

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, May 17, 2021

PRESENT: Cindy Silver: Select Board Chair, Kevin Meehan and Norman Brown: Select Board members, all comprising a quorum of the board.

ALSO PRESENT: Kathi Marshall: Assistant to the Select Board, Ted Joubert: Lancaster Ambulance, Chris Milligan: Jefferson Fire Chief, Terri Larcomb: Deputy Town Treasurer, Mark Dubois: Highway Foreman, Jason Call: Trustee of the Trust Funds Chair, Cheryl Marshall: Trustee of the Trust Funds Member

Cindy Silver called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., and those in attendance stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE/PAYROLL

Norm made a motion to approve Accounts Payable and Payroll items for the week ending May 15, 2021 and to authorize Kathi to pay invoices and payroll. Kevin seconded the motion. The motion passed, and accounts payable and payroll were approved.

PUBLIC INPUT

Lancaster Ambulance: Ted Joubert came to the Select Board meeting to answer questions board members had regarding the new contract between Lancaster Ambulance and the Town of Jefferson. The price increased from \$16,051 to \$27,775 annually.

Norm asked how the price would break down over the next couple years. Ted said next year the annual cost would be in the mid-\$30,000 range, and the next (or third) year it would be just under \$50,000.

Norm mentioned the number of calls from Jefferson is about 90 per year. He expressed concern over the dollar amount for the town's budget going forward. He stressed the fact that the concern was not with the quality of the work, nor the dedication of the Lancaster staff to perform this critical care. His concern was with the huge increases. Norm pointed out that a couple other towns were paying \$10,000 annually while Jefferson paid \$16,000, and he asked if everyone was going to be paying the same with these new contracts. Ted said they would, that right now all towns would pay \$25 per person for coverage, and there would be no deals or discounts. The second year the price will be \$35 per person, and the third year the price will be \$45 per person. Norm was concerned the price would continue to go up year after year.

Ted explained that the budget for the ambulance service is \$1.6 million dollars. Years ago they had plenty of volunteers to help with the duties associated with the ambulance service, but now those volunteers have "aged out." They are either too elderly or not physically capable of doing the work. The income Lancaster receives is to fulfill the promise that they are manned and available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. They struggle to find staffing since young people don't seem to want to serve in this calling, and others find the work too difficult. Cindy asked when the last increase was for Lancaster, and Ted told her it was in 2014-15.

Norm asked if Lancaster planned to continue adding to its fleet of ambulances. Ted said the immediate goal is to improve the department's billing system and bring in more income through that. He does not anticipate that he will be back in three years asking for more money.

Norm asked if residents were being billed even after the town pays the invoice for the contract. Ted said they did in some cases and it was pretty much a straight-forward formula of the base rate for the use of the ambulance plus the mileage to and from wherever they had to transport.

Norm wanted to make certain that residents were not paying twice for the same service: once with tax dollars toward the

annual invoice and again if they needed the ambulance. Chris mentioned that Lancaster also serves as stand-by for Jefferson. If the town gets a call that may be difficult, Jefferson sometimes chooses to have Lancaster stand by, particularly with such things as downed wires, etc. Norm said no matter what we do, the prices for salaries, equipment, etc. are not going to go down.

Cindy thanked Ted for Lancaster's service and dedication. Board members signed the contract with the idea of addressing any further questions the following year. Currently Jefferson is limited as to where it can go for ambulance service and each year it will be up to the residents to decide.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR 5.10.2021

Kevin made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from 5.10.2021 as recorded. Norm seconded the motion. The motion passed, and the minutes were approved.

NON-PUBLIC RSA 91-A: 3 (None)

REPORT OF DEPARTMENTS AND/OR BOARDS

Mark was present at the meeting and explained that he and Mike had begun grading Ingerson Road. He also mentioned Airport Road and asked the board what they wanted to do about it. Norm said we should get a price on the cost of repairing and paving our portion of Airport Road. Then Norm said he would go speak with Presby and the power company about helping to repair the road, since it is their trucks that are tearing it up. Norm said one year we proposed putting weight limits on our portion of the road and letting trucks go the other way. But that wasn't very popular. Whitefield doesn't want the big trucks to go through the center of town.

