

TOWN OF JEFFERSON
SELECT BOARD
March 11, 2019

The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen for the Town of Jefferson was held at the Select Board Office Monday March 11 2019 at 7:00 pm

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Linda Cushman, Assistant to Selectmen; Jeff Young, Asst. Moderator; Lynn Holland, Moderator;

Cindy Silver opened the regular Select Board meeting at 7:03. The Highway and Transfer Station report was reviewed.

The Chair led the Pledge of Allegiance

The warrants were signed for the payroll and accounts payable.

Minute Approval:

Tom Brady made a motion to accepted the minutes of the March 4, 2019 meeting as presented. Kevin Meehan seconded the motion. The motion carries.

Public input:

Lynn Holland asked if the Board saw any issue with the warrant articles that may come up at the Town Meeting. No, everything should be self exclamatory

Reports of Departments/Boards:

Highway Department: Linda Cushman said she was not sure if Mark Dubois would be in tonight. He had planned to get the snow banks pushed back in preparation of any excess rain coming in later this week. Cindy said that he reached out to Mark to plow out the u-shape entrance at the Odd Fellows Hall and sand.

Office: Linda reported that the auditors were in Wednesday and Thursday. There was a party that came in looking for information about purchasing property in a flood plan and what the regulations were to build.

Cindy asked if there had been any people come in looking for information on the survey. Linda said no, only a couple of people asking an opinion.

Review of Budget & any Prep for Town Meeting:

Jeff Young questioned the amount of funds to be raised for the Select Board salary. He thought the amount should be \$3000 not \$1500. It was explained that the increase is only \$500 per Board member.

Lynn Holland said that she feels that the Select Board should be getting more of a salary. The School Board only meets twice a month and they get considerable more. Tom said that the Board was uncomfortable about asking for an increase at this time. We didn't want people think that we weren't happy to serve the job. Cindy said that they aren't here for the money. Lynn went on to explain her reasoning behind thinking the Board should be paid more. Tom said that the Board takes a couple of Mondays off or reschedule to another night because He can not make a Monday meeting. The last time there was an increase was eighteen or nineteen years ago. Tom said that perhaps if the compensation was greater there would be people willing to participate. A lot of people can not afford to give up there time. Cindy said that it really isn't about the dollar amount, we are here serving the community. Cindy said that is why she is here because she wants to be. Lynn said that the School Board she believes get \$2500 and they only meet during the school year. Linda said that the Board had surveyed the area town and are in line with the other towns. Jeff said that he would like to thank the Select Board for their service. Tom asked if the Board had written the article different could they have put in for an increase over a period of years. Yes, Lynn said that it would have been done in increments.

Tom asked about article 12 asking for the \$40,000 to do the cost analysis, can this article be increased. Lynn said no, however it could be decreased. Cindy said if this kind of vote if there was an amendment would have to be done by secret ballot. No, it could be done voting with the card system. Lynn said the only time she wanted a secret ballot was when there was an article that people might not feel comfortable voting.

Tom asked for clarification regarding the operating budget. Knowing that the Board can do line item transfer, its meaningless to reduce one item. Lynn said that is correct. Tom said that the budget can not be increased, however someone could reduce the budget. Does a reduction have to specify where a decrease would be. Lynn said no.

Regarding the last article for any other business, this article is for anything except a money item. Lynn states yes.

Cindy asked with the articles as presented what would the tax effect be. Linda said that it is estimated to be an increase of about 70-cents per thousand.

Old Business:

Linda asked if Cindy had gotten any information about the library suggestion box that was wanted to be put in the office. Cindy said that when she asked the Library Trustee Chair said that there had been a few people that said they would like to make a suggestion but did not want to be seen putting anything into the box. There will be a suggestion box at the Library as well as the office. Cindy said that she told the Trustee Chair that putting a box in the office was fine. Kevin said that the only question that he did have was as to why they wanted on here, and that question has been answered.

