

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES November 2, 2020

There was a meeting of the Select Board Monday, November 2, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was held in person and by remote teleconference.

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

ALSO PRESENT: Kathi Marshall, Assistant to the Select Board. Mark Dubois and Erin Hennessey was also present.

Tom Brady called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and read the following statement:

As Chair of the Jefferson, New Hampshire Select Board I find that due to the state of emergency declared by the governor as the result of the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the governor's emergency order #12 pursuant to executive order 2020-04 this public body is authorized to meet electronically. (There is also a physical location from which to observe and listen contemporaneously to this meeting, which is the town hall.) Please note which was authorized pursuant to the governor's emergency order. However, in accordance with the emergency order I am confirming that we are:

- A. *Providing public access to the meeting by telephone and in person, and we are utilizing a telephone service so all members of the Town of Jefferson Select Board have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through this platform. And the public has access to listen and, if necessary, to participate in this meeting by dialing the following phone number: 1-866-678-6823 and needing ID number 8959399 followed by the pound (#) sign.*
- B. *Providing public notice of necessary information for accessing the meeting. We previously gave notice to the public of the necessary information for accessing the meeting including how to access the meeting telephonically. Instructions have also been provided through the Town of Jefferson's website www.jeffersonnh.org*
- C. *Providing a mechanism for the public to alert the public body during the meeting if there is a problem with access. If anybody has a problem please call 586-4553 or e-mail townofjefferson@myfairpoint.net.*
- D. *During the meeting if the public is unable to access the meeting. In the event the public is unable to access the meeting they will be adjourned and rescheduled.*

Please note that all votes that are taken during this meeting will be done by a roll call vote, and please remember the meeting is being recorded.

Tom began by taking roll call attendance: Tom Brady, Chair, "present." Cindy Silver, Select Board Member, "present." Kevin Meehan, Select Board Member, "present." Kathi Marshall "present" at the Town Office with Erin Hennessey, who had stopped in before Election Day to see what issues the Town of Jefferson was addressing.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND PAYROLL

Cindy made a motion to accept the payroll and accounts payable for week ending 10.31.2020 as presented and to authorize Kathi to pay them and to sign the reports for the board members. Kevin seconded the motion and a roll call vote was taken. Cindy voted “aye,” Kevin voted “aye,” and Tom voted “aye.” The motion passed.

PUBLIC INPUT

Erin Hennessey—Candidate for New Hampshire State Senate: Erin Hennessey introduced herself and hoped to get to know everyone and find out what was happening in Jefferson and what issues Jefferson may need help with at the state level. Erin is a 3-term state representative from Littleton, is a ranking member on the Finance Committee and serves on the Governor's Legislative Advisory Board for the CARES Act Fund. She loves New Hampshire and that is why she's running for state senate.

Cindy mentioned that one of the critical issues in the North Country was the lack of quality internet service. Erin acknowledged her concern, and said the state is hoping for a new federal stimulus package so they might set aside funds for internet/broadband service for more residents. She is currently working with Jeb Bradley, who is a state senator from District 3. If she is elected they would like to set up a program with matching funds at the state level for towns needing to expand service.

Tom said there will be a letter sent out shortly to towns asking for a representative to work on a committee focusing on the internet/broadband issue in the North Country. The mailing will ask the select board members to name someone to serve on the committee. Tom said he fears that larger communities will be served before smaller communities. With the influx of people moving from the cities to areas such as Jefferson, they want to work from home and we can't offer them quality internet service. In order for the small towns to grow they must have broadband in order to compete. It's a disservice to small towns if they don't get equal access to broadband service. Tom said he feels it is “absolute discrimination to the people in small towns.” Cindy and Kevin both agreed. Kevin said NH seems to move to the populated areas first instead of reaching out to everyone who needs the service.

Tom reiterated his point to Erin who assured him if a program is set up with matching funds for broadband it would in no way put populated areas ahead of smaller areas. Erin said this issue has come up at nearly every Select Board meeting she has attended. She informed the board they need to have a plan in place in anticipation of a program being offered. If the town has a plan as to what company will do the job, when, and how much, the funds can be dispensed to get the job done. If there is no plan in place, the funds will go where workers are ready to begin work. She said determine beforehand if you want to have a mountain top tower, wireless internet, or actual fiber laid underground or on telephone poles. Know who will do the job. Lay it all out so Jefferson is ready when funds become available.

APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES FOR 10/26/2020

Cindy made a motion to approve the meeting minutes dated 10/26/2020 as presented. Kevin seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with Cindy voting “aye,” Kevin voting “aye,” and Tom voting “aye.” The motion passed.

REPORTS OF DEPARTMENTS AND BOARDS

Highway: Mark was present and told the board that everything was going well. They have their winter sand put up so they're ready for snow. He said they have been getting their winter equipment ready to go. They have been grading and ditching on the roads. They're taking things day by day depending on the weather conditions.

Board members read and accepted the highway report and the business report for the week.

NEW BUSINESS

Building Permit/Nelson: Kathi presented the building permit from Chris Nelson to build a garage at 100 Bailey Road. It's a 32' x 66' x 16'. He submitted a diagram with proper setbacks and included his fee. Kevin asked if this was related to a business. If it is Chris should inquire with the state as to licensing, etc. Board members wanted to see the permit so Tom asked Kathi if she would scan it and send it to board members.

