

Town of Jefferson
Select Board Meeting
February 27, 2023
Jefferson Community Center

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Kevin Meehan (Select Board Chair), immediately after the Safety Meeting. Terri Larcomb (Selectman), Emma Wotton, David Savage, Liz Milligan, Joe Marshall, Linda Cushman, and Kate McMann, present.

Selectman Norman Brown, and Maura Chappelle, appeared via Zoom.

The pledge of Allegiance was recited to salute the flag.

Notation: This Select Board meeting was held immediately after the Safety Meeting. At this time those attending the Safety meeting exited the meeting (Emma Wotton, David Savage, Liz Milligan). Also at this time, Norman Brown disconnected via phone and connected via Zoom.

Selectman Terri Larcomb made a motion to approve the Budget Hearing meeting minutes from February 6, 2023, and the Board of Selectman meeting minutes from February 13, 2023. Selectman Norman Brown seconded the motion. A roll call vote was conducted by Chairman Kevin Meehan: Terri Larcomb "Aye", Norman Brown "Aye" and Kevin Meehan "Aye"; and with no further discussion the motion was passed unanimously.

Selectman Terri Larcomb made a motion to approve Payroll for February 20 and February 27, 2023. Selectman Norman Brown seconded the motion. A roll call vote was conducted by Chairman Kevin Meehan: Terri Larcomb "Aye", Norman Brown "Aye" and Kevin Meehan "Aye"; and with no further discussion the motion was passed unanimously.

Selectman Terri Larcomb made a motion to approve Accounts Payable February 20 and February 24, 2023. Selectman Norman Brown seconded the motion. Selectman Terri Larcomb inquired if the WMRSD payment had increased to the \$161,000 per month figure. Kate responded that it had not, it was the same as before. Kevin stated that the payment schedule goes from July to June. A roll call vote was conducted by Chairman Kevin Meehan: Terri Larcomb "Aye", Norman Brown "Aye" and Kevin Meehan "Aye"; and with no further discussion the motion was passed unanimously.

Kevin Meehan inquired with Linda Cushman if she had something to discuss. Linda brought up the heating issues the JCC has been having and that they need to be resolved. Linda stated the building temperature goes to 66 or 68 degrees, if you're lucky, and will not rise without the use of an additional plug-in heater. Terri Larcomb asked if this was a pellet boiler issue and if Amanda and Kate knew what the issues were. Kate stated yes, there were two separate issues. One was the thermostat panel. The thermostat panel is sometimes clicking and displaying random temperatures, in order to get it working again Kate said she had to flip the electrical breaker on and off. The second issue is the silo, not so much the pellet boiler. The pellet boiler displays an error message of a pellet ignition malfunction. If it is restarted, then the pellet vacuum will begin. If we have a day where the silo has been in the sun, the pellets then pull

through just fine. However, if we've had a day where it has been cold or a lot of precipitation then the pellets tend to freeze up and the pellets do not come through the vacuum. Terri inquired who we had to work on this issue. Norman mentioned that we need to find another company, other than New Day Energy to work on this issue, but we haven't been able to do that yet. Regardless of that, we have the three propane boilers that run individually and there is no reason that they cannot maintain the temperature. The propane boilers are designed to come on one at a time and if one is not sufficient then the second will come on and if that is still insufficient then the third will come on. Kevin asked if this was just in Linda's office. Kate responded that it was the entire building. Terri stated that the girls in the office should not have to know how to take care of this, there should be someone to do this for the building, a local. Norman mentioned that we still had a warranty under Dan Hebert, Inc. and if someone else handled this issue then it could void the warranty. Norman agreed it had been an issue and that it needed to be fixed. Norman will speak with Dan Hebert first thing tomorrow and try to get this resolved. Linda thanked the board and exited the meeting. Discussion among the board continued about the contractors to be contacted to troubleshoot the heating issue and who in the area might be available for maintenance.

Joe Marshall discussed an application he had received from the Select Board about the Town becoming a member of the Coos County Broadband Committee, which he has been a member for a couple of years. At this time, Joe considered the committee to be defunct as communication hadn't occurred in six to eight months and so he was unsure of what the committee was trying to do at this time. Additionally, a bill had been passed by the Executive Council to fund high speed internet installation in 34 underserved communities, one of which is Jefferson, and the contract was awarded to Consolidated Communications. Joe had spoken with Jeff at Consolidated Communications in regards to their program and how it will be implemented. This program will provide fiber internet connection up to two gigabytes to our community without the need for Select Board or Town involvement, although we would be notified. Consolidated Communications would install cable to supply internet to the entire town of Jefferson. In the third quarter of this year, the process would begin, with construction expected to begin the fourth quarter of this year and completed by the end of 2024. This is a program with no cost to the town. The construction of this project is called an overlash, as this new fiberoptic cable will be lashed to the bottom existing telephone cable. This process should not have to include any replacement telephone poles to construct.

