

**Town of St. Albans  
Selectboard Meeting Minutes  
Monday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
6:30 p.m.**

On Monday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, 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, Town Clerk Anna Bourdon, Animal Control Officer David McWilliams, Asst. Animal Control Officer Matt Marchessault, and Recording Secretary Jenn Gray.

**Public:** Bob Fairbanks, Assistant Judge Bob Johnson, Roberta Allard, Paul Morris, Police Chief Gary Taylor, Roger Langevin, Kathy Hickory, Lieutenant Jason Wetherby, Thomas and Laurie Oliver, Kevin Lawler, Richard Dickinson, Tim Hurlbut, and Jennifer Desautels from TCE.

Chair, B. Nihan called the meeting back 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 August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018 in the amount of \$484,794.90. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.**

Payments to Green Mountain Power, Pike Industries, St. Albans Police, and AmCare contributed to the large warrant amount.

**Payroll Warrants**

**MOTION: B. Cheeseman made a motion to approve the payroll warrants dated July 23<sup>rd</sup> - July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018 in the amount of \$19,034.68 and July 16<sup>th</sup> - July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018 in the amount of \$28,920.01. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.**

**Minutes**

**MOTION: A. Voegele made a motion to approve the Selectboard meeting minutes for Monday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.**

B. Nihan wanted to make a change to the minutes under "Other business" to read 0.6%.

**MOTION: A. Voegele made a motion to approve the Selectboard 'special' meeting minutes for Friday, July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.**

**St. Albans Police Chief, Gary Taylor**

Police Chief Gary Taylor came before the Board to provide an update. There has been a 12% increase in crime in the Town; 15% of those crimes are committed by juveniles. There were 34 fatal drug overdoses (OD's) in the City and Town combined in the last year. Naloxone was a major contributor to saving those overdoses.

By tomorrow (8/7/18) every open position within the police department should be filled. They provided a \$10,000 signing bonus and free health insurance for new recruits to the department. S. Dukas asked how long does it take to get a new officer to fully certified. Chief Taylor explained that the legislature has made it more difficult every year. It takes 9-11 months to get officer certified. Officers have to attend a 19 week police academy, a part-time academy, and be assigned to a Field Training Officer. The costs are \$72,800.

Town resident and Assistant Judge, Bob Johnson asked Chief Taylor with the changes in the marijuana possession laws effective July 1<sup>st</sup> and the corresponding concern with impaired driving, if the department has any Drug Recognition Evaluators (DRE) and if not, are we planning on getting some. Chief Taylor explained the department had 3 until Captain Hoague left, who was one of the main trainers. There have been DRE's made available to different areas. If we don't have one on duty or in house, we can call for one. Traditionally, it's his department who gets called. But, currently there is not mechanism to measure marijuana impairment.

A. Voegele asked Lieutenant Wetherby about the biker's organization in the Bay. Lieutenant Wetherby explained that there is a bike group called Bikers Against Child Abuse (BACA). There are several chapters around the world. There was a child who

had been abused and had a court hearing coming up with Department of Child and Families (DCF). The concept of this gang is to empower the child and make the family feel safe and protected. They ran into an issue with another motorcycle club that was allegedly following them around. A. Voegelé asked what the police position was on having gangs serving as protectors. Police Chief Taylor explained that it is not illegal to be in a gang or form a group in the state of Vermont. They know about their activities as some of the groups have been around for 3 or 4 years. They do not blatantly engage in criminal conduct and if they do, then we address that. Chief Taylor also clarified that the Vietnam Vets (bike gang) are not necessarily veterans. The Combat Vets are veterans.

### **Franklin County Sheriff Candidates**

#### **Roger Langevin**

Officer Roger Langevin came before the Board to discuss his platform for running for Franklin County Sheriff. He stated that he's been to 15 Selectboard meetings since deciding to run for Franklin County Sheriff. He is retired from Vermont State Trooper. Currently with the St. Albans Police Department, 4 years. He explained the way we are going to get ahead of the drug problem will be to educate younger children, early. We need to increase police presence. The State has a bill, S273, where the state police will no longer take town contracts beginning in 2019. This would be a great opportunity for the Franklin County Sheriff's Department to assist the smaller towns that do not have police contracts.

