

**TOWN OF JAFFREY**  
**Jaffrey, New Hampshire**  
**Select Board Meeting Minutes**  
**February 24, 2020**

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

**Selectmen:** Kevin Chamberlain

**Excused:** John E. Belletete

**Town Manager:** Jon Frederick

**Staff:** Bill & Dawn Oswalt, Chelsie Snow, Judy Zola

**Others:** Laurie Murray, Jaffrey Residents

**A. Call to Order – 5:45pm**

**B. Non-Public** –Per RSA 91-A:3, II (B) On a motion by Belletete, seconded by Chamberlain Roll Call Vote to Enter Non-public (Sterling-yay, Belletete-yay, Chamberlain-yay) at 5:45pm.

On a motion by Belletete, seconded by Chamberlain to exit and seal the minutes at 5:52pm (3-0).

**C. Appointments** – Bill & Dawn Oswalt, who are retiring on March 2, 2020 were presented with Proclamations thanking them for their service. Bill has served the Town of Jaffrey for 25 years at the Police Department, Dawn has served as Tax Collector for 31 years. Chairman Sterling explained that they both came into their positions with a great many challenges. They rose to the occasion and their dedication and longevity are greatly appreciated. The Selectmen, Staff and Residents in attendance gave them a round of applause.

**D. Public Hearings – SB2 Warrant Article Petition Request**

The Hearing was opened by Chairman Sterling at 6:05pm.

Peter Chamberlain spoke on behalf of the petition. He was approached by several residents with the concern of declining attendance at Town Meetings, resulting of a small number of voters (less than 200) making decisions for the town of 4,000 residents. Rob Stephenson has been counting the residents present at Town Meeting for many years and the average is usually less than 200, unless there is a contentious warrant article. Many residents agreed that a controversial article usually would prompt attendance, but for the most part, it's low attendance due to several reasons. Saturdays are difficult for young families have sport commitments; however, childcare was provided in earlier years. The length of the meetings is also a deterrent. The possibility of removing the recognition of committee members service was suggested, with the annual volunteer dinner as an alternative for presentations. Reducing the full reading of the warrant articles was also suggested along with combining all the petition articles into one item. There was a description of the SB2 process, which includes a deliberative session prior to the voting day. The question was raised regarding how this is not different from a Town Meeting and the same amount voters would represent the town. The observation was made that in some surrounding SB2 towns, the voters don't attend the deliberative session and vote down all the money articles. Historically, Jaffrey has been very generous to Non-profit petitions and public

safety articles. In summary, most residents in attendance would like to see changes made in the current Town Meeting procedure to attract more attendance than switch to SB2. Several residents spoke against the request. Bernie Hampsey (Moderator from 1976 to 1990) stated this would be a terrible mistake and not worthwhile. He and Marc Tieger will speak out against this article at Town Meeting.

Selectman Belletete stated that he is not in favor of SB@ due to the budget and default budgets that are voted on without resident knowledge prior to voting, which he saw on his years on the school board.

Selectman Chamberlain stated that he is not in favor of SB2. He feels that it will not be passed, He would like to see residents become more informed of political issues. Jaffrey has heavy debt and with more to come and taxpayers need to take part in Town Meeting and make informed decisions.

Chairman Sterling stated is not in favor of SB2 and is the worst form of government because articles can be changed, disrupted and gutted by the under-informed voters. In his years as a legislator, there 10-12 bills to change SB2 in numerous towns. A possible hybrid of Town Meeting & SB2 was noted as a possibility, but that would involve an 18-month budget to alter the March Town Meeting date to a May SB2 date.

Chairman Sterling thanked all the residents for attending tonight's meeting and with no further comments/concerns, he closed the meeting at 7:02pm.

#### **E. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

On a motion by Belletete, seconded by Chamberlain, the Public Minutes of 2/10/2020 were approved (3-0).

#### **F. Consent Agenda**

1. Payroll and Vendor Manifests
2. Abatements
  - a) #2020-8 – Reality Check2, LLC- 17 Turnpike Road - \$1,109.00 - Taxes
3. Veteran Exemptions
  - a) Kenneth Nordquist – 136 Proctor Road – All Veteran's Tax Credit - \$500.00
4. Meetinghouse Request
  - a) Electric Earth Concerts – August 13, 2020 – Solo Violin Classical Music Concert
5. Tax Collector's Second Cycle 2020 Water & Sewer Commitment Warrant
  - a) \$96,869.30 Water
  - b) \$102,195.28 Sewer
6. Conservation Commission Appointment
  - a) Kathleen Batchelder – Alternate Member – Term Expires 2021

7. Trustees of the Trust Fund Appointments
  - a) Robert Stephenson – Alternate Trustee – Term Expires 2021
  - b) Bruce Edwards – Alternate Trustee – Term Expires 2021
8. Tax Collector Appointment
  - a) Chelsie Snow – Term Expires December 31, 2020
9. Health Officer Appointment Renewal – Rob Deschenes
10. Tax Collector's 2<sup>nd</sup> Cycle 2020 Septic Haulers Commitment Warrant
  - a) \$2,955.00

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

## **G. Old Business**

### Reconsideration Request for Abatement # 2020-4 – Rita Archambault \$2,911.50 –

Laurie Murray, Rita's daughter was present to speak on her Mother's behalf. Rita has moved into Assisted Living and Laurie has been checking the house weekly. The toilet had started to run after she had left the house. Rita is a long-time Jaffrey resident and has always paid her bill on time, she would like the Board to reconsider their denial. Chairman Sterling explained that the standard policy regarding water that is run into the house and goes into the sewer, is that there are water and charges on both, since the water is treated both coming into the house and leaving it. Unfortunately, the Board must adhere to the policy and cannot set a precedent, and they will not rescind their previous denial.

## **H. New Business – None**

## **I. Reports to the Select Board**

### Selectmen's Reports

- Sterling – Gearing up for Town Meeting.
- Belletete - No Updates.
- Chamberlain – Attended ConCom- They are ramping up for Earth Day 2020 with events at the school, a parade and tree plantings for Arbor Day.

### Town Manager's Report

- Elections will be at the Conant High School Cafeteria, but golf carts will be available to shuttle residents from the parking lot to the school entrance. The FPU Football Team will be volunteering to shuttle residents. The Town was unable to use Pratt Auditorium due to the Basketball schedule.
- Route 2020 updates – There will be a meeting scheduled April 14, 15, 21 or 23 for the Commissioner's meeting of necessity. TM Frederick will keep the BOS informed as more information becomes available.

**J. Other Business – None**

**K. Non-Public** - Per RSA 91-A:3, II (J) On a motion by Belletete, seconded by Chamberlain Roll Call Vote to Enter Non-public (Sterling-yay, Belletete-yay, Chamberlain-yay) at 7:26pm

On a motion by Belletete, seconded by Chamberlain to exit and seal the minutes at 7:45pm (3-0).

**L. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:46pm on a motion by Chamberlain, seconded by Sterling. (3-0).

Submitted:

Attest:

Judith A. Zola  
Administrative Assistant

Franklin W. Sterling, Jr.  
Chairman

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