

TOWN OF JEFFERSON
SELECT BOARD
July 15, 2019

The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen for the Town of Jefferson was held at the Select Board Office Monday July 15, 2019 at 7:00 pm

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Linda Cushman, Assistant to Selectmen; Winnie Ward, Adele Woods, Debbie Dubois, Nancy DeCoursey of the Historical Society

Tom Brady opened the regular Select Board meeting at 7:06 pm. The Highway and Transfer Station report was reviewed.

Tom led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Input:

Adele Woods said that they were in tonight as a follow up of the email that was sent to the Board back in June. The Historical Society is looking to relocate and would like to discuss with the Board the possibility of the Historical Society being able to move into the old school building. Adele said that they would like to be considered as a possible inclusion to the building. Tom said to give the group an update on the school the Select Board met last Monday night with a couple of companies to begin the process of looking at everything seeing what makes sense and looking at possible sources. A company out of Concord was selected. The Board is very excited with the company that was selected. Cindy said that the company has worked with other municipalities before with regards to vacant buildings. Some that had been vacant much longer than our building. They had some very positive comments and great ideas. Nancy DeCoursey said a fresh set of eyes is good. It was asked what the company would be looking at. Cindy said everything and the Historical Society was included. The company will be charged with looking at the old school building, then looking at the other buildings the Town has and see the ramification of moving certain things into the school, what happens to the other building. How could they be repurposed, what could be made available for funds to do things, are there grants available so that the taxes payers would have to pick up the cost of some of the changes. They have some really good points. It was asked if at this time was there a timeline for moving forward. The Board is trying to get everything done so that it can be presented at the March 2020 Town Meeting, without rushing anything. The company that was chosen was talking about the charrett program and Plan NH. There were a lot of great ideas mentioned and thinking outside the box. It was asked if there was a concern about the Master Plan being so old. That did not seem to be an issue. There are many other towns that do not keep the Master Plan updated as recommended, basically because there have been no changes desired. Something that was mentioned about master plans was trying to take a large plan that isn't read and condensing it to a readable plan. Nancy said that it had been commented that there may be a savings if the feasibility study and Master Plan was done at the same time. Cindy said that actually this is perfect timing with everything that is going on. Both companies were impressed with the number of surveys that were returned and that three things were overwhelmingly brought out within the survey. Tom said that he asked of the parties that were interviewing with the Board if getting the results of the three purposes being so high in the survey is that a result of the age of our town. If we are thinking about our town going ahead in the future how do we attract young there is

nothing mentioned in the survey that covers this do you ignore this or do you try to think about this. All the parties were eager to address this issue, and attract young families has to be looked at. Winnie Ward said that she was concerned because in the survey the Historical Society was not mentioned. The Historical Society is being considered in the reuse of the building. Adele said that yes the Historical Society building is historic but not all historic buildings can be saved. The Society has for the past forty years tried to save the building, now it is time to face reality. Yes it is on the NH register of historical places, however that really does not have any meaning as just about any building over 50 years old and be on the registry. The company will be looking at all options not just the three that came out in the survey. It has come to the point that it is not feasible to try and keep the Historical Society building. Yes the building looks beautiful against the mountains and with the foliage. There is no parking, no plumbing everything is out of date. The building has a mold problem, it is not heated. Adele said that the Historical Society has alerted the Methodist Church letting them know that the Society is looking to relocate and the building will be returned to the Church. The deed clearly says that if the Historical Society leaves that the building goes back to the United Methodist Church Conference. In anticipation of leaving the building Adele said that they are trying to clean out things, there are lists of what is on loan and what was donated. The parties that have things on loan will be contacted to find out what they want done with the items on loan. The Historical Society is downsizing they know that has to be done. This will take some time to accomplish as there is only a handful of active members, the condition of the building and no heat in the building. Tom said that he has heard from several people that the Historical Society should either be relocated to the school building or the Town Hall because either building has heat and bathrooms. It was said that the Historical Society budget does not include heat because there is a limited budget and most of which is spent for insurance. Nancy said that they could not afford to heat a building year round like the Town Hall, and don't have the members to staff it. It was asked if the Historical Society was looking to be taken over by the Town. The members said no. Adele said that if this was a requirement then they would address the issue. At this point they just need a location. Adele said that the Historical Society is a 503 C organization. Tom asked if the Society has been able to raise funds throughout the year to cover your costs. Adele said that the annual budget runs about three to four thousand dollars, with half of that going for insurance. Adele said that the Society would be able to contribute to the building expenses. Adele said that between membership dues, donations, and a couple of events that raise money the Society should be able to maintain this. Cindy asked how many members are there. About 50 this is a small increase over the past membership. Adele said that if they had a presence year round even just a half day the membership could grow. Cindy stated that she has heard from some that say it would be great to see the Historical Society next to the library. You would have the library to do research, then have the Society there. Debbie Dubois said that the Society has spent thousands of dollars just trying to maintain the current building. This just zaps the treasury and the members energy. The basement has been worked on for twelve years to sure up the first floor. Tom did say that the old stove that had been in the library has been brought back to the school building for storage. Tom stated that if the process is to go forward and do something at the school is he has something that he would like to see in front of the school. That is a clock tower, because the original clock tower that was on the school in the village is with the Brady family. It was given to his dad fifty years ago. It has been stored, just hoping that some day it could be restored. The original clock faces are there that could be restored, the frame structure is a Seth Thomas tower clock. It was said that Littleton may be able to help as they just did the clock in the Opera House. Tom said that his parents wanted to store the clock in hopes that some day something would happen here. Cindy said that it is nice to see all the pieces come together.