Tom said that he did have a suggestion regarding a newsletter. He asked that it be presented and approved by the Board before publishing. Cindy said that would be done. Cindy did say that it would be a little bit before she had something put together.

Cindy said that she will pickup the posters from North Country Council to have on display at Town Meeting.

Public input –

Lynn Holland said she just had a comment. Under Roberts Rules there is no such thing as “old business” it should be “unfinished business”.

Non-Public(if needed): -None

Other Business -

The 2020 Regional Transportation Plan forwarded from Donna Laurent, Planning Board Chair looking for input on future plans. Cindy said that she is very interested in this and would like to meet with the Planning Board. Tom suggested that Kevin discuss this at the next Planning Board meeting and report back to the Select Board.

Kevin said that a couple of questions came up at the Fireman's meeting. The Fireman would like to use the school building and kitchen for their upcoming chili cook off and breakfast. They had asked if there would be able to have chairs brought to the building, they would like to build some shelving in the room off the kitchen for their supplies. Also they would like to put a fryer and griddle in the kitchen. In the process of doing this the fire suppressant system would have to be extended. The Fireman would be providing the fryer and griddle. The Fireman's Association would be donating the griddle and fryer they just would like permission to do this. Tom asked if they wanted the Town to extend the fire suppressant system. Kevin said he was not sure at this time they were more asking for permission. Kevin said that he had told them that the Board would not be ready to make any decision until after Town Meeting. Linda asked if the cost analysis hasn't been done to make sure that everything is going to pull together and work, how can you or want to go in and expend money not knowing what the outcome of your study is. Kevin said that he mentioned this to the Fireman and this is what they said. Cindy said that the flip side of this is the Town owns the building why not use it. Linda asked why would anyone want to put money into something if the study comes back and shows you can't afford the building. Kevin said that Fireman said it is their money, they understand but are making an investment for them. Tom said that the opinion that he has heard from the majority of people around town and if you look at the survey it was over 70% that wanted the library there and over 60% wanted the town office there. And those were surveys that were sent out to every registered voter and over 51% were returned. Tom said that if you move the library and town offices into that building you are not looking a huge amount of money. You all ready know what the heating cost are going to be. Knowing this Tom said that it would seem that this is the path that you are heading. This is not making a decision. Tom said that he believes there would be a huge uproar if this path isn't followed. Linda said that one of the questions that was also raised in the surveys was people wanted to know what the cost is going to be. Tom said that in his opinion that people who were opposed to the school are just looking for another way to stop it. The survey show they are the minority. Cindy said that the 51% of the surveys that were returned showed the top three tiers being the library, town offices and community center. Those speak volumes, the Board can't forget we have 50% of the results. Tom said and those surveys are suppose to be guiding the Board, you can't ignore these. Cindy said that she personally does not oppose if the fireman association wants to invest in a community center which was the third tier. Cindy said that Linda did have a good point, but as a Board they need to think about the results that came back. Tom said that the Board should wait to see what is said at the Town Meeting. Tom said that the cost analysis is to move those other facilities in there and it is not saying that nothing can be done there before the study is done. Tom said that it makes no sense to heat a building and not use it. Cindy said that for the record the Boy Scouts would be using the building at the end of March.

Cindy asked Kevin if the fireman mentioned anything about refrigerators. No, Kevin said that

mentioned it but thought that what was there was good for now. Cindy said that the bottom in the refrigerator is not secure. That is the big refrigerator.

Tom said that he would like to go back to article 12 regarding the cost analysis. He said that he has had people come to him asking why spend \$40,000 for a study, just take that money and move in. Can this article be amended. You can not change the general purpose of an article. Tom said that he mentioned this just in case it came up.

Cindy asked Linda to add the fireman's request to next weeks agenda.

Public Input: None

Non-Public RSA-91-A:39(if needed): None

The next meeting will be March 18, 2019.

Tom made a motion to adjourn. Kevin seconded the motion. Motion carries.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,