

TOWN OF JEFFERSON  
SELECT BOARD  
July 30, 2018

The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen for the Town of Jefferson was held at the Selectmen Office Monday July 30, 2018 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; Michelle Moren-Grey & Danica Malone, NCC: Liz Milligan, Jeannie Kenison, Norman Brown, Bette Bovio, Leslie Seppala

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 July 23, 2018 Select Board meeting as presented. Tom Brady seconded the motion. Motion carries.

The accounts payable and payroll warrants were signed.

Invoices were approved for payment August 6, 2018.

Michelle Moren-Grey of NCC stated that she had been asked to come to the meeting to talk with the Board about the survey they were putting together regarding the school property. Ms. Grey asked how the Town came by the school property.

It was explained that the WMRSD has been looking to close the school for about 10-years and last fall the School Board voted to close the school. In March of this year the district towns voted to close the school and offer it to Jefferson. In June the Select Board held a Town Meeting to see if the residents wanted to accept the property. The vote in favor to accept the property(86 to 16). It was also explained that not everyone voting in favor of accepting the property want to keep it.

At this point the Board is trying to put together a survey to find out what the residents and tax payers want to do with the property. The Board is looking for guidance with the survey, having cottage type meetings and perhaps someone to facilitate these meetings.

Ms. Grey said that they had gone over the survey that has been prepared. What is the Town looking to do with the property. Is this a redevelopment project. Why is the question regarding land on the survey. It was explained that this is the property that was purchased for a new library on the corner of Route 2 and North Road.

It was explained the first question to do you want to keep the property or sell it. If it is determined to keep the property then what would be the use of the property.

Ms. Grey was asked to tell the Board what her expertise is at NCC. NCC is the regional planning committee which gives towns access to NCC programs. Ms. Grey said that her background is in economic development with a background in business. She went on to tell some of the projects that she has done as well as other projects that NCC has done for different communities. They work with DOT doing road scope maintenance, parking surveys, and technical assistance for Master Plans and

Planning Boards. They work a lot with the UNH Cooperative Extension Service. NCC with US Department of Commerce with regards to Economic Development. They maintain and update the economic development for the area every 5 years.

Ms. Grey said that one of her objectives is to get public engagement. This may mean coming up with a way to reach out to the people that normally don't attend meetings. Round-table discussions are a good source especially if combined with other local events. There needs to be a final consensus.

Who will be receiving the survey? Residents, taxpayers or both. How many households are there?

The Board stated that residents and taxpayer both had been considered for the mailing.

In reviewing some of the questions Ms. Grey said that some of the questions were geared toward community development. What is the plans for the property.

If the building is used as a "town complex" what happens to the current buildings. What are the challenges.

It was asked if there is a time frame as to when the Board wants all this done.

It is our hopes to get the surveys out in late August. Ideally it would be nice to have something to present to the voters at the March 2019 Town Meeting.

It may be necessary to have multiple meetings to flush this out and narrow down responses. How do you track the surveys, and follow up on ones not returned.

Ms. Grey asked the Board how involved they wanted to be? Do you want a consultant to do the follow up.

Cindy stated that the Board wants to stay objective. It may be a good idea if anyone wanted more information that they call or contact a consultant.

If Jefferson have a revitalization group or economic development committee, some of these things could be done by these groups.

Tom stated that this is a major decision to be made. Time needs to taken to get it right. It would be nice if something could be brought to the voters in March 2019. Depending on the responses more time may be needed.

Ms. Grey said that they would take all the information back to the office and put together a scope of work to present to the Board. They will also look into any possible funding that may be available to help fund this project.

Cindy asked Ms. Grey to stay so to here what the Library Trustees thoughts are regarding the Library.

Liz Milligan said that the Trustees haven't set down as a group yet to discuss their ideas. It is planned for their next meeting. Liz stated that she believes the Trustees are willing to work wherever the library works, whether at the school or a new building on the new lot.

Norman stated that he feels the school building is a poor spot. A Library in a smaller scale could be

built on the new lot. He said that what he has gotten for feedback regarding a new library was to cost to build was to high. It would be possible to use the school building for the fire department. The building may be to big but a cost analysis could be done to determine if some of the building should be removed.

Bette stated that maintenance cost need to be provided. What are the annual cost. Jeannie agreed. We need to know some of this information. Is it possible to get someone into the building to evaluate what the expenses may be to convert to building into offices and library.

Norman questioned the use of only 11 tons of pellets where he used 14 tons in his two family house. Norman told the Board that Maine Energy of Bethel, Maine should be able to provide a print out of what was used at the school last year.

A building permit for Nat and Judy Friend was reviewed. The permit was approved for a 40x6 deck.

Linda reported that Cabot Ronish is the new Highway Supervisor for Whitefield. He has contacted the Office to introduce himself and sounds interested in working on the Hazen Road issues.

Jimmy Maurice was in during the day Monday to let the Board know that the NY PUC has informed Spectrum to stop service in NY. The State of NY has said that they would name a replacement company not Spectrum. Of course this is back in court for an injunction. Mr. Maurice said it will be interesting to see what the outcome is.

The next meeting will be August 6, 2018 at 7:00 pm.

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,