

TOWN OF JAFFREY
Jaffrey, New Hampshire

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Meeting Minutes
February 23, 2009

Present: Chairman Hollister, Selectman Sterling, Selectman MacIsaac

Absent: None

Staff: Town Manager Hartman, Administrative Assistant Richard

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Hollister called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL

None

PUBLIC HEARING

Stone Arch Bridge Tax Increment Financing Plan

Chairman Hollister called the Public Hearing to order at 7:30 p.m. Chairman Hollister read the Public Hearing Notice which was advertised in the *Monadnock Ledger-Transcript* and posted at the Town Office and the Library.

A Public Hearing will be held at the Jaffrey Town Offices on Monday, February 23, 2009, @ 7:30 PM by the Jaffrey Board of Selectmen to receive public input regarding the following:

- Water Main Replacement and Water Supply Replacement
- Construction of a Sewer Filtration Process and Sewer System Improvements (Inflow Infiltration Removal and Pump Station Rehabilitation)
- Road Construction – Rte 202 Bypass
- Bond for Land Purchase

Chairman Hollister stated that Article 3 has been changed because we dropped the project of Quantum Well which has reduced the overall cost to \$2,862,000. Hollister said that the reason this was done was because the Board found out that if a Town already has authority for appropriation for a project, the Town can apply for Stimulus Funding for that project if the cost does not exceed the Town's original appropriation. In 2005 the Town authorized \$2.9 million to establish redundant wells at Contoocook and at Turnpike and to clean the wells out. What we have done with the \$2.9 million is that we have established a redundant well at Turnpike and we have cleaned out Contoocook and Turnpike but we still have to put in a redundant well in Contoocook. We did find the new Quantum Well which draws from the same aquifer as the Contoocook Well. We have the money remaining in the original \$2.9 million appropriation. We have approximately \$815,000 remaining. This is enough for us to do the Quantum Well hookup to the main which was the third item in the original version of Article 3. Therefore, we do not

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need to reauthorize that project because it was authorized and can be done whether we get a stimulus package or not. This is why it has been removed from the Article. Hollister said that if the stimulus money does show up and it is appropriate to use it for a well project then we can go ahead and apply and may save 75% of the project.

Hollister talked about the Water Main Replacement which is \$1.2 million. Hollister said that we have a water pressure problem system wide, particularly as requirements for Fire Protection. The major reason we have this is because the Bullet Pond Tank and its piping and the line that runs down Cathedral Road and on to Prescott Road is old, small and collapsing and needs to be replaced. In 2006 the Board approved a drawdown from the Water Fund for \$560,000 to repair the main, the pipes at the tank and the run down Cathedral Road. We will be doing this but now that we know about the stimulus package, it would be great for the entire system if we could run down 1,700 ft. onto Prescott Road. The Board didn't feel that they should spend \$1.2 million out of the Water Fund and therefore only took out \$560,000 and set that aside in another fund to do the most critical which would be piping at the tank and the Cathedral Road. The Board didn't feel that they should spend \$1.2 million out of the Water Fund to do the Prescott Road extension.

Hollister said that the Board would like to do Prescott Road and that we would need to get 75% of Federal Stimulus money for the whole thing which would be the \$1.2 million. Because the Board will be asking for money more than the \$560,000 which has been set aside, the Board has to have authorization for this and we have to go to the Town for the entire \$1.2 million. We don't intend to spend it all but authorization is needed. If this is not approved, the Town will only do the \$560,000 work which is most critical.

Hollister said that the extension of the water main to the Stone Arch Bridge TIFD will be undertaken if the project is approved for federal funding. This project is \$1.6 million and the purpose is for fire protection and potable water for our industrial area which will make it grow and make it attractive and to bring business in which we sorely need. At the last Town Meeting we agreed at the request of the Town to do an alternative analysis looking at all the options of getting water down to the district. We did the study and came up with six alternate ways to do this. The most cost effective way to do this is to connect it to the Town water system. The next step is to do the engineering design to connect it to the Towns water system. This has not been done as of yet but the proposal is to do the design as part of the TIFD Budget. We do have an opportunity with the stimulus package and we believe that we should apply for the stimulus package to cover the whole thing. This is \$1.6 million. The Board's proposal is to stick with the funding formula originally agreed to by the Board of Selectmen back in 2000 and again reiterated with the Sewer Project. For all Capital Projects requiring bonding, the cost split has historically been 1/3 on general tax rate, 2/3 by users. Regular general maintenance comes from enterprise funds. For this project 1/3 would be covered by the general rate payer (\$400,000) and 2/3 (\$1.2 m) by the Water Fund. This would mean of the \$400,000 the Towns share could potentially be under the stimulus, \$132,000 would be 1/3 which would go into the TIFD Budget and is easily carried by the money in the TIFD. We could easily bond this. The \$268,000 would be taken out of the Water Fund. If there would be no Federal Stimulus money for this project, we

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would just complete the design of the line and stop until the next Town Meeting and the Board at that time could decide whether or not they wanted to propose to the town on a separate article to build it.

