

**Town of St. Albans
Selectboard Meeting Minutes
Monday, June 18th, 2018
6:30 p.m.**

On Monday, June 18th, 2018 at 6:30 p.m., at Town Hall the Town of St. Albans Selectboard met.

Officials and staff present: Chair, Bill Nihan, Vice Chair, Bruce Cheeseman, Brendan Deso, Stan Dukas, Al Voegele, Town Manager, Carrie Johnson, Director of Public Works (DPW), Alan Mashtare, Director of Administration, Ned Connell, Town Clerk, Anna Bourdon, Public Safety Administrator and Fire Chief, Bob Cross and Recording Secretary, Jenn Gray.

Public: St. Albans Messenger Reporter, Michael Frett, SATFD, Jay Sweeny and Justin Oddy, Encore Renewable Energy, Jesse Stowell and Bob Fairbanks.

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

The Pledge of Allegiance.

Payroll Warrants

MOTION: B. Deso made a motion to approve the payroll warrants dated June 8th, 2018 in the amount of \$16,727.47 and June 15th, 2018 in the amount of \$20,034.97. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Industrial Park Warrant

MOTION: S. Dukas made a motion to approve the Industrial Park warrant dated June 18th, 2018 in the amount of \$784.06. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

General Warrant

B. Cheeseman requested approval the general warrant less two invoices for vendor 206. This will be discussed in executive session.

MOTION: B. Cheeseman made a motion to approve the general warrant dated June 18th, 2018 in the amount of \$55,076.86 minus \$621.54 for vendor 206 making the final approved total \$54,455.32. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Minutes

A. Voegele pointed out some changes to the meeting minutes for June 4th regarding the Infrastructure Committee's presentation. The following will be added to the June 4th meeting minutes: "After evaluating the current building, the committee determined that the life of expanding the existing building would be short lived and would not be able to handle any future growth. It would be less cost effective to renovate this building based on its existing limitation".

MOTION: A. Voegele made a motion to approve the Selectboard meeting minutes for Monday, June 4th, 2018 as amended. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Encore Renewable Energy – Jesse Stowell, Director of Business Development

Jesse Stowell returned to the Selectboard to explain to them that he met with the Planning Commission as well as the Regional Planning Commission and received approval from both commissions. The letter of support Mr. Stowell is requesting enables Encore to list the site as "Preferred" and starts the process of applying for a Certificate of Public Good.

Resident, Bob Fairbanks expressed his concerns for a decommissioning plan. Mr. Stowell stated that there is a decommissioning plan and bond that would be used for this purpose.

MOTION: S. Dukas made a motion to authorize the Selectboard Chair to sign the letter of support for the proposed 500 kw solar project to be located off Maquam Shore Road in the Town of St. Albans. Vote carries with a 4-1 vote with B. Nihan voting opposed.

Town Manager's Report

Fire Department Marine Unit – Bob Cross & Jay Sweeny

Boat Captain, Jay Sweeny and Fire Chief, Bob Cross came before the Board explaining their request to purchase a replacement marine unit (boat).

B. Cross explained that the current boat is aging and not large enough for some rescues. The boat originated with the US Coast Guard, then went to the Town of North Hero. After that, the Town purchased it from the Town of North Hero for \$1. The motor was replaced in 2008 for \$15,000. The current boat is 21' long and has a capacity of 8 people. The proposed new boat is 27' long and has a capacity of 12 people. J. Sweeny stated that with the new marina starting up, there will be more boat traffic and believes there will be an increased need for rescue services. Justin Oddy, former Coast Guard and current member of the St. Albans Town Volunteer Fire Department also agreed with the Chief's recommendation.

J. Sweeny has applied for a number of port security grants to help in the purchase of a new boat but, the Town has not met the criteria. The new boat will meet immediate needs as well as future needs. He explained that there are two rescue agencies interested in the current boat. The fire department was looking for the Selectboards' support to purchase this boat.

S. Dukas said that the funds they are asking for is a lot to ask from the tax payers. B. Cross explained that the funds are already in the reserve fund. J. Sweeny stated that if we act now, there is a significant cost savings. If we wait until a date further in the future, it'll be a lot more expensive because we will have to purchase a new boat.

