

TOWN OF JEFFERSON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
December 2, 2013

The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen for the Town of Jefferson was held at the Selectmen Office Monday December 2, 2013 at 7:00 pm.

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Linda Cushman, Assistant to Selectmen; Eric Higgins, Airport Comm; Bruce Hicks, Terri Larcomb, Treasurer

Kevin Meehan opened the regular meeting at 7:00 pm. The Board reviewed and approved the bills for payment next week and signed the warrants. The Highway and Transfer Station report was reviewed. Terri was in to pickup the signed warrants and sign checks.

Norman Brown made a motion to accept the minutes of the November 25, 2013 Selectmen meeting as amended. Tom Brady seconded the motion. Motion carries.

Eric Higgins was in to find out what the Selectmen decision was regarding the Town's membership in the Mt. Washington Regional Airport. Norman said that he had met with the Whitefield Selectmen. It appears that the biggest issue that the town of Whitefield has is that there is no control or management with regards to the Commission. Eric said that that is somewhat correct, before the current Commission there was no real management. The prior consulting company was not doing what they should. The Commission has a new consulting company which is doing a very good job. The Commission over the last 4 to 6 months has spent a lot of time trying to fix some of the problems.

The Whitefield Selectmen say that Whitefield has to cover the expenses over and above the budgeted money for the Airport, this includes funds that member towns do not pay. The town's billings per the contract has not been followed. Every time an expansion is needed Whitefield has been told that it will make the Airport self-supporting. This hasn't happened yet. Eric said that the runway needs to be expanded by another 1000-feet, for a total of 5000-feet. The 5000-foot runway is an insurance requirement for commuter air service. Cape Cod Air has already inquired about the Airport.

Norman said that with the increase that is being purposed that is three times the current bill, he hopes that someone will be here to explain the increase. Tom said that he agrees with what Norman has said there needs to be some changes made. How are expenses going to be managed. Eric said that the operation expenses are between \$12,000 to \$18,000 a year.

Eric states that the IMA is dis-functional. He feels that the entire agreement needs to be restructured. The Mountain View Grand, Mt. Washington Hotel, Presby and the White Mountain School benefit the most from the Airport. They are not being asked to support it. Carroll and Bethlehem do not support the Airport, and they get the most benefit from the airport. Eric states that the Commission knows that in the past things haven't been done correct. You can't go back you we need to look forward.

Norman made a motion to notify the Commission that it is the intention of the Selectmen to present an article to the voters at the March 2014 Town Meeting requesting Jefferson withdraw from the Mt.

Washington Regional Airport – IMA. Tom seconded the motion. Motion carries.

Bruce Hicks came in to update the Selectmen on the progress at the Forrest Hicks Ball Field. Donations that were made have been spent mostly for supplies to supply the concession stand. The electricity has been installed. Between donations and donated time and materials it has amounted to about \$17,000, the Tillitson Fund donated \$13,081 and the Athletic Assoc. Fund \$5000. It is the intention that the open day ceremonies will be held here in the spring. Bruce said that he would ask the Selectmen to fund the Athletic Assoc. again with \$5000. This amount would cover any cost to complete the field.

Norman reported that he had met with Ann Karczmarczyk of PSNH to review the three sites for lighting upgrades. The garage, fire station and town hall/office were evaluated for lighting upgrades. The project cost for the garage would be \$1504.22, fire station \$1866.65 and the town hall/office would be \$2405.49. The Town share would be one-half \$2888.22. PSNH has a “smart start” program that would allow the cost of the project to be funded over a period of time with an addition fee added to the monthly electric bills. Norman said that he felt that if the funds were available that it would be just as well to simply pay the cost up front. The current lights would be replaced with led lights, the cost savings should be about 40%. Norman made a motion to proceed with the lighting upgrades for the garage, fire station and the town hall/office. Tom seconded the motion. Motion carries. Linda was asked to review the budget to see if it would be possible to fund this project this year.

Property Liability Trust is offering a multi year not to exceed more than 5% agreement for the Town's property and liability coverage. The Board approved and authorized the Chairman to sign the agreement.

The Board reviewed the request for increasing the contracted cemetery maintenance budget. It has been three years since the rate has been increased. The increase for three cemeteries is \$15 each to \$180, 2 increase \$25 each to \$125, and 2 increase \$10 each to \$75, the hour rate stays the same. Norman made a motion to approve the increase the cemetery maintenance for 2014 as presented. Tom seconded the motion. The motion carries.

Norman said that he had contacted A & P Landscaping and that the price for the work at the Starr King Cemetery did include the work on the wall. Aaron said that the only increase would be if there needs to be any additional stone purchased. The Starr King Cemetery seems to be the most completed project. If the pillars and wall can be repaired in the spring and the remainder of the stones cleaned and repaired this will complete one cemetery. The Selectmen believe that for the road in Starr King that 2-inches of ledge pac would be sufficient. It was recommended to get a quote for the completion of cleaning and repairing the stones in Starr King.

The next step would be to either complete the work at Riverton or do the fence at Forest Vale. Norman said that after looking at the Forest Vale Cemeteries he does not believe that the aluminum fencing will hold up.

Regarding the Fire Department budget, looking at a two dollar increase for fire calls is a lot considering that other employees only received a 1.5% increase. The department is a volunteer department not a full time department. After some discussion it was suggested to increase the fire call pay by fifty cents; chief \$12.50, officers \$10.50, and firemen \$8.50. The training would stay at \$10, explorers \$8.00 and mechanic at \$15. At this time no stipend would be paid.

Norman made the motion to increase the fire call pay by 50-cents as suggested and to leave the mechanic, training and explorer pay at the current rate. Tom seconded the motion. Motion carries. Kevin abstained.

Norman said that he was concerned that so much vehicle repair needs to be done. Is there a vehicle maintenance schedule kept for each vehicle. Kevin said that he was not sure if there was an actual schedule. As for money to support the purchase of a thermal imaging camera would have to wait for another year.

Jimmy Howland had reported to Norman that there was an issue with the compactor Saturday. It would not run. Jimmy contacted Atlantic Leasing, by the time they call him back the it had started operating. It is unclear if the heater wasn't working or if it is just another problem.. Norman said that he was going to write a letter to Atlantic Leasing requesting replacement of the compactor. There have just been to many problems with this unit ever since it was installed.

The Library Trustees has changed the pay period for the librarians from a monthly weekly period. The Selectmen stated that checks are available Tuesday afternoon that the librarians should pick up their checks in person. In the event of an emergency other arrangements could be made.

Tom said that he had a question to ask the Board. It looking at the overall picture of the future of Six Gun City and making it something that the family could handle they are thinking of converting the buildings to cabins for rental. The question is what do they need to present to the Town. Tom said that there would be not foot-print changes. Norman said that he would look into it.

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

Being no further business the meeting adjourned at 10:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,