Cliff Pelissier stated that he hopes the water pressure will be increased before they think about going to Old Sharon Road.

Chairman Hollister said that Cathedral Road would have to be done first. There would not be enough pressure to do it now.

Marc Tieger asked that when the Board presents this at Town Meeting that they explain what TIFD is.

Mark Kresge stated that although the projects involve water pipe, he believes that it was a poor choice to include the extension in the same warrant article because you are asking fundamentally different questions.

Chairman Hollister said that the Board had nineteen potential stimulus projects and the Board decided to group them.

Selectmen Sterling said that if at Town Meeting the people decide to defeat this article and not give us the 2/3, we can still go ahead and do the first project which is maintenance and repair because we have the money to do this.

Selectmen Sterling talked about Article 4 which is to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,400,000 for construction of a Wastewater Filtration Process, Pellet Boiler and Sewer System improvements including Inflow Infiltration Removal and Pump Station Rehabilitation. For the Wastewater Filtration Process we had a design for the new plant that is currently under construction and we had included a separate stand-alone building which was a mechanical filtration process to take phosphorous out of our effluent. When we were done with the design of the main treatment portion of the building, we were successful in changing the phosphorous limitations that would be allowed in our effluent that was discharged in the Contoocook River. We put the mechanical filtration portion of that design off to the side and we put the necessary connection piping in and it can be added on to the existing system. The cost is about \$1.8 million to construct this additional building in its physical plant. In the next five to ten years we will be required to do this. The stimulus money is looking for the “shovel ready projects”, this one is all designed, all engineered, all costed out and we know exactly where it goes and how much it will cost us to do it. This would be very high on the DES list of projects for Wastewater Treatment. Getting 75% funding from the stimulus funding would greatly reduce the cost to the town.

Selectmen Sterling said that the Governor in the current budget has proposed eliminating all the States Aid Grants to Wastewater Treatment Facilities in the foreseeable future. That would be

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30% of the total expenses historically given back to the town. Getting the stimulus funding mechanism if we can get it would be a big step in offsetting the loss of the STAG grant.

The Pellet Boiler is something that we are looked at for the building on our new treatment plant. The plant is currently heated by an oil boiler. We looked at adding a pellet boiler supplemental to the oil-fired boiler that would be going in the building. The cost was about \$145,000 to purchase and complete the installation. It would make sense to have a pellet boiler to lower our carbon footprint but the return on the investment was not there. We thought if we could get stimulus funding it would lower our cost down to 25% instead of the full cost. This would lower the oil consumption.

The Pump Station Rehabilitation is the River Street and Charlonne Street where they come together. This is an old system and needs to be replaced and also Nelson Circle. The balance of the money is for ongoing, continuous infiltration and inflow detection and mitigation. The ground water seeps into the pipes and we end up having to treat through our wastewater treatment plant.

Chairman Hollister said that if this article passed it would be 1/3, 2/3 and we would have to bond. An alternative is to fund from the Sewer System Enterprise surplus in which case bonding would not be required.

Cliff Pelissier asked about the backup heating system. Sterling said that adding the boiler would be a green project because we would be utilizing a renewable energy source which is right down the street.

Jim Dumont asked if there are any green grants around to apply for. Sterling replied that we are not aware of any.

Marc Tieger asked why there was no caveat to that effect in the warrant article and Sterling said that they did not think it was necessary but that they do not intend to do it without stimulus money.

Randall Heglin said that there is a meeting scheduled on March 6th at DES about stimulus funding but they will be only talking about percentages only not dollar amounts.

Selectmen MacIsaac said that Article 5 is known as the Route 202 Bypass. In 2004 we did our first study and a traffic evaluation. The study recommended eliminating the dogleg and constructing a roundabout. In 2008 we funded a second study which was a feasibility study to get a better understanding of what the conditions were and the environmental constraints. The study recommended eliminating the dogleg and building a bridge somewhere south of town and constructing a roundabout. In the final analysis the path will be determined by an environmental assessment which has to be done for any road project. In order to get this environmental assessment done it would be around \$1 million and then an estimated another \$200,000 to do

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preliminary engineering and would end up with \$1.2 million. The DOT said that in order to be eligible for state/federal funding, we would have to get on their ten year plan. In order to get on the DOT ten year plan you need to have an environmental assessment which would reduce all the alternatives down to one and says that this is the feasible way in which to go.

There is \$40,000 in the proposed Downtown TIFD budget to fund the current consultants to develop an engineering scope. We are proposing to go forward with a warrant article that says that we would like to get \$1.2 million to do the environmental assessment and the preliminary engineering. This study will be on the SWRPJC 10-Year Plan and be eligible for 50% grant funding. Once we get the environmental assessment done, the project is eligible for state, federal or stimulus funding. The Board of Selectmen is required to hold a Public Hearing on this project to accept grant funds and to proceed with this environmental assessment and preliminary design.

Selectmen MacIsaac said that we need to keep moving forward.