B. Cheeseman asked Officer Langevin what his biggest challenges were. Mr. Langevin explained that communication with smaller towns that don't have police contracts. Town resident, Tim Hurlbut asked who is supposed to respond in a small town like Berkshire? Officer Langevin stated it is typically the State Police.

#### **Thomas Oliver**

Mr. Oliver came before the Board and provide a bit of his history. He explained that he grew up in Burlington, Vermont and attended Champlain College and worked as a non-commissioned position with the Burlington Police Department. He worked for the Williston Police Department. In 1990, he became a full time officer. He has been with the Franklin County Sheriff's Department for 19 years. He feels it is important for the department to do more things for the smaller towns, possibly having larger towns supplement the Sheriff's services. He stated that we need a few more officers to help out with the smaller towns.

B. Cheeseman asked if he'd make any changes. Mr. Oliver said nothing drastic, he has a budget to work with. He wants to keep a good working relationships with State Police, Border Patrol and the military.

S. Dukas stated that the St. Albans Town pays the largest portion of the county tax (\$77,000). He asked if that money was used for the court system. Mr. Oliver explained that the funds do go towards the courts, for the staffing of the courts and training. You can't use county monies for law enforcement.

Assistant Judge Johnson explained that when it comes to the budget, that budget in which we pay \$77,000 from the Town encompasses certain of the deputies' conditions, which are required by Title 24 to provide housing for the Sheriff's Department, essential services, and some equipment but, not the cars. The rest of the money is for the upkeep of the courthouse, our court staff so, it's not just the Sheriff's Department and it's not just the courts department. S. Dukas stated that the Sheriff's Department is 54% (of the budget). Assistant Judge Johnson explained it depends on how you split it off because two of the employees that work in the Sheriff's Department are county employees, not Sheriff employees and that's part of their budget that has been split out. S. Dukas asked who they worked for. Assistant Judge Johnson explained that the bookkeeper and the secretary are required to be paid for by the county by Title 24. S. Dukas asked who do they work for. Mr. Johnson stated they work at the Sheriff's Department but, work for the county. B. Cheeseman asked who the employees were supervised by. Assistant Judge Johnson stated that they are supervised by the Sheriff but, their raises are governed by what the Assistant Judges dictate on a year to year basis. We receive an evaluation from the Sheriff on their performance and then we take the actions that commiserate with that.

Mr. Hurlbut asked how many staff members were in the department. Mr. Oliver stated 33 sworn and 2 admin. 12 Full time certified.

## **Infrastructure Steering Committee – Dept. of Public Works Project Proposed Recommendations to Selectboard**

Tim Hurlbut and Dick Dickinson from the Infrastructure Steering Committee and Jen Desautels from Trudell Consulting Engineers (TCE), came before the Board to discuss the proposed recommendations. C. Johnson explained the formation of the Infrastructure Steering Committee and what their charge was; to research the feasibility of moving the Department of Public Works (DPW) off the lake. She went on to explain that she spoke to Tom Barden, who did the costs estimates for the DPW project back in 2015 and asked how much would the 2015 project cost today; same building and materials proposed in 2015. Mr. Barden's answer was that inflation factors average around 7% the last 3 years. The gross increase since 2015 was \$551,467 or 22% more than what it would have cost in 2015. C. Johnson went on to explain that for the currently proposed project, the cost per square footage is less than the 2015 cost per square footage. The 2015 costs per square foot was, in today's dollars \$268/sq. ft. vs. the 2018 costs of \$178/sq. ft. We are proposing this building to the Selectboard and hoping you have questions.

S. Dukas asked if the building needed to be sprinkled. Ms. Desautels was unsure. It can be looked at. S. Dukas stated that when we looked at this project in 2015, we sprinkled the building. S. Dukas stated that we could deduct that piece out. C. Johnsons explained the sprinkler costs can be addressed and may change that 2018 number. S. Dukas stated that he doesn't see us comparing the same things (between the building form 2015 and the currently proposed building).

