

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, June 14, 2021

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

ALSO PRESENT: Kathi Marshall: Assistant to the Select Board, Mary Gross: Jefferson Tax Collector, Chris Milligan: Jefferson Fire Chief, Jason Call: Trustees of the Trust Funds Chair, Cheryl Marshall: Trustees of the Trust Funds Member and Terri Larcomb: Deputy Town Treasurer

Cindy Silver called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE/PAYROLL

Norm made a motion to approve Accounts Payable and Payroll items for the week ending June 7, 2021 and to authorize Kathi to pay invoices and payroll. Cindy seconded the motion. The motion passed, and accounts payable and payroll were approved.

PUBLIC INPUT

Possible Properties to be Deeded: Mary Gross presented a list of properties that may have to be deeded for non-payment of taxes. Those on the list have until August 9 to pay the amount that is in arrears. Mary informed the board of those she felt would take care of their outstanding balances, and those who may not be able to comply. There is a total of 14 property owners, and Mary said she is having trouble getting some respondents to pick up their certified letters. She said she might have to have Norm check in with one or two of these property owners.

July 4th Fireworks: Chris said he received a phone call from the new management at the Waumbek and they spoke to him about the fireworks that are usually done there. They are currently short on staff and would not be able to cover the event. She asked Chris if the town might be able to find another location for the fireworks display.

Chris said there is plenty of room at 108 Presidential Highway (Hicks Field), with proper egress points. Minimum distance for fireworks clearance is a 250-foot radius. At the ball field there is a 300-foot clearance. (Jason supplied a map to illustrate the available space.) Chris said there is room for the fire trucks to be there, and the bridge that goes down to the field can easily accommodate an ambulance if needed. Chris said he would have signs to let people know they need to keep the road clear. He thought many people would watch from Turnpike Road and even Route 2. One of the good things about Route 2 at that point, is it has a wide shoulder, where up by the Waumbek it did not.

Cindy and Jason talked about advertising on social media to let everyone know where the new fireworks location will be. We can also post the information in all the local town spots to keep people informed as well.

Jason wanted to know if our insurance company would cover the liability issue because it costs Sherri about \$850 for each show. If our insurance will cover the cost, she can add more fireworks to the display. Kathi has put a call in to the head of Risk Management with Primex. He is supposed to call her.

Norm felt the new location was a better site than the Waumbek—he felt it was much safer.

Fire Engine #1: Chris informed the board that Engine #1 was back in service. He said while it was in the shop they discovered a leak in the gear seal. Chris said it didn't make sense not to take care of it then. There are also some valves that need to be replaced. Chris is having a quote sent to him, but he told the vendor to go ahead and order them. The vendor will come on site to replace those valves when they get them in, which won't be until mid-July or so.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR 6.07.2021

Norm made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from 6.07.2021 as recorded. Kevin seconded the motion. The motion passed, and the minutes were approved.

NON-PUBLIC RSA 91-A: 3 (None)

REPORT OF DEPARTMENTS AND/OR BOARDS

Board members read and accepted the Highway and Business Office reports for the week.

NEW BUSINESS

Pistol Permit/Allen: The pistol permit had undergone a background check and had been approved by Norm Brown. Cindy signed the permit.

Current Use/Davis: An application to change tax status on property was submitted by Aaron Davis—to remove property from current use status. Board members signed the application, but asked that it still be circulated to the other boards just to keep them informed.

Building Permit/Tibbetts: A building permit application was submitted for a pole barn with a gravel base (possibly a slab). It had been seen by the Planning and Zoning boards. Norm mentioned the application did not have an estimated value, and he didn't want to get into the habit of not asking for estimates. Norm said to get the estimate from Mr. Tibbetts before board members signed.

Conservation Commission: David Govatski sought the board's approval of a newly recommended member of the Conservation Commission. Kevin mentioned that the RSAs indicate that individual boards should not select their own members. Norm agreed saying if that occurs on a regular basis you can end up with a self-serving board. The protocol should be that boards let the Select Board know when they have a vacancy. The Select Board will then advertise for people to fill that spot. Kevin said we could probably advertise for people once a month because we usually have an ongoing need for citizens to serve on various boards. He also said he has never had an issue with other boards suggesting someone, but he felt the Select Board should do some kind of interview process. Cindy suggested a short bio of some kind, because it is possible board members might not be familiar with the applicant. She also said to send an e-mail to each board chair to let them know that going forward it will be an interview process.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

USDA Food Bus: Kathi informed the board the USDA Food Bus will be in the old town parking lot on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from noon until 12:30 p.m. handing out meals for families in need. They will begin the 28th of June and continue through August 28. They were very appreciative of the town's support.

Photocopier Rental: Kathi said she will go with Conway Office Solutions for the rented photocopier. The cost will be 1-cent per copy, and toner and servicing will be no extra cost. There will be a \$100 delivery fee.

Health Officer: Norm said Paul has been extremely busy. He's going back to school and working full time. Norm said Paul was going to send in a letter of resignation. Norm thought we might put an ad out for a health officer. It was decided to post that position to see if any volunteers came forward.

New Town Clerk Hours: The new town clerk office hours are posted inside and outside the Jefferson Community

Building, and at the Old Corner Store, the Library, and the Transfer Station. They will also be in the Democrat on the 16th as well.

Veterans' Memorial: Cheryl gave an update on the donations being made for the restorative work that needs to be done to the Veterans' Memorial. To date the total is \$3,924. She is expecting a donation from Passumpsic Bank and they have asked if large donors will be recognized in some fashion. Norm said it was very possible to do that. Cheryl would like to put a press release in the Coös County Democrat about the fundraiser, and she will let the board review it before she submits it to the paper.

Solar Energy: Kathi asked if board members wanted to discuss the possibility of solar power after having seen a presentation that Cindy sent to them. All members thought the presentation was very effective. Both Norm and Kevin said it wouldn't do Jefferson any good at this point, because we do not have the capacity to handle that power with the grid we currently have.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Hazen Road: The board received a quote to repair and reclaim Hazen Road at a cost estimate of \$137,000. The town may have an opportunity to apply for funding through Fish and Wildlife in a year or two, but right now we may just have to patch Hazen Road to get through. This year Jefferson already has funding to improve the Rail Trail, so the town will have to wait until next year to apply for more funds.

PUBLIC INPUT

NON-PUBLIC RSA 91-A:3 II (Yes)

Cindy made a motion to go into a non-public session citing RSA 91-A3 II. Norm seconded the motion, and the board entered into a non-public meeting at 8:52 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon reconvening the Select Board public session at 8:58 p.m. Cindy made a motion to adjourn the weekly Select Board meeting. Norm seconded the motion. The motion passed, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

The next meeting of the Select Board will be Monday, June 21, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in person at the Jefferson Community Center.

Respectfully submitted,