

TOWN OF JAFFREY
Jaffrey, New Hampshire
Select Board Meeting Minutes
June 12, 2023

Chairman: Franklin W. Sterling, Jr.

Selectmen: Kevin Chamberlain, Charles Turcotte

Town Manager: Jon Frederick

Staff: Fire Chief Chamberlain, Police Chief Muilenberg, Administrative Assistant Zola

Others: Dawn Oswalt, Peter Lambert, Rick Lambert, Steve Pelkey, Barbara Pelkey, Sarah Bergeron, Katherine Potts, Kevin Ingram, Sarah Caruthers, Ashley Saari (Monadnock Ledger). Other Residents (didn't sign attendance sheet)

A. Call to Order - 6:00pm

B. Non-Public - None

C. Appointments – Jaffrey 250th Presentation - Dawn Oswalt & Peter Lambert

Dawn Oswalt and Peter Lambert presented the BOS with a quilt that they made to celebrate the Jaffrey 250th. Peter did the drawing and Dawn embroidered it. The BOS sincerely thanked them for all their hard work and talent. The quilt will be publicly displayed at the Jaffrey Town Office.

D. Public Hearings - None

E. Approval of Meeting Minutes

On a motion by Chamberlain, seconded by Turcotte, the Public Minutes of May 22, 2023 were approved (3-0).

F. Consent Agenda

1. Payroll and Vendor Manifests

2. Abatements

a) #2023-9 - Timothy Rose - 58 Prospect Street - \$106.04 - Sewer

b) #2023-10 - Maggie Brogan - 69 Prospect Street - \$143.21 - Sewer

c) #2023-11 - Rose Rivard - 9 Lehtinen Road - \$1,107 - Taxes

3. Yield Tax Levy

a) #22-233-03-T - Birgit Johanson - Map 248/Lot 21 - \$2,071.11

4. Bridge Fund withdrawal of \$1,339.89 - Quantum Construction Consultants, LLC- Nutting Road and Letourneau Drive Bridges consulting services.

5. Cemetery Deeds

a) Glen Chip Grier & Tracy A. Meehan - Cutter Ext.- Lot #9-F - \$450

b) Amy Reagle Meyers- Cutter Ext.- Lot # 19-F

6. Board Appointment
 - a) Eric Hanson - Cemetery Committee Member - Term to Expire 2026
7. Acceptance of Donation
 - a) Amato Family Fund/NH Charitable Foundation - \$7,500 - Humiston Playground

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

G. Old Business

Jaffrey 250th Concert & Fireworks – Withdrawal of Special Events Permit

Steve Pelkey returned as a resident and a Jaffrey business owner to talk with the Board regarding the concert and fireworks event. He's seen some social media posts that were getting negative and felt he needed to speak out. He felt that all along the intention was to have fireworks at the conclusion of the 250th celebration, since fireworks are such a part of Jaffrey. He knew that the size of the event wouldn't be like the "Festival of Fireworks" in the past, but feels that Atlas has done so many events bigger than that and security and safety were not an issue. He then went on to say that the Jaffrey 250th Committee has met monthly planning events and the residents are expecting a momentous ending, which would include fireworks. He felt the first plan on the school's grounds would've worked with smaller shell fireworks. The plan was then changed to Humiston Field, where again, parking and pedestrians were again issues. He asked that the BOS give him some latitude to come up with another plan at another venue, possibly another night and not saying no to the fireworks as a whole.

Chairman Sterling had the following to say: We've been presented with 2 venues

1. The school plan wasn't good because of parking. The town doesn't have control over State Roads and the school property would be too small to accommodate all the concert goers. The band has a great number of dedicated fans. The school wasn't notified of the location choice until March or April.

2. Humiston Field was suggested because of the ability to use town roads instead and more pedestrian friendly roads for residents. The town doesn't have enough Police on hand to deal with "gate crashers" who may linger outside the venue without tickets. Mr. Pelkey felt that the Fire/Police plans were exaggerated on car and pedestrian volume. Chief Muilenberg stated that he's worked large events and these numbers/plans are on point.

To date, the BOS hasn't received an official Special Event permit form, which is the proper procedure, they have only seen the Police and Fire safety plans. Chairman Sterling would love to see the fireworks, but there needs to be a good plan limiting ticket sale and a space that is confined to keep crowds safe. The BOS has not voted no to the Fireworks, they have only discussed the 2 options presented and don't feel either will work.

Selectman Chamberlain feels that there should have been earlier discussion about the fireworks plan. The school location wasn't discussed with the school at all and the moving of pedestrians after dark is a big safety concern. Having this event following the parade is concerning for town staff, making a long day and possibly not having enough staffing for both events.

Why wasn't another date proposed? Pelkey felt that the members of the 250th should've been reporting back to the BOS about their discussions.