B. Nihan explained that the police department is also looking to purchase a marine unit. B. Cross stated that both departments need marine units for different reasons. The fire department boat will be too heavy for patrols; the police boat would be used mainly for patrols.

Town Clerk, Anna Bourdon told the board that there is \$31,660 in the Impact Fee account for the fire department.

B. Cheeseman suggested discussing this further in executive session. B. Nihan agreed. A. Voegele stated that he was ready to make a motion at this point. B. Nihan asked A. Voegele what his motion would be without actually making the motion. A. Voegele suggested the Selectboard authorize the fire department to purchase this boat in the amount not to exceed the amount requested. B. Nihan said he had a feeling the motion would fail. S. Dukas agreed. A. Voegele suggested the fire department be included in the executive session. The Board agreed.

Director of Public Works, Alan Mashtare explained that Burton Island will no longer be pumping fuel because the state lost their permit and the island fuels a lot of the Canadian boat traffic. Now, there will be more boats having to travel to the Bay for fuel. With more boats going in and out of the islands, he felt that it would be beneficial to have a bigger boat to take care of the rescues.

S. Dukas asked Chief Cross if he could hold off for two years on purchasing a new quint ladder/pumper truck. Chief Cross said yes but, the truck will depreciate in value. There was no Selectboard consensus on this request.

The Board agreed to move this discussion to executive session at the end of the regular portion of the meeting and to include the fire department representatives.

Closing of Stump Dump – Brigham Road

A. Mashtare proposed to close the stump dump on Brigham Road. There has been a high amount of commercial landscaping companies using the Brigham Road site to dump their fill and getting paid for it. The pile is getting out of hand. A 10-wheel dump truck dropped off a load of dirt with stumps. A property manager with a 1-ton dump truck has been dumping as well. When we burn these piles, they tend to smolder due to the dirt and stumps in the piles. There are no areas separating the items being dumped. A. Mashtare suggested locking the gate to the dump during the week and only having it opened on the weekends for residents.

Resident, Shannon Trainer, who lives at 2 Cody Drive, about a quarter mile from the stump dump stated that no one is around to regulate what is going into the stump dump and there have been times when poison sumac had been burned, putting poisonous gas

into the air. She stated they've had to keep their windows closed due to smoldering fires.

A. Mashtare suggested putting down a concrete slab for the wood and hiring a chipper. He stated that the Department of Public Works can utilize the chips. Right now, however, we really need to close the dump during the week so, we can catch up with the piles. The Board agreed to limit the stump dump to be open one day a week for the residents. After a couple of weeks, if it doesn't improve, the dump will be closed indefinitely. C. Johnson pointed out that a public announcement will be put on the Town's Facebook page and website.

Grant Letters of Support Franklin County Industrial Park Sidewalks

FCIDC is applying for a grant to connect sidewalks in the industrial park. No costs to the Town.

MOTION: B. Cheeseman made a motion authorizing the Selectboard Chair to sign the letter of support for FCIDC \$25,000 grant. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

St. Albans Health Path

Director of Administration, Ned Connell is applying for a grant for the health path. Connect Thorpe Avenue (about 10 feet into the City) to Thorpe Avenue Extension, opposite side of the SASH.

MOTIN: B. Cheeseman made a motion to authorize the Selectboard Chair to sign the letter of support for the request of \$200,000 for the St. Albans Health Path. Vote passed 4-1 with B. Nihan voting opposed.

Town Opinion Survey Final Draft

Michael Mosher and his assistant have reviewed the Town's questions for the survey. They did make comments on some of the proposed questions. B. Deso went through the questions and the Board made their comments. C. Johnson will forward back to UVM this week.

Town Plan Approved

The Planning Commission approved the Town Plan on June 12th, 2018 and have now forwarded it to the Selectboard. The Selectboard will need to hold two public hearings before approving it; one on July 23rd and August 20th.

Route 7 Connectability – Bike & Pedestrian Meeting

This meeting will be taking place on Thursday, June 28th at City Hall.

Cold Hollow Career Center Job Fair

C. Johnson and A. Mashtare attended a job fair at the Cold Hollow Career Center in Enosburgh last week. Jenn Gray created a brochure for the Department of Public Works Equipment Operator position to hand out during the fair. Area municipalities struggle to find good, quality employees for their Department of Public Works and this job fair was to education and encourage potential candidates to get their Commercial Driver's License (CDL).

Handicap Placard Enforcement

The St. Albans Police Department had been ticketing offenders who have not properly displayed their handicap placards in their vehicles. The department has notified people about proper procedure, tickets can cost between \$50 - \$275 and are strongly reminding folks to place their placards in a visible spot for officers to see. A visor is not an acceptable place for the placard.

No Parking – Bay Dock Crosswalk

S. Dukas explained his concerns about cars parking on both sides of the road in front of the Bay Store. He asked if the police were enforcing the "no parking" signs. C. Johnson explained the ordinance states it is a "no parking" zone in front of the Bay Store, the police should still be patrolling this area, and she will forward their concern and support for enforcing the illegal parking.

Refund Policy

A draft refund policy was presented to the Board authorizing the Town Manager to approve refunds. The Board agreed to the new policy.

Public Comment

Bob Fairbanks came before the Board to discuss the Town survey. He wanted to know how many questions are “yes or no” questions and if there was an area for comments.

Schedule

The next regular Selectboard meetings are Monday, July 2nd and Monday, July 23rd. Grievance hearings are on June 27th. Town Hall will be closed July 4th for the holiday. Bay Day is Saturday, June 30th with a rain date of Sunday, July 1st. The Farmer’s Market is on Wednesdays rain or shine.

Other Business

B. Nihan read a quote that he was asked about on the St. Albans Today show: “We have situations, not only in the Town office but, in other places where we do have employees fighting with one another, people coming in with some form of authority that do create an uncomfortable position for the person who is the object of the criticism and also those people who have to listen to it. B. Nihan asked A. Voegele to substantiate the statement.

A. Voegele responded: “Among the many positive comments I have received regarding my remarks at the last Select Board meeting with respect to amending the Town’s Harassment Policy I have been made aware by one person that my remarks implied that the Town employees “were fighting” amongst themselves. Not being perfect, I acknowledge that when speaking extemporaneously I am not often descriptively accurate so as to preclude all misunderstanding. Given that weakness, I always welcome clarifying questions because it also offers me an opportunity to learn. To those who read my comments literally and inferred I was speaking solely about the employees of the Town of Saint Albans, I do apologize.

For it was not my intent to disparage the employees and volunteers that serve as the Town’s municipal government. By my observations they are a loyal and dedicated group of individuals who work tirelessly together under the direction of the Town Manager as a team providing quality services on behalf of the residents of the Town for which we all can be proud.

In my 62 years of employment history in other organizations – omitting my stint as a paperboy and my services to the Saint Albans Town Government, I have witnessed painful emotional disruptions between long term colleagues. I have also witnessed recently hired employees in different organizations develop conflicts resulting from misunderstandings between people having differing perceptions of events and roles. And I have addressed frustrated employees whose behavior that was not “customer friendly”.

When these unfortunate events occur they do affect the morale of an entire organization and its relationship with the “outside” world of customers and citizens. Thus the purpose of my remarks at our last Select Board meeting was to add clarification and define an expectation of behavior to avoid conduct that could be deemed non-sexual harassment in our Town’s workplace as we proceed into the future under changing cultural norms”.

B. Nihan stated that the trouble is when you read things in the paper you always have to look at it literally. A. Voegele said no you don’t. You have to use a little common sense.

Executive Session

MOTION: B. Deso made a motion to go into executive session at 8:54 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 and representatives of the Town volunteer fire department. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

MOTION: A. Voegele made a motion to come out of executive session at 10:00 p.m. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Payment to Bob Cross

MOTION: B. Cheeseman made a motion to pay vendor #206, Bob Cross in the amount of \$621.54 to be paid from the "Travel/Mileage" line item to be created by the Treasurer. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Fire Department Marine Rescue Boat

MOTION: B. Deso made a motion to authorize the St. Albans Town Fire Department to move forward with the purchase of a marine rescue unit not to exceed \$150,000 and to be paid from the Fire Department Reserve Fund. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Adjournment

MOTION: S. Dukas made a motion to adjourn the Selectboard meeting at 10:05 p.m. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted
Jenn Gray, Recording Secretary