

TOWN OF JAFFREY
Jaffrey, New Hampshire
Select Board Meeting Minutes
February 13, 2023

Chairman: Franklin W. Sterling, Jr.

Selectmen: Kevin Chamberlain, John E. Belletete (via Zoom)

Town Manager: Jon Frederick

Staff: Director of Planning & Economic Development Carr, Administrative Assistant Zola

Others: Emily Manns, Standard Power

Residents: Sue Sturges, Cathy Mills, Jon Vitello, Nancy Stone, Elizabeth Webster, Richard Simberg, Joanne Buck, Gordon Young, Charlie Turcotte, Margaret Dillon, Peggy Duesenberry, William Taylor, Marc Tieger, John McCarthy, Carl Querforth, Tory McCagg, Doug Clayton, Pete Davis, Laurel McKenzie

A. Call to Order – 6:01pm

B. Appointments -None

C. Public Hearings

Community Power Public Information Hearing

The hearing was opened by Chairman Sterling at 6:01pm

Selectman Chamberlain explained the timeline of the Jaffrey Community Power Committee, starting in Spring of 2022 and with the hope of being able to bring a plan to Town Meeting in March. They have been meeting every Wednesday and drafted a plan with public input. Surveys were posted online (Facebook and Town Website). This is public hearing #2 of the 2 required.

Emily Manns from Standard Power began her slide presentation, which will be attached to these minutes. She gave an overview of the Jaffrey Community Power Committee, which is made up of 5 community members, who have worked with Standard Power for consulting services. They've met weekly and have conducted a survey to get public input.

Community Power is when the municipality purchases the electricity supply for residents and small business. The goal is cost savings and more renewable energy. Delivery, emergency services and billing remain with the utility. Competitive pricing is available due to market timing & buying power as a group. The default rate changes every 6 months, but with community power you're not locked in. There are a number of programs to choose for renewable energy options. Eversource default customers will be automatically enrolled into the new default program, but will be able to opt-out if they choose. The basic plan will be the best rate, but may not be the "greenest" choice. 61% of survey responses would like to see extra renewable energy at the same rates, 18% want the lowest rate, while 77% would like to see greener energy.

The timeline going forward would be:

- Continue getting public input to draft the Community Power Plan
- Secure local approval at March 2023 Town Meeting
- Going to the Public Utilities Commission for approval
- Outreach plan to educate the public
- Ongoing support after launching

Chamberlain explained the opt-in and opt-out choices. After all approvals, they can get an idea of the market rates. The first 2 years will be a broker model, but the possibility of changing to a coalition model exists. It's a win-win for citizens because they'd be locked in to a lower rate but allowing change at any time.

Community Power Committee members were excited about this program opportunity to decrease rates, increase knowledge about renewable energy and increase renewable energy usage.

William Taylor asked about net metering customers. Chamberlain explained that they can stay with their current providers. These customers are not currently part of the plan, due to the interest in the default customers at this time, but they may be included at a later time.

The coalition model would use more staffing than the broker model.

Peggy Duesenberry, a former Massachusetts resident has experience with Community Power option and it has worked well with good choices. She asked about the Town accounts and small businesses...The town rate is currently 16 cents and the Town Manager is monitoring fees/rates and will switch if they become lower.

There will be more outreach regarding opting in and out through mailings/websites and Facebook.

Jon Vitello asked about net metering customers opting in. Emily stated those customers will be contacted. He also stated he liked the opt in plan better than opt out plan.

Laurel McKenzie asked about the incorporation/brokerage status and if fees were involved. Emily stated the fee is 1/10 per kwatt

Doug Clayton asked if they were negotiating for Jaffrey only. Emily stated there are 7 other towns involved and once up and running, there will be a bigger group with more options. It's a living document that needs to be reviewed and that would be a burden for now.

Selectman Belletete asked if the lower rate prevails, even if it's the current default. Chamberlain said that the lower rate does prevail.

William Taylor asked about renters being included in the outreach. Emily stated that all electric users will be included, so if they are responsible for their own bills, they will be included.