Adele asked moving forward how do they stay connected with the Board. There will be a lot of communication once the feasibility study is done, there will be meetings and that type of thing informing the residents of what is happening. There will be committees put together, as the Board goes through the steps in the process they will keep everyone informed. It was stated at the meeting last

week by North Country Council that Jefferson is in a unique position and can be planning for the next 50-years. Many towns are in this position and just ignore it, Jefferson is doing something about it and have a chance to set the Town up for the future. Nancy said that the Firemen are using the building for their breakfasts, can others use the building in the mean time for the same type of things. She was told it would depend and the request would have to come to the Board. There were some people that attended the breakfast that had never been before and had never been in the school before. Parking was a little crazy. Kids were able to play on the playground while parents were able to sit and chat, no one had to rush and make ways for others coming in. The people cooking said that it was much easier than before.

Nancy said that just for a heads up to the Board in the Historical Society charter there is a clause that says if the Society disbands that all items belonging to the Society reverts to the Town. It was said that the Society is down sizing. It would be ideal if they were to go to the school building to have two rooms, one for storage and one for exhibits. Tom said that if the Society was to move to the school building that they would keep their organization and do it as a lease type agreement could be explored.

There so many possibilities for the school building such as an emergency shelter and commend center should there be some kind of disaster. This would open up the possibilities of getting grants for things like a generator.

Debbie Dubois said on a completely different subject, she wanted to mention how nice the Riverton Cemetery looks. The Town has put a lot of time and money into the cemeteries and it looks very nice. The stones have been cleaned and repaired it really looks nice. Tom said the Town people are the ones that approve the funds so this can be done. Debbie said that so many towns don't take care of their cemeteries like that. Tom said he hasn't been on the Board that long but the Board had a process going that Norman Brown had a lot to do with. Tom did say that it was so nice to hear his mother say when going by the Starr King Cemetery how nice the stones looked after being cleaned. The folks doing the work deserve a lot of credit for what they do. Tom said that it is nice to know that people do notice what has been done.

Minute Approval:

Cindy made a motion to accepted the minutes of the June 20, 2019 meeting as presented. Tom seconded the motion. The motion carries.

It was requested due to the length of the July 8, 2019 minutes that review and approval be put off until the July 22nd meeting.

The warrants were signed for the payroll and accounts payable.

Invoices were approved for payment July 22, 2019.

Reports of Departments/Boards:

Highway Department: NONE

Linda did stated that she had gotten a request this afternoon to have the Frank Kenison Road graded and chloride put down. Cindy said that she said that she wanted to mention that as well.

Tom said that he had a question. In years past that the roads were usually done at least once a season.

Now it seems like it is once. Is there a reason for the change. Some of the smaller roads are only done twice a year because they don't get the traffic. Tom said he was wondering is it because of the work that is being done on the roads that they don't need it. There is better gravel on the roads. Linda said that is part of the reason. Mark Dubois had told the Board earlier that the work that was done is beginning to pay off.

Cindy said that she had a question also, the Board had asked Mark at some point to present a schedule of road work to be done. Linda said that at a previous meeting Mark had told the Board that there was no work being scheduled other than regular maintenance, because of the extra work that had been done to the roads.

Office:

Linda said that that the NH Retirement was filed, answered questions again regarding building permits and subdivisions and that type of things. A good share of time was spent getting the minutes done.

The letters were drafted for response to the two companies that were in for the RFQ interview.

Unfinished Business:

The Board approved the letter notifying ADG that they had be chosen to do the feasibility study.

A letter to EH Danson was also approved notifying them of the Board decision to work with ADG.

The Board requested that Linda sign the letters on behalf of the Chair, Kevin Meehan.

Linda reported that she had not gotten in touch with CAI regarding the quote for doing the tax map update. The timber tax bills and the bill to Santa's Village did not get done. They will be done this week.

It was asked if there was any new information regarding the Town Garden. No nothing at this time.

New Business:

The Board will review the resumes that have been received for the position of Assistant to the Select Board at the July 22nd meeting and set up interviews. Tom suggested that interviews should all be done the same day.

Tom asked if there would be a space to do interviews next Wednesday, Thursday or Saturday. Yes.

Public Input: None

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

Any Other Business:

Linda reported that Greg Gordon had call saying that there was a rumor going around saying that the

Town had shut down the Shalo for the summer. This is not true. Mr. Gordon said that the Town did everything possible to work with him, the inspection was fair. He just is not able at this time to make the necessary changes at this time. Mr. Gordon has also spoke with Chris Milligan of the Fire Department to convey this to him as well.

Mark Dubois said that he had gotten Mud Pond road graded for the USF&W. Dave Govatski said the road looks great, better than when it was put in. The Board approved a bill for 5 hours of work at \$75 per hour to be sent to the USF&W as agreed..

Cindy said that she has a question on Josselyn Sports Turf bill for mowing at the Forrest Hicks Field. The bills states May mowing for \$175. How many times was the mowing done. Linda was asked to contact Mike to find out how many times the field was mowed.

The building permit for Rodney Monahan for a 12x24 building was approved. The BOA has approved the setback variance.

As of today there has been no response from Mr. Fraser regarding 959 Presidential Highway

The next meeting will be July 22, 2019.

Adjournment:

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:31 pm.

Respectfully submitted,