

TOWN OF JEFFERSON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
October 19, 2015

The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen for the Town of Jefferson was held at the Selectmen Office Monday October 19, 2015 at 6:30 pm.

PRESENT: Norman Brown, Chairman; and Kevin Meehan, members comprising a quorum of the Board.

OTHERS PRESENT: Linda Cushman, Assistant to Selectmen; James Brady, School Board and Dr. Anastasia, Superintendent; Mary Gross, Tax Collector

Norman Brown opened the regular meeting at 6:35 pm. The Board reviewed and approved the bills for payment next week. The Highway and Transfer Station report was reviewed. The warrants were signed. Terri Larcomb was in to pickup signed warrants and sign checks.

Kevin Meehan made a motion to accept the minutes of the October 5, 2015 Selectmen Meeting. Norman seconded the motion, the motion carries.

Dr. Anastasia passed out a fact sheet outlining the Strategic Plan which is a 5-year plan that outlined the educational direction for the District. It has been 5-years since the plan was developed and is time to revise it. Dr. Anastasia said that in the planning process that all aspects, evaluating all programs will be done. Norman said that the CTE program last year was presented well, however with tough times and concerns as to whether federal money would be available it did not pass. The program may need to go deeper with less offerings.

There are concerns about the closing of the Jefferson School. There are only 35 Jefferson students attending the school and 37 students from other towns. Dr. Anastasia was asked about other district uses for the building. She said that central office needs to be centrally located and would not work in Jefferson. It was suggested that charter schooling could be done out of that building, perhaps the CTE program could be housed there. Dr. Anastasia said that these were good ideas that deserve some consideration. If the school was to close it will not happen without sufficient notice.

It is hoped that the Strategic Plan committee would be in place and have recommendations available by March, however it is more likely to be later in the year.

Mary Gross was in to ask the Selectmen what they wanted to do the Paul Deignan property. The 2012 tax balance has not been paid. The balance is about \$120.00. Norman said that he would do make some inquiries to see if there were anyone that could assist Mr. Deignan. At this time the Selectmen do not want to do anything. Mary said that the Flavin property is in the process of settling the estate and should have this taken care of soon.

The Selectmen reviewed the letter from Whitefield Selectmen regarding the care of the Hazen Road. Whitefield has suggested that Jefferson do the summer maintenance performing ditching, trimming and pot hole repair. Whitefield would perform winter maintenance, with Jefferson doing occasional snow

removal if they are in the area and the road is in need of plowing. Regarding refurbishing maintenance Whitefield would cover 60% and Jefferson 40% of cost not covered by State funding, and Jefferson will assist and work with Whitefield to pursue any and all State assistance. It is suggested that the agreement between the two towns be for 2-years with a provision to renew and/or revise.

Norman and Kevin said that as for the agreement they would like to have a 3-year agreement. Norman said that there has been nothing said about bring the road up to date where nothing has been done for several years. The percentage for refurbishing is out of proportion for the amount of taxes that are collected per town. Norman said that he would draft a letter to respond to the Town of Whitefield. In the mean time Norman said that he has asked Mark Dubois to ditch and trim the brush back on the road.

Norman said that he will be meeting with the District I Engineer, Phil Beaulieu to discuss the Stag Hollow Road as well as Cherry Mt. Road and Airport Road(Hazen Rd.)

There was a letter from the DOT District I office they will be addressing the issue of the catch basins in the next few weeks.

Mark Dubois has informed the Selectmen that Beattie may be interested in the bridge that has been removed on the Ingerson Road. Beattie had to dig the holes for Eversource to set the poles. There may be an additional charge from Beattie for this work. Eversource should not be billing the Town for moving the poles as they were and are still in the right-of-way.

The Selectmen reviewed the proposed tax rate for 2015. If 38,034 dollars from surplus is used to reduce the rate the rate will be the same as the 2014 rate, \$20.37. The town rate would be 1.68 (3-cent increase), county rate 4.65(11-cents increase), local school 11.78(7-cent increase), state school 2.26(down 21-cents).

Kevin made a motion to use \$38,034 from surplus and keep the 2015 tax rate at \$20.37. Norman seconded the motion, motion carries.

The next meeting will be October 26, 2015, at 6:30 pm.

Kevin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Norman seconded the motion. The motion carries.

Being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted