

**Town of St. Albans
Selectboard Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 21st, 2018
6:30 p.m.**

On Monday, May 21st, 2018 at 6:30 p.m., at Town Hall the Town of St. Albans Selectboard met.

Officials and staff present: Chair, Bill Nihan, Brendan Deso, Stan Dukas, Al Voegele, Town Manager, Carrie Johnson, Director of Public Works (DPW), Alan Mashtare, and Recording Secretary, Jenn Gray. Absent was Vice Chair, Bruce Cheeseman.

Public: St. Albans Messenger Reporter, Michael Frett, Amy Brewer, Dick McAvenia (SD Ireland), Bretton Gardner (Pike), Jesse Stowell, EJ Blondin, Lori Washburn, Jay Gilmont and John St. Dennis.

Chair, B. Nihan called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance.

General Warrant

MOTION: S. Dukas made a motion to approve the general warrant dated May 21st, 2018 in the amount of \$113,397.57. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Impact Fee Warrant

MOTION: B. Deso made a motion to approve the Impact Fee warrant in the amount of \$12,490. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Capital Equipment Reserve Warrant

MOTION: B. Deso made a motion to approve the Capital Equipment Reserve warrant in the amount of \$8,350. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Industrial Park Warrant

MOTION: B. Deso made a motion to approve the Industrial Park warrant in the amount of \$1,031.70. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

B. Nihan asked C. Johnson to remind Director of Administration, Ned Connell to provide a schedule of stormwater project costs.

Payroll Warrants

MOTION: B. Deso made a motion to approve the payroll warrants dated May 11th, in the amount of \$16,587.23 and May 18th, 2018 in the amount of \$16,153.63. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Minutes

MOTION: A. Voegele made a motion to approve the Selectboard meeting minutes for Monday, May 7th, 2018. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Town Manager's Report

2018 Paving Bids

Bids were received from J. Hutchins, Pike Industries, S.D. Ireland, ST Paving. Director of Public Works, A. Mashtare and Jennifer Gray opened the bids on Friday, May 18th with the Selectboard Chair's permission. A. Mashtare explained this was to alleviate confusion during the meeting. He also went over the bids explaining that shoulder work will be done this year and he asked to have bids reflect those prices. There will be some work done on Jewett Avenue near the railroad tracks, which requires special insurance. Those costs were not requested at the time of request for bids.

J. Hutchins: \$67.00/ton for 5,979 tons = \$419,793.00
Pike: \$60.84/ton for 6,007 tons = \$379,815.88
S.D. Ireland: \$61.90/ton for 5,905 tons = \$385,092.25
S. T. Paving: \$64.85/ton for 5,907 tons = \$420,303.51

MOITON: B. Nihan made a motion to approve the bid for Pike Industries for paving costs per ton of \$60.84 and shoulder work estimated to cost around \$379,815.88. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

A. Mashtare went over which roads are to be paved this year. Those roads are; Industrial Park Road, Benoit Drive, Bronson Road, Nason Street and Jewett Road.

He also explained that he heard from the State today and there is a very good chance that the Town will be receiving a paving grant this year.

Bay Park Refund

The Boy Scouts had reserved the Bay Park picnic shelter for June 30th. This is Bay Day and they have asked for a refund.

MOTION: B. Deso made a motion to refund the Boy Scouts of America the amount of \$100. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

C. Johnson suggested changing the policy so she may approve refunds. The Board agreed to revise the policy and asked C. Johnson to provide a new policy.

Infrastructure Committee Update

C. Johnson explained that the committee's last meeting was on May 9th. Their recommendation to the Selectboard will be presented on Monday, June 4th. S. Dukas mentioned that this committee has been working on this since June, 2017 but, he's only seen one article in the Messenger. He wants the public to be made more aware.

Encore Renewable Energy Solar Project Designation – Jesse Stowell Assistant Animal Control Officer

Jesse Stowell from Encore Renewable Energy came before the Board requesting them to sign a letter agreeing to a preferred designated site for a net metering solar project. Net metering has criteria that went into effect 1/1/2017 that need to be met. There are 9 criteria and one of those needs to be a letter signed by the Selectboard stating that they support the proposed site as a preferred site. Support from the Regional Planning Commission is required as well. This letter will enable Encore to move forward with this project.

A. Voegele explained that this is the second request in this region. The Town of Fairfield has been approached on a site in their town as well. The project review committee reviewed the proposal and didn't agree with the letter the Selectboard had approved. They are working on a revised letter. Mr. Stowell did explain that he spoke with the Regional Planning Commission and they stated that they wanted to make sure the Fairfield Selectboard wasn't signing off or giving carte blanche. This letter of support is just to help begin the process for a Certificate of Public Good.

Mr. Stowell explained that this project could generate \$150,000 in net metering credits per year. Their intent is to sell the power back to the Green Mountain Power service territory.

A. Voegele suggested that the Town Planning Commission hear the project, provide feedback, and then Jesse can come back to the Selectboard.

Water Allocation Request – 667 Maquam Shore Road

MOTION: A. Voegele made a motion to approve the water allocation for 667 Maquam Shore Road. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Personnel Policy Draft

The Board was provided a copy of a suggested change from A. Voegele along with a final copy for signature; he requested adding a "Harassment" section to Section 26 (Sexual and Other Unlawful Harassment) of the policy. B. Nihan stated that the change that A. Voegele is suggesting is too broad.

MOTION: B. Deso made a motion to table this topic to a later meeting. Motion failed with a 2-2 vote.

MOTION: A. Voegele made a motion to add the harassment changes to Section 26. Motion failed with a 2-2 vote.

MOTION: B. Nihan made a motion to approve the Personnel and Conflict of Interest Policy without A. Voegele's changes to Section 26. Motion carried with a 3-1 vote with S. Dukas abstaining.

Hard'Ack Epi Committee

This is the Hard'Ack steering committee looking at long term planning for the community. This committee is requesting another Selectboard member. Currently, B. Cheeseman is also serving on this committee. A. Voegele agreed to serve on the committee.

MOTION: B. Nihan made a motion to appoint Al Voegele to the Hard'Ack Epi Committee. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

St. Albans Health Path Update

C. Johnson explained that the Director of Administration, Ned Connell and Jeff Morreau with Northwestern Medical Center worked together on the Northern Borders Grant. The grant would be used for the path that would connect Collins Perley to the other side of the St. Albans State Highway (SASH) near Gricebrook, creating a 3-way intersection, then north to the City sidewalk system.

Town resident, John St. Dennis asked who is driving the need for this path. B. Nihan stated that there have been multiple discussions about bike and pedestrian paths and how people would like to see them in the community. C. Johnson explained that a study was done a couple of years ago that shows a good amount of people using paths and crossing the SASH, which is dangerous. A. Mashtare explained that the state would like to see more towns connect their sidewalks and paths with safe crossings.

Northwestern Medical Center – Amy Brewer – Bay Park Tobacco Free Initiative

Amy Brewer came before the Board to request that the Bay Park be a tobacco free space.

B. Deso suggested using the fine structure from the Animal Control Ordinance in the Parks Ordinance for offenders.

B. Nihan stated he was not supportive of prohibiting smoking in the park but, would support signage that discourages people from smoking in the park.

MOTION: A. Voegele made a motion to prohibit the use of tobacco products, marijuana and smokeless products in the Bay Park. Motion fails with a 2-2 vote.

The Board did agree to get signs put up discouraging smoking, not prohibiting smoking.

St. Albans Museum to Host Free Kids Night – June 6th

Informational.

A. Voegele asked if the Town had received a request from the St. Albans Historical Museum wanting to add a ballot question for next year's Town Meeting Day to increase the allocation the Town gives annually.

B. Nihan explained that he and C. Johnson met with Charlie Moore and Executive Director, Alex Lehning regarding this request. He made the suggestion to Mr. Moore and Mr. Lehning to put together a presentation for the Selectboard but, he hasn't heard anything back from them yet.

AT&T Mobility Modification of Certificate of Public Good

No action required. They are upgrading to accommodate First Net.

First Net

C. Johnson explained that there is a new program coming out for municipalities to increase our communications with each other but, we don't have enough information yet to present to the Board.

Public Comment

None.

Schedule

The next regular Selectboard meetings are Monday, June 4th and Monday, June 18th. Office is closed on Monday, May 28th for Memorial Day.

A. Voegele suggested another Selectboard meeting to discuss how to deal with media requests. B. Nihan stated that in the Personnel and Conflict of Interest Policy, covers confidentiality. The Board agreed to have this conversation at a regular Board meeting and invite our Town Attorney's.

Other Business

B. Deso explained that the Town received the most recent LOT payment with the grand total received to date of \$2,897,628.67.

Adjournment

**MOTION: B. Deso made a motion to adjourn the Selectboard meeting at 8:25 p.m.
All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted
Jenn Gray, Recording Secretary