Selectmen Sterling went over Article 6 with allows the Town to vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000 for the purpose of acquiring a parcel of land (Map 239, Lot 139) consisting of approximately ½ acre, to improve Humiston Field. Sterling said that this land would square out the property line on Humiston Field. There is a house and a garage on this property which is assessed at somewhere in the neighborhood of \$130,000. We just want the property but the garage may have some value for storage of equipment. This is a one time opportunity and this would be a great asset to the Town and improvement to Humiston Field.

Ken Geraghty believes that this is a good economic proposition overall since once the building is torn down the land would be worth about \$30,000.

Mark Kresge asked if we could negotiate the price and Sterling said that we did and this is the price they would accept.

Bob Bussiere, Chairman of the Budget Committee stated that they had just met and voted to support Article 5 with changes. He wanted Article 5 amended to say that no less than \$600,000 in grant money would have to be received for the study to proceed.

Chairman Hollister closed the hearing at 8:26 pm.

The Board of Selectmen agreed to change Article 5 as proposed by the Budget Committee.

1) Payroll and Vendor Manifests

On a motion by Sterling, seconded by MacIsaac, the payroll and vendor manifests were approved (3-0).

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2) Selectmen's Reports

Hollister

None

Sterling

None

MacIsaac

None

3) Town Manager's Report

None

4) Boat Tax Warrant

a) Four (4) Boat Registrations \$10.00 – received February 13, 2009

On a motion by Sterling, seconded by MacIsaac, Four (4) Boat Registrations in the amount of \$10.00 – received February 13, 2009 was approved (3-0).

5) Abatements

a) #09-08 – Stephanie Kavouras – 15 Ellison Street – Tax Lien Cost Abatement in the amount of \$17.25

On a motion by Sterling, seconded by MacIsaac, #09-08 – Stephanie Kavouras – 15 Ellison Street – Tax Lien Cost Abatement in the amount of \$17.25 was denied (3-0).

b) #09-09 – Millipore Corp – 11 Prescott Road – Sewer Abatement in the amount of \$3,006.96

On a motion by Sterling, seconded by MacIsaac, #09-09 – Millipore Corp – 11 Prescott Road – Sewer Abatement in the amount of \$3,006.96 was approved (3-0).

c) #09-10 – Laurie Seamans – 9 Cheshire Road, Rindge – Water Abatement in the

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amount of \$8,295.00

On a motion by MacIsaac, seconded by Sterling, #09-10 – Laurie Seamans – 9 Cheshire Road, Rindge – Water Abatement in the amount of \$8,295.00 was approved (3-0).

d) #09-11 – Town of Jaffrey Parks & Recreation – 31 Howard Hill Road – Sewer Abatement

On a motion by Sterling, seconded by MacIsaac, #09-11 – Town of Jaffrey Parks & Recreation – 31 Howard Hill Road – Sewer Abatement was approved (3-0).

e) #09-12 – Ross A. Gauthier – 68 Nutting Road – Sewer Abatement

On a motion by Sterling, seconded by MacIsaac, #09-12 – Ross A. Gauthier – 68 Nutting Road – Sewer Abatement was denied (3-0).

6) Use of the Meetinghouse

a) #09-01 – Monadnock Music – July 12th & 19th, August 9th & 16th

On a motion by Sterling, seconded by MacIsaac, Use of the Meetinghouse #09-01 – Monadnock Music – July 12th & 19th, August 9th & 16th was approved (3-0).

b) #09-02 – Lisa Wiley – Shakespeare Festival – May 22, 2009

On a motion by Sterling, seconded by MacIsaac, #09-02 – Lisa Wiley – Shakespeare Festival – May 22, 2009 was approved (3-0).

7) Town Clerk Request

a) Request refund to Peggy Despres in the amount of \$41.00 for registration renewal

On a motion by Sterling, seconded by MacIsaac, Town Clerk request for refund to Peggy Despres in the amount of \$41.00 for registration renewal was approved (3-0).

8) Veterans Tax Credit

a) Edward P. Leavitt – 332 Squantum Road – Veterans Tax Credit of \$200.00

On a motion by Sterling, seconded by MacIsaac, Edward P. Leavitt – 332 Squantum Road – Veterans Tax Credit of \$200.00 was approved (3-0).

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9) Mailing Duplicate Bills

- a) Request to stop or bill duplicate mailings of water/sewer/property tax bills to those who rent out property

Chairman Hollister asked Town Manager Hartman to proceed with the charge of copies for duplicate mailings with a charge of \$1.50/bill.

10) Appointment of Tax Collector for 2009

- a) Appointment of Dawn Oswalt as 2009 Tax Collector

On a motion by Sterling, seconded by MacIsaac, appointment of Dawn Oswalt as 2009 Tax Collector was approved (3-0).

OTHER BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Sterling, seconded by MacIsaac, the meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m. (3-0).

Submitted:

Attest:

Sue Richard
Administrative Assistant

G. Clay Hollister
Chairman
Board of Selectmen