

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN OF JEFFERSON
February 9, 2009**

The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen for the Town of Jefferson was held at the Selectmen's Office Monday, February 9, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Bruce Hicks, Chairman, Norman Brown, and Kevin Meehan, members comprising a quorum of the Board.

PRESENT: Linda Cushman, Assistant to Selectmen, Mary Gross, Peter Estabrooks, Rupert Corrigan, and Joe Marshall

Bruce Hicks opened the meeting at 7:20 p.m. The Board reviewed and approved the bills for payment next week and signed the warrants. Wendy Wells will be in Tuesday to sign checks and pick up the signed warrants. The Highway report was reviewed.

Randall Northrop of Corrette & Associates was in before the Selectmen's meeting to review with the Board the work he would do while performing the audit for the Town. The Selectmen agreed that the audit would be done to meet all federal requirements.

Joe Marshall asked the Board if the Town had an emergency plan in place. Joe stated that after what he saw during the ice storm in the southern part of the State he was concerned with what could happen in Jefferson if there is no plan in place. Bruce said that the Town does have an emergency plan. As to whether the plan covers the needs that were required during the ice storm it was not known. Joe said that one of the biggest issues was the lack of communication. Joe was asked to find out what some of the other issues were.

Peter Estabrooks stated that Esther could not be here because of here writing schedule. Peter passed out an outline of what he would be covering. Bruce told Mr. Estabrooks that the Selectmen would not address any issue with regards to the Library. The Library is not under the control of the Selectmen. Any Library issue should be taken up with the Library Trustees.

Mr. Estabrooks started by saying that Coldwell and Covey Realtors have been working for them for some time now. Mr. Estabrooks states that he and Esther have had a time schedule as to plot there future. Coldwell has presented Peter and Esther with a property that they would like to purchase. This property is not in Jefferson. The one thing that is holding them up is the court case with the Town. Attorney Blakeney has informed Peter regarding his appeal the court would probable throw the contempt decision back to superior court. Mr. Estabrooks said that he asked attorney Blakeney how could this be settled. Mr. Estabrooks was told to offer a \$2000 settlement. He stated with

the settlement accepted by the Town they would then be able to leave Jefferson.

The next suggestion that Mr. Estabrooks had was to reduce the sewer user fees by 50%. He states that this would be a show of good faith by the Town to reduce the expense to the users. Mr. Estabrooks states that the amount of money in the sewer account (\$35,327) is more than enough to cover pumping and any other need. The sewer system is over sized. With a 50% reduction in the fees there would still be enough money collected to continue the funds growth.

The next item is the operating budget for the ensuing year. Mr. Estabrooks suggests that 20% or \$115,000 be cut from the operating budget. It may be more realistic to cut the budget by 10%, which would be \$57,600. The legal budget could be cut in its entirety for a beginning.

Mr. Estabrooks' conclusion is to accept the proposal to withdraw the court case, reduce the sewer fees, and cut the budget.

Kevin Meehan stated that sewer systems are built over sized for a reason. Kevin said that it would be negligent of the Board to make any changes to the user fees. Norman Brown said that he agrees with this.

Norman stated that as for the court case that it should be ridden out. It is Peter's appeal. A \$2000 settlement doesn't seem right.

The figures that Peter has presented and reasoning for cutting the budget does not take into consideration the additional cost of doing business today.

Bruce reported that he attended the Glidden hearing on February 5. The judge requested Attorney Spector to draw up a proposal, which she has done. The Judge suggested that Mr. Glidden write a plan with measurable goal to present to the Town.

Bruce submitted a plan to the Board that he has drawn up for Mr. Glidden to sign. The Board reviewed the action plan. There were several changes suggested. Linda was asked to make the changes, and submit the plan to the attorney for her review. Linda was asked to contact Mr. Glidden requesting that he attend the next meeting February 16.

The minutes of the January 26th meeting were approved with the correction changing "letter of memorandum" to "memorandum of understanding."

The minutes of the January 26th budget hearing were approved as written.

In July of 2007 the Selectmen had approved a disabled tax deferral for William Gray. Since Mr. Gray has passed the deferral is now due. The Board stated that a letter should be sent to Mrs. Gray requesting that she attend a meeting to discuss this issue with the Board.

Rupert Corrigan presented a proposal for the Estabrooks property. He was told that his proposal would have to be presented to the Board of Adjustments.

A current use application for Jean Coolidge was approved.

Norman reported that when he was talking with DES that they were to submit an outline on what they needed to complete the permit. This outline would be based on the Fish and Game site visit. Norman will contact Mr. Thomas to check on this.

A letter will be sent to the Lancaster Ambulance stating the agreement that was reached between Bruce, Ed Samson, and Randy Flynn requesting a new contract be sent. A check for the remaining balance of \$1200 will be processed next week.

Being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,