

TOWN OF JEFFERSON
SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 2, 2020

The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen for the Town of Jefferson was held at the Select Board Office Monday, March 2, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Kathi Marshall, Assistant to the Select Board; Joe Marshall, Chris and Tracy Nelson were also present.

Kevin Meehan opened the meeting at 7:00 pm., and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members signed warrants for payroll and accounts payable. They approved invoices to be paid on March 9, 2020

Public input

Joe Marshall/Historical Society: Joe asked why each of the warrant articles for the school were in the amount of \$99,000 as opposed to \$100,000. Kathi explained that when she spoke to the Department of Revenue about the warrants they told her any article in the amount of \$100,000 or more would have to be presented at a public bond hearing prior to town meeting. Anything less than that amount would be okay to present without a public hearing before town meeting.

Tom also mentioned that each article calls for \$25,000 as an annual payment, but the bank sent the interest information, and the payment will only be about \$12,000 annually. For all three articles it will not be \$75,000, but closer to \$37,000.

Joe said the reason he came to the meeting was to inform the board that after members of the Historical Society met, they determined they only have enough financial resources to give about \$200 monthly for rent in the new school, or \$2,400 annually. He felt it would probably cover their expenses for electricity and other costs. They are in hopes that as they get established there and begin to make plans for the future, they will be able to afford more toward their rent and upkeep.

Board members felt they were right in line with what the board was anticipating, and they are hopeful the Historical Society will be able to plan events that will bring them more income in the future—especially since they will be centrally located with the library. Cindy mentioned the possibility of the library and the Historical Society working on projects together in the future.

Chris & Tracy Nelson/Old Corner Store: Tracy and Chris wanted to know where the town was at with regard to selling the property with the well so they could have access to clean water. Tom mentioned the legal team and the concerns they had if the town elected to give water rights to the Nelsons. Kathi explained that if the atmosphere became political enough, the town could be made to provide water to all the other users of the surface water system the Old Corner Store was currently using.

Tracy said she and Chris had no desire to purchase the land as it was an added expense for them, along with the extra costs of tax dollars, insurance and maintenance. They were only interested in the water. Tom mentioned we were always talking about selling them the water or the well, but he wondered if it

would help if the town “leased” the well to them. He thought it might make a difference. Kevin said we would check with the legal team.

Tracy asked if the Department of Environmental Services had alleviated any fears the town might have about the water that runs off the property from the perimeter drain. Kathi said she met with the two representatives from DES, and they assured her the tank was good and there was no leaking. The water was safe and was just surface water running around the tank. Kevin mentioned the one concern some people had about the water running over the sidewalk. Chris said he has plans to redirect the flow. Tracy mentioned the tank was just inspected and there were no leaks found. Kathi confirmed that DES had told her that as well.

Non-Public Session

Library Trustees: Cindy made a motion to go into a non-public RSA 91-8: 3 II. Tom seconded the motion, and the motion carried. The meeting went into a non-public session.

Reports of Departments

Highway Department: Mark was not present, but Kathi said she had spoken with him earlier in the day. He said everything is going fine, equipment is running well, and he felt spring was not far away.

Town Office: Kathi said she spent a good portion of the week completing the meeting minutes with which she was behind. In several of the meetings the board had dealt with warrant articles and the budget. Each of those sessions was over 4½ hours long, and she had to transcribe the tapes from each of those meetings. She also reconciled the bank accounts and took care of miscellaneous correspondence.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

As the regular Select Board meeting continued, Cindy made a motion to approve the minutes of February 10, February 17 and February 24 as recorded. Tom seconded the motion, and the motion carried. The approval of these minutes brought the minutes up-to-date.

Unfinished Business

CAI Technologies: Kathi received a contract from CAI Technologies dealing with their tax maps and the upcoming change to a digital format. Kevin said it was actually for the 2021 budget cycle, but it had nothing to do with the general contract to digitize our tax maps. The board had added that expense into the budget as a line-item for \$12,500. Kathi said she would call the company and sort out the two projects and the pricing structure. Kathi verified with Kevin that board members had never signed a contract with CAI in the amount of \$25,000 to update our tax maps to digital. Kevin said they had discussed it with the company, but they had never actually signed an agreement to have the job done. Kathi said she would ask about that as well.

Passumpsic Bank: Kathi presented the board members with the final figures from the bank concerning the interest rate for the bank notes needed if the warrant articles for the school pass at town meeting. Tom said it will be \$37,500 less than what we budgeted for the warrant articles. Instead of \$25,000 annually for each article, the Select Board will have to offer an amendment to each of those articles, since they will only be around \$12,500.

Tom also asked Kathi to draw up a list of everything the town will be getting for each of the \$99,000 notes the town is seeking.

Adjournment

Cindy made a motion to adjourn and Tom seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

The next meeting will be Monday, March 9, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,