

**Town of St. Albans  
Selectboard Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018  
5:30 p.m.**

On Tuesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018 at 5:30 p.m., at Town Hall the Town of St. Albans Selectboard met.

**Officials and staff present:** Vice Chair, Sam Smith, Brendan Deso, Bill Nihan, and Town Manager, Carrie Johnson.

Absent were Chair, Bruce Cheeseman and Al Voegele.

The Selectboard meeting started at 5:30 p.m. with an executive session to discuss pending litigation.

S. Smith opened the meeting at 5:30 p.m. and asked for a motion to go into executive session.

**Executive Session**

**MOTION: B. Deso made a motion to go into executive session at 5:30 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 recess the Selectboard meeting at 6:24 p.m. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.**

**Regular Meeting – 6:30 p.m.**

**Officials and staff present:** Vice Chair, Sam Smith, Brendan Deso, Bill Nihan, Town Manager, Carrie Johnson, Director of Public Works, Alan Mashtare, and Recording Secretary, Jenn Gray.

Absent were Chair, Bruce Cheeseman and Al Voegele.

**Public:** Peter Blouin, Legislative Representative, Corey Parent, Senator Carolyn Branagan, Senator Randy Brock, Assistant Judge Bob Johnson and, St. Albans Messenger, Elaine Ezerins.

**Reconvene Meeting**

**MOTION: S. Smith made a motion to reconvene the Selectboard meeting. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.**

The Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of Agenda**

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

**General Warrant**

**MOTION: B. Deso made a motion to approve the general warrant dated January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018 in the amount of \$48,744.83. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.**

**Payroll Warrants**

**MOTION: B. Nihan made a motion to approve the payroll warrants dated December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017 in the amount of \$18,739.64 and December 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017 in the amount of \$32,700.61. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.**

**Minutes**

**MOTION: B. Deso made a motion to approve the Selectboard meeting minutes for Monday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.**

### **Legislative Update – Corey Parent, Carolyn Branagan and Randy Brock**

The Legislative group came before the Board to provide an update. Representative Corey Parent who represents the City of St. Albans and 1/3 of the Town is in the House of Representatives. He explained that one of the items that he will be working on is the Carbon tax, which he believes will take up a lot of time this session.

Carolyn Branagan explained to the Board that she worked with farmers this past summer and fall regarding efforts to work on clean water. \$54 million has been set aside for fiscal year 2018 to work on clean water. She explained that although this money is available, the Department of Environmental Conservation doesn't feel they have the manpower to spend \$54 million. Talks about Lake Carmine will take place as well.

Senator Branagan explained she has had conversations with Carrie Johnson regarding towns' salt contracts for the same amount as the State. This didn't happen. In the contracts, bidders had the option to not sell directly to towns. 1 of the bidders offered to sell, 2 did not. B. Nihan asked if it could be made a condition in the contract to sell to towns. C. Branagan will look into this.

Senator, Randy Brock explained that same problems there 4 years ago are still there. How to make Vermont affordable; how to clean up the Lake Champlain? It will be a challenge to actually get things done instead of just talking about issues. We need to really take a look at how the new tax cuts are going to affect Vermont.

Representative Parent explained that the Town of St. Albans is one of the few communities to see taxes go down. He recognized the Selectboard for their hard work on this. B. Nihan stated he would like to see the education tax be costs based. Calculate how much it costs to education a child to come up with a per pupil cost and anything above that would need to be voted on.

Representative Parent asked the Board if there were any topics to be brought to the state. B. Deso stated that more work needs to be done in the area of stormwater permits. C. Johnson stated she wanted to maintain control on paid family leave and not have the state tell the Town what needs to be in our personnel policy. B. Deso would like to have assistance for the police to help in drug enforce. Representative Parent stated that currently Rutland communities are working together to combat the drug issue and are having great success.

Town resident, Peter Blouin asked Representative Parent to explain the Carbon tax. Representative Parent explained that the Carbon Tax or "The Essex Plan" would be a program to ramp up tax on fossil fuels such as natural gas, gasoline for cars and use credits to offset your electric bill.

Director of Public Works, Alan Mashtare explained that regarding the salt contracts, there was a wording issue in the state contract. They used the Town's tonnage but, didn't benefit the Town.

Town resident and Assistant Judge, Bob Johnson wanted to know what was happening regarding the Notary bill (H-206) allowing the Secretary of State taking over all notaries. Right now it is a county domain and County Clerks want to keep it but, are being boxed out by the Secretary of State. Mr. Johnson asked where does it stand at the Senate level and he would like to know the benefits for the public at large.

### **Town Manger's Report Personnel Policy Update**

Proposed changes clarify permanent part-time employees qualifying for benefits.

**MOTION: B. Nihan made a motion to approve the changes to the Personnel Policy as presented. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.**

### **St. Albans Health Path Status**

C. Johnson explained that Alan Mashtare will be going before the Transportation Advisory Council (TAC) to go over our project.

### **St. Albans Glass Company – Act 250 Application**

St. Albans Glass Company is moving to the Franklin Park West Industrial Park. No action required.

### **Public Comment**

Town resident and Assistant Side Judge, Bob Johnson took the opportunity to explain the County Budget. The budget will be a couple thousand dollars less than last year. They flat lined the Sheriff's Department budget and moved things around internally. They also moved money into capital improvements. The Town's portion should be going down with the new grand list numbers. Town pays 18% of county budget.

### **Schedule**

The next regular Selectboard meetings are Tuesday, January 16<sup>th</sup> and Monday, February 5<sup>th</sup>. Next budget meeting will be Monday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 5:30 p.m.

### **Other Business**

B. Deso explained he's been doing some social media work and discovered that some folks are circulating to enact ordinances or polices making it illegal for animals to be left outside during inclement weather. He learned that this is in New York, not Vermont. The Town of St. Albans is covered under our Animal Control Ordinance. He also reminded the audience to report animal abuse to the Town of St. Albans Animal Control Officer, David McWilliams.

### **Adjournment**

**MOTION: B. Nihan made a motion to adjourn the Selectboard meeting at 7:22 p.m. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Jenn Gray, Recording Secretary