

**TOWN OF JAFFREY**  
**Jaffrey, New Hampshire**  
**Select Board Meeting Minutes**  
**January 8, 2024**

**Chairman:** Franklin W. Sterling, Jr.

**Selectmen:** Kevin Chamberlain, Charles Turcotte

**Town Manager:** Jon Frederick

**Staff:** Administrative Assistant Zola

**Others:** None

**A. Call to Order – 6:00pm**

**B. Public Hearings**

Chairman Sterling opened the public hearing at 6:00pm

Acceptance of NH DOS FEMA Funds in the amount of \$34,120.09. These funds are from the 2021 flood event to cover repairs of the damage. These funds have nothing to do with the future bridge project.

Acceptance of Special One-time Bridge Payment from NH DOT in the amount of \$39,553.46. These funds will be set aside to be used on Letourneau Drive project or other projects in our updated CIP.

Hearing no questions/comments, Chairman Sterling closed the public hearing at 6:03pm.

**C. Appointments – None**

**D. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

On a motion by Chamberlain, seconded by Turcotte, the Public Minutes of December 11, 2023 were approved (3-0).

On a motion by Chamberlain, seconded by Turcotte, the Non-Public Minutes of December 11, 2023 were approved and sealed (3-0).

On a motion by Chamberlain, seconded by Turcotte, the Public Minutes of December 19, 2023 were approved (3-0).

**E. Consent Agenda**

1. Payroll and Vendor Manifests

2. Abatements

a) #2023-31 – Elizabeth Trimble – 55 Thorndike Pond Road - \$25.00 – NSF Fee

3. Acceptance of Donations

a) Annual Tree Lighting and Craft Fair Raffle Donations - \$868 – Recreation Playground Fund

4. Tax Collectors 12<sup>th</sup> Cycle 2023 Water & Sewer Commitment Warrant
  - a) Water - \$105,596.24
  - b) Sewer - \$124,735.27
5. Solar Exemptions
  - a) Scott & Kelly Arsenault – 9 Parent Street
  - b) Bruce Bartles – 316 Nutting Road
  - c) Paul & Jeanette Griffin – 75 Main Street
  - d) Rachel Kowalsky – 79 Nutting Road
  - e) Joan Onorati – 299 Squantum Road
  - f) Antoine Roy – 322 Squantum Road
6. Veterans Tax Credit
  - a) Alexander Navickis Jr. – All Veterans Tax Credit - \$500
7. Notice of Intent to Cut Wood or Timber
  - a) #23-233-05-T – Michael Watts – Map 213/Lot 7 – Woods Road
8. Bridges Capital Reserve Fund withdrawal of \$330.00 – Quantum Construction Consultants, LLC- Letourneau Drive Culvert – Professional Services
9. Downtown TIFD Capital Reserve Fund withdrawal of \$45,896.05 – Toole Design -Jaffrey Downtown Concept Plan Extension

On a motion by Chamberlain, seconded by Turcotte, the Consent Agenda was approved with #2-A being denied (3-0).

**F. Old Business - None**

**G. New Business**

Resolution #2024-01 – Acceptance of Unanticipated Revenue from the State of NH

On a motion by Chamberlain, seconded by Turcotte, Resolution #2024-01 was approved (3-0).

Resolution #2024-02 – Acceptance of \$2,000 Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant

These funds will be used for radios.

On a motion by Chamberlain, seconded by Turcotte, Resolution #2024-02 was approved with TM Frederick being authorized to sign documents on behalf of the BOS (3-0).

**H. Reports to the Select Board**

Sterling- Planning Board meets tomorrow night. Route 124 subdivision and Mini Golf course are on the agenda. They may be looking at density zoning changes.

Chamberlain- They had a meeting last week regarding Community Power and will be meeting again this week. They have been talking with the broker and anticipating rolling out the Community Power in March, there are still questions regarding the language of draft document with the wording of a sentence, if we cannot beat the current Eversource default rate that we will not roll it out. Eversource is dropping their rate to 8.5 starting in February and in October when we signed up for bidding, the best we could get for basic was 10.1, which is a 20-month term. Right now, Eversource is beating us with a lower rate. We are trying to get legal interpretation from the PUC and the Town Lawyer to determine if we are required to roll out, given the language in the document we have signed up with an energy vendor for 20 months. If we roll it out, in March, everyone would be on the Eversource rate, they would have to mail in their letter saying they do not want to participate in Jaffrey Community Power, if they don't mail it in, they would be put to the Jaffrey Community Power rate which is 2 cents higher. Now they are trying to find out how to communicate to the community properly, if the plan has to roll out. The Eversource rate is only good until August, whereas the Jaffrey rate would be good for 20-months. Nobody can predict what the rate will be with Eversource after August. The meeting this week is to discuss that further and to make sure if the plan does move forward how to properly explain the process to the residents of Jaffrey. TM Frederick said the wording in the contract states the rate has to be competitive, so he's awaiting word from Atty. Dowd for interpretation of that. The difference in rate would equal about \$6-\$12/month for consumers from February to August on the Eversource rate. Of note, according to the survey done, about 70% of residents were unaware that they could change suppliers. The Committee needs to communicate that residents do have the ability to opt in or opt out at will. A year ago, the rate was 22 cents, now it's 8 cents. It also takes a couple billing cycles for the change rate to show up. The committee did discuss that it is an opt-out program and there was a concern about that.

Concom didn't meet, but will be meeting next week.

Turcotte – Cemetery is on break until April. Wreaths Across America lays wreaths in December and asked Jaffrey for next year. It's a family owned business from Maine. Veteran flags would have to be left up longer to identify Veteran graves. Jaffrey Cemeteries are closed in November and pick up of wreaths would be done by them, the concern is the dropping off of the wreaths would have to be coordinated with DPW. Civic organizations would have to be activated to help. There is no cost to the town. He will send the BOS the link with more information.

Budcom met with all department heads on January 6<sup>th</sup> and accepted the TM's proposed budget.

Presently it's coming in 51 cents over last year, but the tax rate hasn't been set yet.

Public Budget Hearing is scheduled for February 10<sup>th</sup> and a public hearing for Community Power will be added. They are also required to hold a statutory Public Meeting which would be January 25<sup>th</sup>.

#### Town Manager

- Budget Meeting on Saturday went well and thank you to staff. Chairman Sterling commended TM Frederick for a job well done.

**I. Other Business – None**

**J. Non- Public** – On a motion by Chamberlain, seconded by Turcotte, In Accordance with RSA 91-A:3, II (J) Roll Call Vote to enter Non-Public Session at 6:30pm (Sterling-yay, Chamberlain-yay, Turcotte-yay).

On a motion by Chamberlain, seconded by Turcotte, to exit non-public session at 7:13pm (3-0).

**K. Adjournment**

On a motion by Chamberlain, seconded by Turcotte to adjourn at 7:13pm (3-0).

Submitted:

Attest:

Judith A. Zola  
Administrative Assistant

Franklin W. Sterling, Jr.  
Chairman

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