

TOWN OF JEFFERSON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

November 23, 2015

The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen for the Town of Jefferson was held at the Selectmen Office Monday November 23, 2015 at 6:30 pm.

PRESENT: Norman Brown, Chair, Kevin Meehan, and Tom Brady, members comprising a quorum of the Board.

OTHERS PRESENT: Linda Cushman, Assistant to Selectmen: Jeff Young, Steve Young, Roy Parkhurst, Lisa Snowman, Pam Couture, Meredith Robinson, Ron Medeiros; Gil and Cheryl Finch, Bruce Cameron; Fred Lovejoy; Mark Dubois, Road Foreman; Joy McCorkhill, Librarian, Cheryl Meehan, Library Trustee; Chris Milligan, Fire Chief; Joe Marshall, Library Committee

Norman Brown opened the regular meeting at 6:35 pm. The Board reviewed and approved the bills for payment next week. The Highway and Transfer Station report was reviewed. The warrants were signed. Terri Larcomb was in to pickup signed warrants and sign checks.

Kevin Meehan made a motion to accept the minutes of the November 9, 2015 Selectmen Meeting as written. Tom Brady seconded the motion, the motion carries.

Roy Parkhurst, president of the newly formed ATV club was in to give the Selectmen a progress report as agreed at the last meeting. Mr. Parkhurst report that the club has come up with a proposed trails map. There will be some private property use, but most will be Town and hopefully State roads.

As the Club is officially recognized by the State they are eligible for grant funding. They would like to put a new bridge across the Israel River in Riverton to connect to Lancaster. Mr. Medeiros said that the ATV trial in Lancaster comes to the Flaherty Road. Mr. Parkhurst said that the club's next step would be to talk to the property owners along the roads. He didn't think this would be an issue as the people he has talked to so far were in favor of a trail.

The challenge to making trails in Jefferson is making connections with Lancaster and Randolph.

Mr. Parkhurst said that once the Selectmen are behind the trails then they can go the the State to see if they can't get the Rails Trail opened up to ATV. There are section of the State highway in Jefferson that the club will be asking that the speed limit be reduced so to accommodate the ATV's.

Norman said that he thought that the Club's concept was headed in the correct direction. He thought the next set for the Club would be to talk to the property owners along the proposed routes to get their feelings, then a public hearing would be appropriate.

Joy McCorkhill and Cheryl Meehan were in to present the Selectmen with a proposed budget for the library for 2016. They are asking for an increase in the budget of \$3000. This would be an increase in wages and to the Trustees budget. The Trustees are proposing to increase the Librarian wages \$1.00 per hour and perhaps increasing the work week by 2 hours for administration. The Selectmen said that they would review the material submitted and discuss later.

Joe Marshall was in to ask the Selectmen for a letter stating that the Town realized and understood the operating cost and maintenance cost associated with the new library. This is something that the grant writer needs to submit with the grant. Joe was given a letter stating that the Selectmen did understand cost associated with the new library.

Mark Dubois reported that he had a price for the purchase of a new backhoe, it is \$127,500. It was a question as to whether a front-end loader would be more useful. Mark said for one thing they wouldn't be able to put a loader in the garage. Mark said that a new machine was not a necessity right now. It was suggested that more research be done and some comparisons be made.

Mark said that Winterset would like to put a construction trailer in the yard at the garage. Winterset will be working on the Israel River bridge for the State this winter. Mark was told that if it could be set so not to interfere with his work there would be no problem.

Norman said that he had reviewed the bridge inspection report for the Chambers Road bridge and did not see any major problem. The decking went from being very good in 2012 to satisfactory in 2014. The biggest issue is the composition and age of the bridge. It was rebuilt in 1995.

Mark said that they would be ditching on the Davenport Road this week. What really needs to be done to divert the water from the lower parking lot is to put in a culvert. Norman suggested that Mark talk with someone at NFI to see what could be worked out.

Mark asked if the Selectmen still wanted him to go ahead with putting hot water in the garage. Yes.

Chris Milligan was in to present his budget request for the cemetery mowing, fire department and EMS.

Chris said that he is keeping the rates for mowing the same as last year. He was asked how many times he mowed. He said that it would average three times a month from May to September.

Regarding getting the maintenance work completed at Starr King and Riverton cemeteries. Chris said that the materials had been purchased for Starr King so the pillars would be completed in the spring. There are a few stones that still need to be cleaned and they will be done first thing in the spring.

It was asked what the cost was to complete the work at the Riverton Cemetery. Chris said that \$18,000 would cover everything that needs to be done. The stone repair and cleaning. Some of the work he and Larry Kenison may be able to do saving some cost. Norman said that he would suggest that the additional funds be raised to cover this cost and finish the Riverton and Starr King cemeteries. The next step would be to get the cost of replacing the fence at the Forest Vale Cemetery. Chris said that he had counted the sections of fence that runs down the sides. There are enough sections to replace the front fence on the small cemetery. It may be a good idea to get those sections up and clean them and put across the front.

For the Fire Department budget Chris presented a \$32,000 budget. This is down from last year, 2016 will not have any out of pocket communication expense to be paid. There are 9 air packs, each cost about \$2,500. It was suggested to keep the FD budget at the \$35,000 with the idea that a new air pack be purchased and to continue putting money in the CRF for supplies so to get the air packs updated and start a regular schedule for replacements.

Chris did say that within the near future the department would like to replace the 86 tanker cab and chassis. The cost is estimated at \$120,000. Chris was told to get start getting some numbers together, the tanker is on the CIP for replacement in 2017.

Norman said that for 2016 there would be no CPI increase. In the last couple of years the Town has given employees 1.4 and 1.5 increases. It is his recommendation that a 1.5% increase be consider for all Town employees. Kevin and Tom agreed. Linda was asked to include the increase in the budget figures for 2016.

The remainder of the budget was reviewed. Norman will meet with Rick Alpes of Primex Tuesday to get the insurance figures to review. Linda will make the suggested changes to the purposed budget and have them ready for review Tuesday.

The next meeting will be November 30, 2015, at 7:00 pm.

Tom made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kevin seconded the motion, motion carries.

Being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted