

Jaffrey Economic Development Council
Draft Minutes 1/11/18

9:00 am Town Office

Present: Peter Chamberlain, Chair
Larry Alvarez, Dominique Cassie, Cathy Furze, Ed Merrell, Max Mitchell, Stephanie Niemela

Guest: Robert Sherman

Staff: Jo Anne Carr, Jon Frederick

1. School Apportionment proposal

Jon updated the EDC on the proposal to change to funding formula for the school district. The School Board voted to eliminate equalized property value from the apportionment formula, relying instead on school membership from each town. Each town will retain state aid. Rindge in recent years, has had a higher valuation than Jaffrey which has been a factor in this debate.

The effect to Jaffrey is projected to mean a \$3 increase on the school rate, phased in over a period of five years. At a total tax rate of 32.97 for FY 2017, Jon anticipates an expectation from residents to reduce the town portion rather than see an increase heading toward \$35 or more. As the town's budget is significantly smaller than the school district the reduction could be as much as 25%.

Changing the Articles of Agreement will require a 2/3rds majority vote. EDC members enquired as to whether alternative costs were evaluated, such as if Rindge withdraws, what would be the financial impact to both towns? What would be the cost to Jaffrey, or potential benefit, to operate the schools on our own considering some departmental efficiencies, i.e., finance and administration. Apparently, there have been no answers to these questions.

2. Planning Board Zoning Proposal

Jo Anne presented the proposed zoning changes, the major component is the extension of the General Business District along Main Street and Turnpike Road. Based on input after a public workshop, the Board proposed a modified General Business – which would not allow heavy commercial uses, in favor of smaller offices, restaurants, and mixed-use projects. Also proposed is the rezoning of the Industrial District north of Route 202 to General Business. Maps and proposed language are here <http://www.townofjaffrey.com/planning-economic-development/pages/planning-board-proposed-zoning-updates>

3. USDA Grant Proposal

Jo Anne gave a brief summary of the grant proposal. Robert gave background on his experience in telecommunications and accessing higher speeds here in town. Jo Anne suggested that he and Daisy Hawlk participate on the sub-committee along with Cathy.

4. Adjourn

Next meeting Date: February 8, 2018 @ 9:00 AM