

TOWN OF JEFFERSON  
SELECT BOARD  
April 2, 2018

The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen for the Town of Jefferson was held at the Selectmen Office Monday April 2, 2018 at 7:00 pm

PRESENT: Cindy Silver, Chair; Kevin Meehan(7:05) and Tom Brady members comprising a quorum of the Board.

OTHERS PRESENT: Linda Cushman, Assistant to Selectmen; Carol Miller, Dir of Broadband Tech.; Jimmy Maurice

Cindy Silver opened the regular Select Board meeting at 7:00 pm. The Highway and Transfer Station report was reviewed.

Kevin Meehan made a motion to accept the minutes of the March 26, 2018 Select Board meeting as presented. Tom Brady seconded the motion. The motion carries.

The accounts payable and payroll warrants were signed.

Bills were approved for payment April 9, 2018.

Mark Dubois had reported that the EGR on the Int'l was the problem with the truck. It is under warrant and will be replaced.

Carol Miller thanked the Board for inviting her to the meeting. She stated that she had reviewed the Town's franchise agreement. She would suggest that the number of homes within the per mile scope be reduced perhaps to 25. This is more in line with what other rural towns are doing. It was commented that by decreasing the number of homes per mile would come more into line with the Town's subdivision regulations which requires 200-foot frontage. Request can be made for as little as a ¼ mile for expansion efforts to meet the contract. The other suggestion would be to increase the aerial drops to 150-feet. The big item that Ms. Miller suggest is to collect the franchise fees. This fee is usually 5% of each service package. It was stated that the fee was not collected originally because of the pass on cost to the consumer. It would in most cases be about \$2.00. Ms. Miller stated that in some towns this fee is just put into the general fund. She would suggest that a reserve account be established to ad in future expansion. This would allow for coverage in areas that do not meet the requirements of the franchise agreement. It was suggested to ask for a map from Spectrum that shows were they have actual service connections. This could be overlaid on the Town map. Ask for the number of customers currently on the system. You should be able to request a cost figure to complete wiring the entire Town.

Ms. Miller said that there may be grants through USDA that could help get expansion of the broadband. Kate Miller is an attorney that works for Donahue, Tucker & Ciandella, who works with franchise renewals.

The rate that is charged for private installation of broadband should be at the cost of time and materials.

The other item that was discussed was the taxation of the cable lines within the public right-of-ways.

This is allowable by statute.

Ms. Miller informed the Board of a meeting being held in Plymouth in May. Ms. Miller said that she would be happy to come back to another meeting if the Board wanted.

A building permit for T-Mobile was approved. They will be putting antennas on the tower approved for Varsity Wireless. The purpose for the building permit is to track the ground equipment which is taxable to the owner of the equipment.

Bids for financing of the purchase the new fire truck was presented:

Mascoma Bank - \$190,000 for 10-years fixed rate 3.85%

Passumpsic Saving Bank - \$190,000 for 10-years fixed rate 2.5%

Bank of New Hampshire - \$190,000 for 10-years fixed rate 3.68%

Kevin made a motion to accept the bid from Passumpsic Savings Bank and authorize the Chair to sign. Tom seconded the motion. Motion carries.

Tom asked how the bids were received. All bids came in via email. Tom said that in the future he wanted to see all bids be received via the USPS, marked "bid" and to be opened by the Chair. The Board agreed and this will be the policy for all future bids.

Kevin stated that he had checked out the fuel tank at the highway garage and it appears to meet all requirements. There was a discussion as to whether it really would be cost effective to purchase fuel at the garage. Tom asked if possible to get the figures as to how much fuel is gotten for use at the garage for the backhoe and grader. What was the cost of the fuel, and how much time is spent getting fuel.

Cindy informed the Board that she has reached to the Dalton Select Board to find out how they handled the school transfer from the School District. She said that there are several questions she has. She would like to know if the School District is going to remove the asbestos tiles in the hallway, is the building going to be cleaned and disinfected as usual. One question that needs to be asked is about the septic system and well locations.

The next meeting will be April 9, 2018 at 7:00 pm.

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,