

TOWN OF JEFFERSON
SELECT BOARD
January 29, 2018

The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen for the Town of Jefferson was held at the Selectmen Office Monday January 29, 2018 at 7:00 pm

PRESENT: Tom Brady, Chair; Cindy Silver and Kevin Meehan, members comprising a quorum of the Board.

OTHERS PRESENT: Linda Cushman, Assistant to Selectmen; Mark Dubois, Highway Foreman; Jimmy Maurice

Tom Brady opened the regular meeting at 7:00 pm. The Highway and Transfer Station report was reviewed. The Treasurer was in to sign checks and pickup signed warrants.

Cindy Silver made a motion to accept the minutes of the January 22, 2018 Select Board meeting as presented. Kevin Meehan seconded the motion. The motion carries.

The accounts payable and payroll warrants were signed.

Bills were approved for payment February 5, 2018.

Mark Dubois reported that they had some brake downs last week but everything is up and running. The wiring harness was replaced on the Dodge.

Steve Gray of Portland North Truck Center is to be here Tuesday to discuss a possible 10-wheeler lease. Mark said that he is also talking with Fred at the Mack dealership. The Mack would be the best as far as convenience of service.

The Chair asked when are the culverts checked for freezing. Mark stated that they have checked the culverts and had to thaw some already. He checks culverts as needed.

The Valley Road is looking good right now. There may be a problem when things start to thaw because of the plugged culvert on the railroad bed. The water comes down from behind the Kellner property. In all reality the culvert is the responsibility of the rail trail system. The culvert that causes most of the problem is 150 to 200 feet east of the Jefferson Notch Road.

Linda was asked to prepare a letter to Chris Gamache of NH Bureau of Trails asking him to come in and talk to the Board regarding the culvert problem and a possible resolution.

Jimmy Maurice was in to update the Board on what he had found out regarding Spectrum. The cable system started as a through route from Bridgeton, ME. It has now been converted to a loop system so that connections can be made from any direction. The unfortunate thing is that since Spectrum took over from Time Warner the service has only gotten worse. The reason why the phone service is available to anyone is because in the federal regulations a phone land line is considered "provider of last resort."

Mr. Maurice said that he reached out to Carol Miller at the State. She was very knowledgeable and more than willing to come in and talk to the Board. Ms. Miller had commented that in some communities the franchise fees had been set aside to help expand service in the community.

The cost of adding service is done pole to pole not linear as stated in the contract. The cost depends on who owns the pole. Some poles are owned by Eversource, Fairpoint and Spectrum. Mr. Maurice says that he believes that a telecommunication attorney needs to be at the table when discussing the renewal.

Mr. Maurice said that his next step is to talk to someone in advertising at Spectrum. He believes that Jefferson could be used as an advertising point for who Spectrum is working with a community to expand service. This would be better than negative publicity.

Cindy asked what the cost would be for a home owner to connect. Mr. Maurice said that in most cases it is about \$29.95 per package for 2-years.

Mr. Maurice was thanked for the information.

Linda was asked to write a letter to Carol Miller asking her to come to a Board meeting to discuss the renewal process. The letter should be sent certified mail.

The Board reviewed the updated budget information that they had requested.

Cindy made a motion to approve a 50-cent per hour wage increase for Jimmey Howland and to apply the 2.2% COLA. Kevin seconded the motion. Motion carries.

Cindy made a motion to increase the Fire Chief hourly wage from \$12.91 to \$15.00 per hour. Kevin seconded the motion. The motion carries.

Kevin made a motion to approve a 2.2% increase to all other employees except the new hire(he received an increase in December). Cindy seconded the motion. Motion carries.

It was asked if there was any information regarding the Old Corner Store and their request to use the water at the skating rink. No. Linda was asked to contact the Nelson's.

The chair said that he would like to see this question put on the ballot so everyone has an opportunity to vote on the question. Linda questioned whether that would be possible. She will contact the attorney for advise.

The Board stated that the budget and warrant as presented would be presented at the budget hearing.

The Chair reported that the County is working on their budget. They do not have the surplus that had been anticipated. All department heads have been asked to review and cut their budgets.

The Chair also mentioned that one of the County Reps said there is a bill being presented that will do away with timber tax. There is also a bill being presented to repeal the taxation of camper trailers.

The taxation of utilities is being presented under a new number. This time the bill would use the companies net value for taxation.

The next meeting will be February 5, 2018 at 7:00 pm.

Kevin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Cindy seconded the motion. Motion carries.

The meeting adjourned at 8:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Cushman