Building Permit/Walsh: Kathi presented the building permit from Michael Walsh. Kathi said the board might want her to e-mail the permit to them as well. The permit was for a garage with a shed roof, a breezeway and a small porch at 83 Cedric Road.

Members took a break while Kathi scanned the documents. After board members had a chance to study the permits Cindy made a motion to approve the Nelson building permit for the garage, and to have Kathi sign for board members. Kevin seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with Cindy voting "aye," Kevin voting "aye," and Tom voting "aye." The motion carried.

Kevin then made a motion to approve the building permit from Michael Walsh and Cindy seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with Cindy voting "aye," Kevin voting "aye," and Tom voting "aye." The motion passed.

Tom asked if Kathi should send a letter to Chris that if he is using the garage for business he should look into the necessary state licenses. Board members agreed it should be in writing that Chris was informed of this information so the office had a copy on file.

Pistol Permit/Silver Jr. : Kathi presented a pistol permit for John Silver Jr. that was complete with the background check done by Norman Brown. Kathi said the permit will need a signature. Kevin said he would be in the town hall the following day and he would sign the permit for Mr. Silver.

Pistol Permit/Bushey: Kathi presented a second pistol, this one for Richard Bushey. It was also complete with background check and signed by Norman Brown. Kathi said the permit will need a signature.

Cindy made a motion that Kevin should be allowed to sign the permits of John Silver Jr. and Richard Bushey on behalf of the Board Chair. Kevin seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with Cindy voting "aye," Kevin voting "aye," and Tom voting "aye." The motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

25 Meadows Road: Kathi looked up information on local contractors and sent a brief inquiry to each of them to see if they would give the town a price on the job and what an estimate would be on each of the designs. She reached out to David Chessman of Lancaster, Northern Earthworks of Lancaster, and Wendell Rexford & Sons out of Whitefield. She is waiting for responses.

Tom asked if there were any folks in Jefferson who might do that work? Kathi said there was no one listed on the website she checked for that specific work. She said she got a huge list for New Hampshire. She checked for local contractors and did not see Jefferson on the list which was why she moved to Lancaster and Whitefield.

Tom told her to try the DES website and do a search under One Step and sub-surface solid waste. He said it would give her the contractors in our area. Tom told Kevin and Cindy if they can think of anyone else to let Kathi know who they would suggest.

Town Hall Door: Kathi said we needed to resolve the town hall door issue. Otherwise she will have to leave the heat on in the town hall all winter. Cindy said she would really like an update on the town hall siding and the town hall door. She said we talk about these issues every week but nothing gets resolved. She said she is willing to help in any way, but it shouldn't take months to resolve some of these things.

Kevin said he would check with Mark about the siding on the town hall. He also mentioned the town hall door really needs an automatic door closer. Kathi said it would also be nice if the door locked from the inside. In order to lock it you have to go outside.

Kevin said there was a gentleman who used to work on doors and he was very good. Cindy said it might be Mark Zizzer. She gave Kathi the number so she could contact him.

PUBLIC INPUT – None

NON-PUBLIC (None)

Any Other Business

Real Estate Appraisers: Kathi said she found three appraisers in the area who might appraise the property in town with the well for the Nelsons. She wasn't sure if the board members wanted to discuss this with the appraisers or if she should, even though she doesn't know that much about the property. Tom said she should call them and just ask what they would charge to do an appraisal in Jefferson.

Select Board Meeting/Covid 19: Kathi said she had some notes she wanted to send to the Select Board members so they could read them before they discussed the issue, but she did not have time to get the paperwork to them. She said we could put the topic on the following week's agenda.

BEI: Cindy said the BEI Asbestos Proposal needs to be signed. Cindy said she would forward the contract to Kathi so she could print it out with the company letterhead. Then Cindy and Kevin could sign it when they came to the town offices the following day.

Cindy made a motion to have Kevin and herself sign (as a quorum) the BEI proposal #20189 of

October 13, 2020 (Bristol Environmental Inc.) to begin asbestos removal in the old school. Kevin seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with Cindy voting “aye,” Kevin voting “aye,” and Tom voting “aye.” The motion carried. Asbestos removal is scheduled to begin Monday, November 9.

Cindy said under terms and conditions it stated that the owner is to move all moveable objects from the work area. She said there may have to be some items moved in the old library. She will go in with John to see if they can move whatever needs to be moved. Kevin said if they needed any help to call him.

Cindy also asked if pellets had been ordered for the school. Kathi said yes, she had ordered six tons.

Auditor: Tom asked if everything had gotten in to the auditors okay. Kathi said she e-mailed board members that the auditors were finishing up and they would send the MS-535 either this Thursday or Friday. Kathi said she let Linda know as well. Tom asked if she would send everyone an e-mail to let them know when she actually receives the MS-535.

Adjournment: Cindy made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kevin seconded the motion. Tom took a roll call vote. Cindy voted “aye,” Kevin voted “aye,” and Tom voted “aye.” The motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

The next meeting of the Select Board will be Monday, November 9, 2020, at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,