Norm said Whitefield did get a grant to pave the road, including our side because it was their trucks that were damaging our road. When the time came they paved the road right up to the town line. Norm asked Mark to get some numbers on paving the road, and to check the actual length of it.

Mark also mentioned the parking lot in front of the Jefferson Community Building. He suggested moving the flag pole down front by the sign and then putting angled parking spaces to allow more parking. Cindy asked about the field next to the school, and Norm said he thought there would be ample parking in front of the school, but once they verified that, if they felt they needed more space they could take a look at the field then.

Board members read and accepted the Highway and Business Office reports for the week.

NEW BUSINESS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Memorial Fundraising: Cheryl Marshall has posted signs in the Post Office and the Old Corner Store informing people that we are taking donations to help upgrade and improve the war memorial by the store. She also found 38 businesses to which she can send a letter. She is also making a list of memorial companies to see if there might be discounts the town could obtain. Norm mentioned a company in Winchester that is veteran-owned, and they do projects like this as a tax write-off. He said he will get the information for Cheryl. Cheryl gave Kathi \$800 that she has collected so far toward the project.

Norm has located volunteers to work on the memorial and has also obtained some offers of concrete. Jim Ackerman volunteered to help with the project and Norm said we'd let him know when they would need him.

Capital Alarm Updated Call List: Kathi presented the updated Call List for the board's approval. Kevin and Norm made some changes to consolidate the list a little, and then the board members approved the updates.

Job Applications: Cindy asked if the job applications for the maintenance position were ready to be discussed and Norm said he was still waiting to hear back from some people. He suggested working on them the following week.

Fire Expenses: Kathi presented the list of expenses that are all fire-related including supplies, building renovations, fire debris removal, everything we expended in order to replace, resupply or prepare the new building for occupancy and daily work. The total came to \$81,000. Norm mentioned the insurance company has already advanced us \$10,000.

Norm mentioned the lock on the safe door and said we should let the locksmith know the lock is not working.

Trailers on Presidential Highway: Kathi mentioned she had not been able to reach the town health officer in order to go on site where recent concerns had been brought up over trailers and activity on a piece of land on Presidential Highway. Chris mentioned the Health Officer had resigned, and Kathi said she was aware that was what he intended to do but hoped he would finalize his decision either with the board or with a letter of resignation. Chris said he would try to contact him.

Kevin asked Chris if we had someone who was willing and/or able to step into that position. Chris said they had discussed it, but the health officer couldn't be replaced until he actually resigned. Kevin suggested it may help in the future to set up a health officer and deputy situation so a back-up would be available.

Photocopier Companies: Conway Office Products offered to supply us with a copier and we would have to pay for toner. They offered color or black and white. Kathi also asked if they had a copier that could handle 8.5 x 14 and 11 x 17 inch paper. Kathi said she is waiting to hear from two other companies and when she gets pricing she will inform the board.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Jason asked the board members to keep in mind the outside lights on the building because they shine right into his windows. He thought perhaps some kind of cap or shield. Members said they would keep him in mind.

Kathi asked if someone is moving a shed that is currently on their property to another spot, do they need an additional building permit. Kevin said they do because that is the only way the Select Board can verify that the setbacks remain correct.

Kathi also asked about perpetual care in the town cemeteries. What does it include, because she has been asked why there has been no watering or planting of flowers. Norm said perpetual care consists of mowing and trimming in the cemeteries. There is no water source at each of the cemeteries to water all the flowers, nor does the town have a fulltime staff to tend to those sorts of duties.

PUBLIC INPUT

NON-PUBLIC RSA 91-A:3 II (None)

ADJOURNMENT

Norm made a motion to adjourn the weekly Select Board meeting. Kevin seconded the motion. The motion passed, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

The next meeting of the Select Board will be Monday, May 24, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in person at the Jefferson Community Center.

Respectfully submitted,