanding of the decision to be made. He suggested a routing slip to be attached to these permits. The slip should include each board, Chris Milligan (Fire Chief) and Sean Toomey (State Fire Marshal). Once the application was read each member could initial it to let Select Board members know there were no concerns from their respective departments. This input would help Select Board members to make the ultimate decision on approval or not.

Norm asked to bring the application back to the next meeting. He told Kathi to pass it along to the other boards for their acknowledgement.

Feasibility & Suitability of Carroll's Withdrawal from SAU #36: Local towns whose children attend school in the SAU #36 district have been asked to select a member of each Select Board to serve on the committee that will be studying the issue of Carroll's possible withdrawal from SAU #36. Norm volunteered to serve as the representative for the Jefferson Select Board. He noted that Carroll's possible withdrawal would have an impact on our school-related expenses.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Update on Fire Site Clean-up: Norm informed everyone that what little asbestos had been in the town hall has been removed. The cost for removal was \$800, and \$300 for the state permit. He said he thought there might be some items still inside the building that might be salvaged, but damage had been extensive. He said they would be renting a copier to photocopy any documents still readable. Paperwork with people's names and/or addresses would

be shredded by a professional company. What remains of the buildings will be razed and leveled. But the process is moving along.

Advertisement for Cleaning-Maintenance: Norm submitted a job description and classified ad for a cleaning. He mentioned that John Silver had some suggestions regarding the position, but Cindy did not have them at the time of the meeting. Norm suggested they discuss the position at the next meeting.

Wanted Poster: Kathi said the poster is on the website and has been posted at several places in town. At the time of the meeting, there had not been a response. Norm said we need qualified volunteers for different components of work. Major projects coming up include heating and ventilation.

Jason Call asked about the insurance on the building, and Norm said we did receive a quote from the insurance adjuster on the building's value. He was not happy with the value based on the insurance coverage cost. He would like to meet with Primex representatives to discuss this.

Update on Town Report: Kathi said she is nearly finished proof reading the report and it will go to print Tuesday or Wednesday of that week. Norm said they are planning to hold the business portion of town meeting in the Community Center. He has been working with Notchnet, and they plan to have large-screen tvs in two rooms with microphones so everyone can see, hear and speak if they choose to. Masks will be required and safe distancing will be observed. Once the town report is out, Norm would like residents to have two weeks to read it before the actual meeting.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

PUBLIC INPUT

NON-PUBLIC RSA 91-A:3 II

Norm made a motion to go into a Non-Public session citing RSA 91-A:3 II. Kevin seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with Kevin voting "aye," Norm voting "aye," and Cindy voting "aye." The motion carried and the board members went into a non-public session.

Upon convening the non-public session Kevin made a motion to approve the non-public minutes from the previous week. Cindy seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with Kevin voting "aye," Norm voting "aye," and Cindy voting "aye." The motion passed.

Members reconvened the board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Kevin made a motion to adjourn the board meeting. Norm seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with Kevin voting "aye," Norm voting "aye," and Cindy voting "aye." The motion passed, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:30

The next meeting of the Select Board will be Monday, April 12, 2021 in person at the Jefferson Community Center.

Respectfully submitted,