

**Town of St. Albans
Selectboard Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 3rd, 2017
6:30 p.m.**

On Monday, April 3rd, 2017 at 6:30 p.m., at Town Hall the Town of St. Albans Selectboard met.

Officials and staff present: Chair, Bruce Cheeseman, Vice Chair, Sam Smith, Brendan Deso, Bill Nihan, Al Voegele, Town Manager, Carrie Johnson, Director of Public Works, Alan Mashtare, Town Clerk, Anna Bourdon and Recording Secretary, Jenn Gray.

Chair, B. Cheeseman called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

Public: Peter Blouin, Joann Nihan, Representative, Corey Parent, Senators Dustin Degree and Carolyn Branagan and Representative, Kathy Keenan. Representative, Lynn Dickinson arrived at 7:10 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

The Board approved the agenda with a change adding a brief discussion on the Wilder Solar project.

MOTION: S. Smith made a motion to approve to the agenda with the addition of the Wilder Solar project. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

General Warrant

MOTION: S. Smith made a motion to approve the general warrant dated April 3rd, 2017, in the amount of \$17,156.85. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Payroll Warrants

MOTION: A. Voegele made a motion to approve the payroll warrants dated March 24th, 2017 in the amount of \$18,095.79 and March 31st, 2017 in the amount of \$29,140.65. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Minutes

MOTION: B. Cheeseman made a motion to approve the Selectboard meeting minutes for Monday, March 20th, 2017 as presented. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Legislative Update

Legislative Representatives, Corey Parent, Dustin Degree, Carolyn Branagan and Kathy Keenan came before the Board to provide a legislative update.

Senator Degree discussed the Economic Bill, a full paving of I89 from Highgate to Colchester and the elimination of front license plates, with the exception of commercial vehicle, which will provide a cost savings of between \$200,000 - \$500,000 annually. He discussed the Mental Health Bill, stating it passed but, has a \$30 million price tag. A new bill, S52, streamlines the permitting process for Public Service Board (PSB) applications, making it easier for residents and municipalities to better interact with the PSB.

Senator Branagan briefly discussed the Renewable Energy Bill.

Representative Parent stated that has been made a ranking member of Energy and Technology, focusing on IT infrastructure for all state departments, bring it all under one umbrella called Agency of Digital Services. He mentioned that Act 248A is designed for only telecom applications, streamlining permits for cell towers. Act 248 is for wind and solar projects. He also mentioned that the newly passed state budget does not increase taxes or fees and that \$25 million has been earmarked for water quality.

Representative Keenan added to Rep. Parent's comments regarding state IT and that currently, the state is spending millions of dollars a year and that IT is insufficient. They will be working on formulating a plan this summer to have IT more efficient. Regarding the Mental Health Bill Rep. Degree mentioned, Rep. Keenan explained that hospitals pay 10% of their dish payments (taxes hospitals pay) to help pay for the mental health bill. She also mentioned that the state could be down between \$100 - \$200 million in federal funds due to the new federal administration.

At the end of the update, there was a discussion on stormwater permits and how to address them.

Board Appointments

Development Review Board

MOTION: S. Smith made a motion to reappoint Arthur Omartian and Tom Stanhope to the DRB for 3 year terms and appoint Christina Boissoneault to a 3 year term. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried. Brendan abstained.

Planning Commission

MOTION: B. Nihan made a motion to reappoint Brent Brigham and appoint Jack Nichol to the Planning Commission to 3 year terms. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Planning Commission – 1 Year of an unexpired 3 Year Term

MOTION: B. Cheeseman made a motion to appoint Brendan Deso to fill Sam Smith's 1 year of an unexpired 3 year term. Motion carried with a 4-0 vote. B. Deso abstained.

Northwest Regional Planning Commission

MOTION: B. Cheeseman made a motion to reappoint Al Voegele to the Northwest Regional Planning Commission for a term of 1 year. Motion carried with a 4-0 vote. A. Voegele abstained.

Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)

MOTION: S. Smith made a motion to appoint Alan Mashtare and Bill Nihan to the Transportation Advisory Committee for a term of one year. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Northwest Vermont Solid Waste Management District (NWSWD)

MOTION: S. Smith made a motion to reappoint Al Voegele to the Northwest Vermont Solid Waste Management District for a term of 1 year. Motion carried with a 4-0 vote. A. Voegele abstained.

Town Agent

MOTION: B. Deso made a motion to appoint Town Manager, Carrie Johnson as Town Agent for a term of one year. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Clean Water Advisory Committee

MOTION: S. Smith made a motion to reappointed Al Voegele to the Clean Water Advisory Committee to a term of 1 year. Motion carried with a 4-0 vote. A. Voegele abstained.

Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP)

This plan is updated and approved annually. One change to clarify shelter location was requested to pages 2 and 13.

MOTION: B. Cheeseman made a motion to approve the 2017 Local Emergency Operations Plan with the presented change. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Liquor Control Board

MOTION: B. Cheeseman made a motion to recess the Selectboard meeting and convene as the Liquor Control Board. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

There were 4 applications presented to the Board;

The VFW applied for renewal of their First Class License and Outside Consumption.

Bayside applied for renewal of their First Class License and Outside Consumption.