Chairman Sterling closed the Public Hearing at 7:09pm

Inclusion of WW Cross into Downtown Tax Increment Finance District

Chairman Sterling opened the public hearing at 7:15pm

Director of Planning & Economic Development Carr explained that the EDC

D. Approval of Meeting Minutes

On a motion by Chamberlain, seconded by Sterling, the Public Minutes of January 24, 2023 were approved (2-0) Belletete abstained as he didn't attend the 1/24 meeting

On a motion by Chamberlain, seconded by Sterling, the Non-Public Minutes of January 24, 2023 were approved and sealed (2-0) Belletete abstained as he didn't attend the 1/24 meeting

E. Consent Agenda

1. Payroll and Vendor Manifests
2. Solar Exemptions
 - a) Robin Boyd & Tim Maguire - 18 Bullard Road
3. Veterans Tax Credit
 - a) Matthew Santonastaso - 261 Nutting Road - Veterans Tax Credit - \$500
4. Acceptance of Donation
 - a) First Church of Jaffrey - General Welfare Fund - \$ 1,000
5. Authorization to Expend Funds - Bridges CRF
 - a) \$1,322.38-Quantum Construction- Nutting Road Bridge
6. Committee/Board Appointments
 - a) Cathy Proulx - Cemetery Committee - Member - Term Expires 2025
 - b) Richard Boutwell - Cemetery Committee - Member - Term Expires 2026
7. Authorization to Expend Funds - Reclamation Fund
 - a) \$1,300 - NRRA - Annual Tire Container Rental

On a motion by Belletete, seconded by Chamberlain, the Consent Agenda was approved as presented (3-0).

F. Old Business -None

G. New Business

Jaffrey Community Power Plan- The plan was reviewed by the Community Power Committee following the Public Hearing and was approved (4-0).

On a motion by Chamberlain, seconded by Belletete, the Jaffrey Community Power Plan was approved (3-0).

Resolution #2022-42 - St. Patrick's Day Parade - Hampsey & Grenier /Park Theatre - March 11, 2023(Rain date March 19) – A meeting will be scheduled between Kevin Hampsey and the

public safety officials prior to the parade. Liability Certificate will be provided by Park Theatre prior to the parade.

On a motion by Belletete, seconded by Chamberlain, Resolution #2022-42 was approved (3-0).

Resolution #2023-2 - Farmer's Market - TEAM Jaffrey - June 2, 2023 to September 29, 2023

On a motion by Belletete, seconded by Chamberlain, Resolution #2023-2 was approved (3-0).

Resolution #2023-3 – Authorize Withdrawal of \$12,612.64 from Jaffrey Water CRF

This would be for well inspection and cleaning.

On a motion by Belletete, seconded by Chamberlain, Resolution #2023-3 was approved (3-0).

Certification of the 2023 Warrant – The Budget Committee has approved to recommend the warrant and it has also been accepted by DRA.

On a motion by Belletete, seconded by Chamberlain, the 2023 Warrant was approved and certified (3-0).

H. Reports to the Select Board

Selectmen's Reports

Sterling- The Budget Public Hearing was held on 2/11 with only department heads, staff and 2 residents in attendance.

Belletete- No meetings were attended. He asked Chamberlain to cover tomorrow's Planning Board meeting for him.

Chamberlain- Community Power 1st Public Hearing was held on 2/1 with only the committee members and 3 residents in attendance.

Town Manager's Report

- Thank you to staff for attending the Budget Hearing on Saturday.

Sterling commended TM Frederick for a job well done with the budget process this year.

I. Other Business

RFP- Professional Appraisal Services - The Board is in the process of evaluating future options for owning and operating the two systems, including continuing current operations, operating the systems jointly with other communities, operating the wastewater system with town staff or selling the assets to be privately owned and operated entity.

To help evaluate the option of selling assets to a privately-owned company, the town needs to issue a Request for Proposals ("RFP") to solicit proposals from appraisers and/or appraisal firms that have experience in valuing water and wastewater treatment facilities and systems.

It was stated that a discussion with staff will happen on Thursday and the RFP will be posted on Friday. The goal is to retain all staffing. The MOU with Aquarion will remain in place. There will be a public information after Town Meeting. This has to be pursued due to the unknown liabilities with PFAS treatments and an aging infrastructure.

J. Non-Public - None

K. Adjournment

On a motion by Belletete, seconded by Chamberlain to adjourn 8:13pm (3-0).

Submitted:

Attest:

Judith A. Zola
Administrative Assistant

Franklin W. Sterling, Jr.
Chairman

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