

**Town of St. Albans
Selectboard Meeting Minutes
Monday, July 10th, 2017
6:30 p.m.**

On Monday, July 10th, 2017 at 6:30 p.m., at Town Hall the Town of St. Albans Selectboard met.

Officials and staff present: Chair, Bruce Cheeseman, Brendan Deso, Bill Nihan, Al Voegele, Town Clerk, Anna Bourdon, Town Manager, Carrie Johnson and Recording Secretary, Jenn Gray. Vice Chair, Sam Smith arrived at 6:40 p.m.

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

Public: Peter Blouin and Representative, Lynn Dickinson.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was amended to discuss a letter of support for the VELCO project on Nason Street.

MOTION: B. Cheeseman made a motion to approve the amended agenda to add a discussion on the Letter of Support for the VELCO project. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

General Warrant

MOTION: B. Deso made a motion to approve the general warrant dated July 10th, 2017, in the amount of \$135,130.54. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Capital Equipment

MOTION: A. Voegele made a motion to approve the Capital Equipment warrant for the purchase of a truck for the Department of Public Works in the amount of \$47,515.00. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Industrial Park Warrant

MOTION: A. Voegele made a motion to approve the Industrial Park warrant in the amount of \$4,337.50. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Payroll Warrants

MOTION: B. Nihan made a motion to approve the payroll warrants dated June 23rd, 2017 in the amount of \$15,854.85, July 7th, 2017 in the amount of \$16,747.80 and June 30th, 2017 in the amount of \$29,882.07. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Minutes

MOTION: B. Cheeseman made a motion to approve the Selectboard meeting minutes for Monday, June 19th, 2017. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Municipal Tax Rate

Town Clerk, Anna Bourdon came before the Board to explain the proposed FY'18 municipal tax rate. The tax rate went up 4 tenths of a percent from last year. The grand list grew just over \$16 million or 1.7%. The Homestead Education rate for the Town went down 0.0765 cents per 100.00 of assessed value. A. Bourdon asked the Board to approve the tax rate of .3591. The FY'17 municipal tax rate was .3546. Tax bills will go out soon after the Town receives the education tax rate from the state.

MOTION: B. Cheeseman made a motion to approve the municipal tax rate in the amount of .3591. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Legislative Update

Representative, Lynn Dickinson came before the Board to give a legislative update. She explained that the marijuana bill was vetoed and that Governor Scott would like to appoint his own committee to work on this bill. All but, one in the house voted for the

budget. There are no new taxes or fees. The state also made up the \$70 million shortfall.

Representative Dickinson also discussed with the Board a bill she introduced regarding reimbursement to municipalities that lost court cases after charging non-profits property taxes. The Town lost a lawsuit a few years ago in which the Town was sued by Northwest Counseling and Support Services (NCSS). The Town had to pay back to NCSS the property taxes the Town charged them. However, when the Town went back to the state to request the Town get the money back that they paid to the state, they said no. This has happened to several communities within the state.

Representative Dickinson also discussed with the Board Act 69, Economic Development Bill and a section called the Rural Economic Development Infrastructure District and how TIF's (Tax Increment Financing) were done away with and then brought back to rural areas.

Franklin Park West Road Request

The road has passed inspection; core analysis was done recently and the road has been paved recently. The Town Attorney has reviewed and approved the deed. The stormwater permit is up to date and the stormwater agreement has been signed. S. Smith asked if the plow truck turnaround was in the deed; C. Johnson stated she would investigate with the Town Attorney and bring the request back to the Board at their meeting of Monday, July 17th.

Town Manger's Report Municipal Roads Grant

C. Johnson explained that included in the Board's packets was the additional information they requested at a previous meeting for the Municipal Roads grant. The Town has previously agreed to VTrans Road and Bridge Standards. She has signed the Letter of Intent for this grant and asked if there were any objections to the grant. No one objected.

Animal Control Officer Position Opening

Mark Leclair stepped down from his part-time, Assistant Animal Control Officer position. C. Johnson explained that animal control in Town does work best if we have three ACO's. An hourly stipend is paid for this position as well as mileage.

VELCO

VELCO has requested a Letter of Support for their substation upgrade on Nason Street. Representatives from VELCO came before the Board in early May

MOITION: A. Voegele made a motion to authorize the Selectboard Chair to sign a Letter of Support for VELCO. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Public Comment

Peter Blouin asked who owns the railroad tracks in the industrial park. B. Cheeseman stated the railroad owns the tracks. Mr. Blouin was concerned about the condition of the road going across the railroad tracks.

Schedule

The next regular Selectboard meetings are Monday, July 17th and Monday, August 7th.

Other Business

Update on Grice Brook Road

C. Johnson explained that Director of Public Works, Alan Mashtare spoke to a local engineer to see how much it would cost to put in a three way intersection onto the St. Albans State Highway (SASH) and how much it would cost to bring the public right of way road up to Town specifications. This is a work in progress.

Executive Session

MOTION: B. Deso made a motion to go into executive session at 7:36 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 7:58 p.m. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Edgewood Agreement

MOTION: A. Voegele made a motion to authorize Chairman, Bruce Cheeseman to sign the Edgewood agreement. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Adjournment

MOTION: A. Voegele made a motion to adjourn the Selectboard meeting at 8:02 p.m. All in favor, none opposed, motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,
Jenn Gray, Recording Secretary