The Wooden Nickle applied for a new First Class License and Outside Consumption.

MOTION: B. Nihan made a motion to approve the applications for renewal, new and outside consumption liquor licenses as presented. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

MOTION: B. Cheeseman made a motion to close the Liquor Control Board and reconvene as the Selectboard. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Town Manger's Report

Letter of Support for Canadian Interstate A-35

Both English and French versions of this letter were provided. This will also be endorsed by NRPC and FCDIC.

MOTION: S. Smith made a motion to approve the letter of support to the Assembly of Quebec for Canadian Interstate A35 and authorize Bruce Cheeseman to sign on behalf of the Selectboard. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Human Society Status (Franklin County Animal Rescue)

They are closing until sometime in the summer. They need to do a reorganization of the business. Currently, C. Johnson is in negotiations with a local person to take some animals on a case by case basis and will continue to search for different solutions. The Town's Animal Control Officer will continue to take calls.

Department of Public Works Equipment Purchase

Director of Public Works, Alan Mashtare came before the Board to discuss equipment purchases for the department. He provided a breakdown of costs for repairing the excavator and backhoe and the costs of purchasing replacements for each. C. Johnson stated that there are a few fund sources for these purchases and we would not have to borrow funds for purchases.

MOTION: B. Cheeseman made a motion to approve the purchase of the Case excavator and backhoe for a total of \$147,000. All in favor, none opposed, motion approved.

Access Permit Policy (Installation of Underground Utilities Permit)

A draft was provided to the Board. Sleeving requirements were requested at a past meeting. A. Mashtare stated this would be dealt with on a case by case basis. He will add some more detailed wording on sleeving. Regarding traffic control, S. Smith suggested referencing the "Daily Traffic Control Plan" in the policy and attaching it to the policy.

A. Mashtare provided the Board with what area communities charge for fees and permits. The Board agreed to \$100 permit & \$100 inspection fee.

MOTION: S. Smith made a motion to approve the Town of St. Albans Installation of Underground Utilities policy with the two changes as presented. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Town Road and Bridge Standards – Certificate of Compliance

Nothing has changed from last year's approval by the Board. The Board approved and signed the standards.

MOITON: B. Cheeseman made a motion to approve the Town Road and Bridge Standards. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Walking Path

A. Mashtare explained that the product from a pile stored on Brigham Road can be used to complete Phase 3, the final phase of the walking path at the Bay Park. The path will cross the park entrance, run along the outside perimeter, follow the ditch line and will come out near the south gate. The cost would be \$1,600 for materials. He will be using paving funds leftover from last year to cover paving costs. The project may take a week to finish.

MOTION: A. Voegele made a motion to grant permission to Alan Mashtare to finish Phase 3 of the Bay Park walking path with an estimated cost of around \$14,000. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Pickup Bid Opening

A. Mashtare received 2 bids.

B. Deso read two bids from Paquin:

2017 F series Ford pickup truck = \$46,744

2017 F series Ford pickup truck with snowplow prepping package = \$47,462

S. Smith read the bid from AJ Barrette

2017 F350 with a snowplow package = \$48,500.

A. Mashtare will review the bids to make sure they meet specifications and if all checks out, he will go with the low bid with the snowplow prepping package from Paquin in the amount of \$47,462.

Water Allocation Request – Lower Newton Road - Deso

B. Deso recused himself as he is representing the landowner. The allocation is for a single family dwelling and an accessory dwelling.

MOTION: B. Cheeseman made a motion to approve the water allocation request for Richard Deso and Brendan Deso as presented. Motion carried with a 4-0 vote. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried. Brendan abstained.

Other Business

Wilder Solar project

Nathaniel VanDal with the Wilder Solar project would like to address the Selectboard at a future meeting to discuss his project. It is proposed for the South part of town. It is in the Town but, accessed by Wilder Drive in Georgia. The Board agreed. S. Smith suggested they also go to the Planning Commission regarding ascetics.

Maquam Vineyard

C. Johnson explained to the Board that the first vineyard in the Town has opened called Maquam Vineyard. Their products are being sold in local stores.

Green Up Day

The Boy Scout troop is organizing Green Up Day for the Town. More information is on our Facebook page and website.

Public Comment

Peter Blouin stated he had heard that a company out of Canada was interested in the Brigham Road property. The Board neither confirmed nor denied this.

Schedule

The next regular Selectboard meetings are Monday, April 17th and Monday, May 1st. The Volunteer dinner will be held on April 10th.

Executive Session

MOTION: B. Deso made a motion to go into executive session at 9:10 p.m. to discuss legal, contractual or personnel issues where premature general public knowledge of the subject matter would place the Town (or person involved) at a substantial disadvantage. It was further moved to enter into executive session to discuss legal, personnel and contractual issues under the provisions of Title 1, section 313(a)(1) of Vermont Statutes and to invite in Town Manager, Carrie Johnson. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

MOTION: B. Deso made a motion to come out of executive session at 10:30 p.m. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Adjournment

MOTION: A. Voegele made a motion to adjourn the Selectboard meeting at 10:31 p.m. All in favor, none opposed, motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,
Jenn Gray, Recording Secretary