

**Town of St. Albans
Selectboard Meeting Minutes
Monday, August 21st, 2017
6:30 p.m.**

On Monday, August 21st, 2017 at 6:35 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, Al Voegele, Town Manager, Carrie Johnson, Director of Public Works, Alan Mashtare and Recording Secretary, Jenn Gray. Absent was Bill Nihan.

Public: Peter Blouin, Dave Hardy, Dick Day, Steve & Deb Begnoche, St. Albans Messenger Reporter, Elaine Ezerins, Stan Dukas, Vermont State Police Lt., Moe Lamothe, Jim Cota w/VTrans District 8 and Kyle Carpenter w/VTrans District 8.

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

The Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

MOTION: B. Cheeseman made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Payroll Warrants

MOTION: S. Smith made a motion to approve the payroll warrants dated August 11th, 2017 in the amount of \$16,981.94 and August 18th, 2017 in the amount of \$17,815.80. 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 \$1,312.67. All in favor, none opposed motion carried.

General Warrant

MOTION: B. Deso made a motion to approve the general warrant dated August 21st, 2017, in the amount of \$731,089.96. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

\$550,437.87 of this went to Pike Industries for paving.

Minutes

MOTION: A Voegele made a motion to approve the Selectboard meeting minutes for Monday, August 7th, 2017. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

VTrans – Jim Cota

Bay Dock & Route 36 Intersection Improvements

Jim Cota came before the Board to discuss improvement options of the Bay Dock and Route 36 intersection. He pointed out that he did review the “St. Albans Bay Pier Study Analysis and Integration” study that Ruggiano Engineering completed in May, 2017. Mr. Cota and C. Johnson have discussed what improvements would be acceptable.

Mr. Cota explained that the best choice for the Town would be to take over the intersection and turn into Class one highway. This process usually takes a year to complete. The legislature has to review it. This would allow the town to have more control and not have to go to the State for approvals. The Class One road would be jointly owned with State. State would pay to have the road repaved every 15-20 years. Mr. Cota also explained that there would need to be a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for plowing, since the Town would be responsible for maintenance to include winter maintenance.

Mr. Cota went over the parking options that were provide in the Ruggiano study stating that the State may push back on parallel parking in the area but, would not approve angled parking. A 4-way stop may get some push back but, would pretty much be the only option the Town has for this intersection. S. Smith suggested creating parking on the large grass area of the Bay Park.

A. Voegele asked Mr. Cota what he thought about the new marina coming in. Mr. Cota explained that he would encourage the Town to take over that part of the Route 36 road.

McGinn Drive resident, Michael, asked why would a 4-way stop be needed and not just a 3-way stop when very little traffic comes from that direction. Mr. Cota explained that you don't want to "strand" the people parking at the dock; you need to allow them to exit the parking lot.

Cherry Street resident, Steve Begnoche explained that trucks have to make tight turns around the Bay Store. He also stated that parking on the curve is dangerous as well as trying to pull out of Cherry St. onto Route 36 with cars coming around the corner from the park at higher rates of speed than allowed by law.

Pat Vincent, Lake Road resident, called in to express her concerns with the amount of traffic in the area of the intersection. The agreed that adding curbing was a great idea and also stated that trying to pull out of the Bay Store is difficult.

A. Voegele asked what the Town's goal was in changing the intersection. B. Cheeseman explained that with the creemee stand, there is a lot of illegal parking along Route 36 and this needed to be addressed. A. Voegele suggested offering the owner of the creemee stand the opportunity to have his creemee stand in the Bay Park.

A Town resident, who didn't introduce himself, stated that he doesn't think that throwing additional parking at the issue will help the situation.

578 Lake Road Town resident, explained that the walking path at the Bay Park should encourage people to park at the park and then walk over to the dock, or the creemee stand. He also stated that the curbing would be a good idea.

Cherry Street resident, Deb Begnoche stated that people usually get their creemees and then walk through the park. Why they don't park in the park, walk to the creemee stand and then back is a mystery.

A. Voegele suggested having Town Manager, Carrie Johnson speak with the owner of the creemee stand regarding moving the creemee stand to the Bay Park. The Board agreed.

