

TOWN OF JEFFERSON  
SELECT BOARD  
November 6, 2017

The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen for the Town of Jefferson was held at the Selectmen Office Monday, November 6, 2017 at 7:00 pm

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Linda Cushman, Assistant to Selectmen; Terri Larcomb, Treasurer; Dave Ernsberger, Eric Higgins

Tom Brady opened the regular meeting at 7:02 pm. The Highway and Transfer Station report was reviewed.

Cindy Silver made a motion to accept the minutes of the October 23, 2017 Select Board meeting. Kevin Meehan seconded the motion. Motion carries.

Kevin made a motion to accept the minutes of the October 26, 2017 meeting for the purpose of setting the tax rate. Cindy seconded the motion. Motion carries.

The accounts payable and payroll warrants were signed.

The invoices were reviewed and approved for payment November 13, 2017.

Dave Ernsberger was in to discuss Jefferson rejoining the Mt. Washington Regional Airport Commission. Mr. Ernsberger is the rep for Littleton. Mr. Ernsberger passed out an information package to the Board. There is a current 8-member commission. Dalton, Lancaster, Whitefield, Littleton and Sugar Hill make up the current commission. Mr. Ernsberger gave a history of how the airport was started. Mr. Ernsberger stated that they realize that in the past management was an issue. Things have changed. The IMA has been updated. They have installed a camera system that identifies planes using the airport so to be able to collect landing fees. The revenue from the sale of fuel is generated 10-cents per gallon. The runway lights need to be replaced. This is estimated to cost \$27,000. They are talking with Eversource to see if there is any assistance from them. Also Northern Borders Commission has offered \$200,000 to construct a new hanger. They are looking at State and Federal Grants. If the runway can be extended enough to allow jets to use the airport this would be another means of income.

Mr. Ernsberger was asked if Carroll and Bethlehem were being approached about joining. They are two towns that benefit the most from the airport. There is a presentation planned for both towns.

Vertical Ventures is a helicopter company that is housed at the airport. The commission is looking at trying to bring in more business ventures. It appears that there is an agreement close to being reached with the National Guard.

Chairman Brady thanked Mr. Ernsberger for an excellent presentation. It was very informative. Mr. Ernsberger was asked who does the snow removal. The Town of Whitefield does the majority for exchange of soil. The airport does also have some of its own equipment.

Kevin Meehan asked what the fee schedule was for the use of the airport. Income is generated from refueling. It is about a 25/75 split between refueling and renters. What is the benefit to Jefferson.

Eric Higgins said that in his opinion he would not recommend the Town rejoining until Bethlehem and Carroll joined as they are each a large benefactor of the airport. The funding method needs to be revised. It was suggested that something more in the line of 50% population and 50% destination.

The IMA has to be updated. The runway should be extended to get jet service. There is more profit that can be made with the sale of jet fuel. It was asked about the noise of jet aircraft. Eric said that the aircraft that would use the airport would not create anymore noise that what is all ready there. The jet fuel can be federally funded.

Eric said that he did not believe there would be enough customer service to warrant a car rental service. It was asked if the Whitefield Board of Selectmen were on board with the future plans.

It was asked how many hangars were rented to businesses. Presby, Jay Enis, Vertical Ventures, and 2 or 3 companies from the Littleton Industrial Park. The FFA regulates the use of hangars and they can not be used for storage of other items. The Commission is in the process of getting the hangars that are being used for other storage cleaned out.

Mr. Ernsberger said that the biggest benefit of the airport was economic development.

Cindy commented that she was all for economic development, however at this time she did not believe that the town could support joining the commission, to premature at this time. A strategic plan would be beneficial to review.

Tom stated that he understands regional economic development, but he does not feel that at this time he can ask residents to support the airport when the towns that benefit the most are not supporting the airport.

Linda presented a proposal for health insurance from Health Trust. The rates for a plan basically the same as the NHIT plan is \$100 per person a month less expensive. This would be a \$2400 per year savings for the Town.

Cindy made a motion to accept the proposal from Health Trust for health insurance coverage and cancel the coverage with NHIT. Kevin seconded the motion. Motion carries.

A building permit for Pure Joy Properties was approved. The will be removing the store building and replacing it with a 40x40 store and laundry.

The building permit for Ronald Tocci will be held until approval from DES has been received.

Pistol permits were signed for Cheryl Lottero and Cheryl Finch.

The Capital Improvement Plan was reviewed. The Transfer Station garage and backhoe will be removed, ballfield will be placed on the completed list as well as the emergency generator. Under Town infrastructure sidewalks will be added with a cost figure of \$250,000, funding from grants.

The next meeting will be November 13, 2017 at 7:00 pm.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,