Although this construction has not begun yet, it appears as though Consolidated may be doing some groundwork ahead of time as Terri mentioned underground cables had been run at her former residence. Kevin stated that he had spoke with someone from Consolidated and they had been conducting their normal check on lines and had been updating things as they went along. It appears that they are in their initial phase of beginning this project.

Joe continued saying that this would be available to everyone and it would be up to the resident to sign up if they were interested. Consolidated may even come to the Town of Jefferson to give a public presentation. Joe stated that currently Consolidated runs off older copper lines and this new one is called Fidium Fiber. Joe had been provided by Consolidated with the website www.fidiumfiber.com. Joe stated that you can visit this site and look at the menu for Jefferson to see pricing and available internet speeds. The introductory rate is \$35 - \$165 per month for the

first year. After one year, the rates increase to \$55 - \$190 depending on the plan selected. They also have an affordability program for persons needing assistance.

Norman asked if there was a need to continue the broadband capital reserve or could we dissolve it. Joe stated that he didn't know if we needed to continue, because this program provides broadband to the entire community. This had been the Broadband Committee's goal from the onset.

Kevin asked if any communications had happened with the Broadband Committee about this, and Joe stated he couldn't remember the last time there had been a meeting and effective now, he would be resigning from the Broadband Committee. Joe stated he is not interested in the Application sent to him.

Terri asked if we could put the information on the Town's website, and Joe responded that we could spread the word about Consolidated Communications' program and to provide the fidium fiber website. Joe suggested that we include any press releases along with the website.

Other Business:

- Select Board reviewed and initialed Unpaid Bills for February 24, 2023.
- Select Board reviewed and initialed General Fund January 2023 statement.
- Select Board reviewed and initialed ICS January 2023 statement.
- Select Board reviewed and initialed corrected Deposit January 19, 2023.
- Select Board reviewed and initialed Deposits for February 7, February 14, and February 22, 2023.
- Select Board approved the Jefferson Fireman's Association to utilize the gym and kitchen for Saturday, April 1, 2023, for a pancake breakfast at dinnertime event from 4 – 7pm. Terri mentioned that the kitchen floor drain should be flushed with water to avoid any offending odors when it has not been used on a regular basis. Terri also mentioned how great the kitchen looks at this time. Norman stated that the airway exchanger in the back room was an issue because when it had been a school the filters had not been changed in some time. Tim from Royal Electric had been working on it, and Norman did not know if it had needed a motor or not, and we should follow up on that. The shelving had been cut down to allow access and we need to make sure the air exchanger is working properly.

Kevin asked if there was any other business. Kate stated that a renewal pistol license had come in that afternoon. Since it had just come in, Norman stated that he would run the necessary background checks and to approve/deny at the next meeting.

Kate also brought up the welfare application that had been previously received in the office. Since the last meeting Amanda had emailed the applicant on February 15th, stating that she had seven days to provide the missing information, according to RSA 165. The applicant has not responded. Furthermore, the owner of the establishment that had been housing the applicant had called the office and stated that the applicant had been asked to leave and were no longer residing there. Kevin asked if a motion was necessary and Kate provided a copy of the RSA with the guidelines for noncompliance. **Selectman Terri Larcomb made a motion to deny the welfare**

application and Selectman Norman Brown seconded the motion. A roll call vote was conducted by Chairman Kevin Meehan: Terri Larcomb "Aye", Norman Brown "Aye" and Kevin Meehan "Aye"; and with no further discussion the motion was passed unanimously.

Kate stated that the Annual Report has been proofed and sent to the printers. 250 copies have been ordered. Last year 300 copies were ordered, 340 copies received and approximately 140 copies remain in the office. The Select Board also approved Kate's request to post the electronic copy of the annual report on the website to be immediately available to the public.

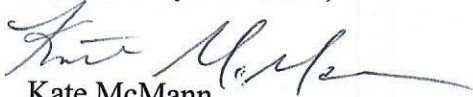
Norman stated that he had spoken to the Town's attorney today regarding the Primex claim for the building and primarily making sure that he understood that any new municipal building placed on the former Town Hall lot would need to be a sprinklered building with a cistern, something that was not required on the old building, costing an additional \$200,000-300,000. Norman stated that the Town's attorney is still trying to speak with Primex' attorney, who has been somewhat illusive. The attorney's office will keep us posted. Also, Norman wanted to ensure that these minutes reflect that the Town's attorney has been very impressed with the work that Amanda and Kate have been doing on this claim and that Primex' adjuster Karen Duval was also impressed with the work Kate and Amanda have been doing on this claim.

Public Input: None

Selectman Terri Larcomb made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 p.m. Selectman Norman Brown seconded the motion. A roll call vote was conducted by Chairman Kevin Meehan: Terri Larcomb "Aye", Norman Brown "Aye" and Kevin Meehan "Aye"; and with no further discussion the motion was passed unanimously.

*****Next Select Board meeting will be held on Monday, March 13, 2023 @ 7:00 p.m.*****

Respectfully submitted,



Kate McMann

Office Assistant to the Select Board