Fire Services Committee Update

A. Voegele provided an update on the progress the Fire Services Committee has made regarding fire services between the City and the Town firefighters. The initial question posed to both departments was if they wanted to work together. Both departments would like to see one fire department under control of the Town. Then next step would be to look at all the costs of a single department and how to divide up the costs between both departments. A draft Automatic Mutual Aid Agreement formalizes what is already being done.

B. Cheeseman explained a lot of work needs to be done before he would feel comfortable signing an agreement with the City.

A. Voegele explained that Police Chief, Gary Taylor is also the Fire Chief in the City. He would like to be the fire chief for the City only in an administrative capacity. B. Cheeseman stated that this should also go before the people.

Dick Day explained he agreed with the Board. He stated that he ran for Selectboard on the idea that the Town didn't give the City any money.

S. Smith stated that he saw this more as a Letter of Intent and not a contract or agreement. He suggested it should be worded better. The Board encouraged the committee to continue their work.

Town Manger's Report

St. Albans Solar Project Letter of Support

Brian Stumpf, Zoning and Outreach Manager with Cypress Creek Renewables, requested a letter of support from the Selectboard on the Saint Albans Solar, LLC. S. Smith stated that he would like to see the Planning Commission comments on this project. B. Cheeseman is not in favor of the project and suggested S. Smith sign the letter on behalf of the Selectboard instead of himself. The Board did not sign the letter and requested that C. Johnson ask Director of Administration, Ned Connell as to whether or not there were more comments from the Planning Commission or if this project would go before them again.

Barry Callebaut Expansion Letter of Support

FCIDC requested a letter of support from the Selectboard for the Barry Callebaut expansion in the industrial park.

MOTION: S. Smith made a motion to authorize Chair, Bruce Cheeseman to sign the letter of support for the Barry Callebaut expansion in the Industrial Park. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Grice Brook Homeowners Association Research Status

C. Johnson reached out to VTrans to see if they are still in agreement of the proposed crossing on the SASH. She has not heard from VTrans as of this meeting.

911 Ordinance Update

A tracked changes and a final draft were provided to the Board. C. Johnson asked for edits from them and stated that a clean copy would be provided at the next Selectboard meeting on Wednesday, September 6th for their approval.

The Village at Franklin Park Site Visit

This has been scheduled for Thursday, August 24th at 2pm.

Public Comment

Dick Day came before the Board to discuss Brigham Road. He stated concerns with the culvert in front of his house and the speed in which people are driving down Brigham Road.

Other Business

Road Stripping

B. Cheeseman asked Director of Public Works, Alan Mashtare why Maquam Shore Road hasn't been stripped yet. A. Mashtare explained that he wanted to wait until the paving on Fairfax Street was complete so, the State would only need to come up one time to do both roads. These are Class 2 roads and stripes are painted by a state contractor so scheduling is under their control.

Dogs in the Bay Park

B. Cheeseman stated that he had been approached by some residents about reconsidering allowing leashed dogs in the Bay Park. A. Voegele stated he is all in favor, as long as posts with waste baggies are made available to dog owners. B. Deso explained he would like to give a trial run with making the waste baggies available. S. Smith stated there would need to be an enforcement mechanism. A. Voegele suggested thinking about it over the winter and then come up with a plan for spring.

Stan Dukas explained dogs are allowed in the Town Forest.

Thank You – Vermont State Police

A. Voegele took this opportunity to express the Town's sympathy for the loss of Vermont State Police Trooper, Daniel Marcellus to Vermont State Police Trooper, Lamothe who was in attendance for this meeting.

Project Lists

B. Cheeseman stated he noticed on the Town Manager's project list that there will be more Christmas decorations in the Bay Park this year and he hopes that the skating rink will be considered.

Schedule

The next regular Selectboard meetings are Wednesday, September 6th and Monday, September 18th.

Adjournment

MOTION: A. Voegele made a motion to adjourn the Selectboard meeting at 8:03 p.m. All in favor, none opposed, motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,
Jenn Gray, Recording Secretary