The American Legion proposed fireworks display was mentioned and Pelkey asked why they had different standards to abide by. Fire Chief Chamberlain explained that the Fire Marshall is aware of their request and since they are a private organization, on their own property, they are allowed to shoot Class C fireworks, shot by a non-hired professional. This is an approved use of their property.

Selectman Turcotte stated a decision wasn't made after the last BOS meeting. He agrees with Pelkey that the fireworks are important and wonders if the numbers were decreased and at a venue if it would work.

Pelkey asked if it were a different property would it be considered. Once again, Chairman Sterling said there is not formal permit submitted.

Selectman Chamberlain noted that the 250th Committee would need to vote on moving the request forward.

Pelkey stated that he has overcome all the obstacles that the BOS have presented by removing the skydivers and removing the entertainment. Fireworks cannot be done during daylight hours. He didn't feel the BOS considered all his years of experience.

The BOS hasn't said no, they haven't seen a formal, detailed plan of entering/exiting.

Rick Lambert feels that there is room for compromise and that safety is the number one concern. Possibly a smaller scaled event on private property would be an option. It seemed like there have been some communication problems.

Both Fire and Police stated that they would fully back an approved plan.

Sarah Bergeron stated that a special 250th committee meeting could be held for them to discuss moving forward.

H. New Business

Resolution #2023-19 - Jaffrey Ice Racing Pig Roast Fundraiser - August 26, 2023 – VFW
On a motion by Chamberlain, seconded by Turcotte, Resolution #2023-19 was approved (3-0).

Resolution #2023-20 – Nutting Road Bridge Amended Project Agreement with NHDOT
The bids received differed from what was originally presented, but the funding plan still remains. NH DOT is requiring a new resolution along with TM Authorization to sign for the BOS.

On a motion by Chamberlain, seconded by Turcotte, Resolution #2023-20 was approved (3-0).

Resolution #2023-21 - 250th Anniversary Commemoration - August 17, 2023 - Meetinghouse Common

This approval is contingent upon Bruce Hill providing an evacuation plan. He will be contacted and informed.

On a motion by Chamberlain, seconded by Turcotte, Resolution #2023-21 was approved (3-0).

Resolution #2023-22 – Use of Bridge Capital Reserve Funds for the Heath Road Bridge Project Mountainshade was the winning bid. The guardrails and concrete were underrated on the pricing. State Funds/Bridge Grants will be coming in. \$299,861 is available in the CRF, this Resolution would authorize no more than \$265,000 being used. Turcotte asked if there were any other bridges in need of repair or Red-Listed, which as of now, there are not.

On a motion by Chamberlain, seconded by Turcotte, Resolution #2023-21 was approved (3-0).

Resolution #2023-23 – Use of Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Funds for Replacement of Unit 4 The hybrid unit is still on backorder and will be coming in at a later date, it was scheduled for 2024. This vehicle is a pickup truck that can be used as a utility vehicle as well as undercover and will keep the replacement schedule on track. It is also coming in at \$12,000 less, due to over-estimating the outfitting costs. The old vehicles will be sent to DPW for continued use.

On a motion by Chamberlain, seconded by Turcotte, Resolution #2023-23 was approved (3-0).

Amend Riverfest Special Event Permit

The amendments were reviewed by staff and approved as presented.

On a motion by Chamberlain, seconded by Turcotte, amendments to the Riverfest Special Event was approved (3-0).

Annual Review of the Finance Policy

The Auditors require an annual review of the Finance Policy and Certification. The BOS have reviewed the document.

On a motion by Chamberlain, seconded by Turcotte, the Finance Policy was reviewed and certified was approved (3-0).

I. Reports to the Select Board

Selectmen's Reports

Sterling- Planning Board meets tomorrow night, with a plan from Fieldstone for housing on Highland Avenue. June 17th is a cemetery tour and presentation at the Meetinghouse for Veterans followed by a chicken BBQ on the Common and Saving Private Ryan at the Park Theatre to follow.

Chamberlain- None of his committees met.

Turcotte- Cemetery Committee met and approved the repair of tablet gravestones. 19 needed repairs, but only 11 were repaired, the remainders were too tall to repair. HDC didn't meet in June, but will in July. He will have a conflict in September, both HDC and Budget Committee will be meeting on the first Thursday of the month. Chairman Sterling offered to help with attendance.

Town Manager's Report

- Reminded the board of the 250th Salute to Veterans on June 17th.
- Planning is ongoing for the 250th Vintage golf event on August 14th.

J. Other Business - None

K. Non-Public- None

L. Adjournment

On a motion by Chamberlain, seconded by Turcotte to adjourn at 7:36pm (3-0).

Submitted:

Attest:

Judith A. Zola
Administrative Assistant

Franklin W. Sterling, Jr.
Chairman

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