Mr. Dickinson explained that we are proposing a better value from what we planned in 2015. Rick Cummings is really good at building and saving money. Rick and Alan Mashtare were very involved in the details. They cut out all the stuff we don't need. They worked very hard with the numbers to come up with a very functional facility that fits our needs.

B. Cheeseman stated that moving the building to the new site from the 2015 site has increased the costs. He went on to say that he doesn't understand why the building sits where it does now when in 2015, we had a location, all the test pits for septic passed. Ms. Desautels explained that we were asked to look at all the options. There is acceptable septic in the area of the site. She also stated that it will cost \$70,000 more to connect to municipal than doing onsite. However, Mr. Hurlbut explained that Peter Mazurak (P.E. with TCE) told the committee that the wash bay would shorten the life of an onsite system and that hooking onto the municipal service would be a better long term option.

B. Nihan shared his concern that negotiation of a right-of-way with the railroad for the currently proposed driveway will drag this out. Ms. Desautels stated this site isn't set in stone.

David McWilliams asked if there had been any discussion on hooking onto the line near the Pion property. Mr. Dickinson confirmed that was considered one of the options for municipal sewer.

A. Voegele stated that the Board needs to write down their concerns and have it done by Wednesday. This needs to be on the ballot in November.

It was suggested that a joint meeting be held with the Infrastructure Steering Committee and Selectboard as well as Ms. Desautels to go over all questions and concerns the Selectboard has on the project. It was decided to meet on Monday, August 13<sup>th</sup> at 4pm for a work session.

### **Town Manager's Report**

#### **Assistant Animal Control Officer – Matt Marchessault**

C. Johnson introduced the Board to the new Assistant Animal Control Officer, Matt Marchessault. He's been training with David McWilliams for a month. D. McWilliams stated Matt is willing to learn and do park patrol and the dog park checking for licenses. He does need to get the rabies shots and the Town will provide him with a cell phone.

### **Marijuana Ordinance Discussion**

The Board discussed at a previous meeting a possible marijuana ordinance for the Town. VLCT provided some information to C. Johnson. Assistant Judge Johnson did explain that there is the potential for issues in multifamily homes with growing and smoking marijuana. The Board agreed to put this on hold for now, taking no action.

### **Memorial and Community Recognition Policy Draft**

Another draft after a few revisions was provided to the Board. The Board agreed to eliminate "Gifts shall not be accepted to advertise or recognize organizations". No existing memorials will be removed. Director of Public Works, Alan Mashtare will be creating a site plan to include with the policy. A. Voegele thanked the Recreation Committee for their hard work in putting this policy together.

### **Town Forest Master Trail Grants**

The Town applied for grants to complete the master trail plan at the Town Forest for recreation paths. C. Johnson explained that she applied for a grant from Building and General Service for just under \$20,000. The Town has received \$8,000 from Rotary and \$5,000 from RiseVT. C. Johnson will be looking into more fund from the 100 Women Who Care for around \$5,000. We will also be applying for a \$5,000 mountain bike grant.

### **J&L Service Center**

C. Johnson thanked Dave Baker of J&L Service Center for being on standby for a film crew who was shooting a movie last Sunday, Monday and Tuesday. The shoot was 12 hours and Dave was on hand to keep an old 1989 truck running.

### **14<sup>th</sup> Star Brewfest**

Was a huge success and the Town will be receiving a donation for \$1,000 from 14<sup>th</sup> Star for the stone house.

### **Public Comment**

None.

### **Other Business**

#### **Un-Audited Rollover Amount**

Town Clerk, Anna Bourdon explained to the Board that there is an un-audited rollover from fiscal year 2018 in the amount of \$771,739.34. \$300,000 was used to reduce taxes and \$100,000 was used for the new tandem truck for DPW, leaving \$371,739.34. A more firm number will be available at budget time.

#### **Brigham Road Property**

B. Nihan explained that Edgewood Holdings, LLC was interested in some of the land the Town owns on Brigham Road. That option has expired and the Town did not renew nor did they. The company had invested money in site analysis.

### **Schedule**

The next regular Selectboard meeting is Monday, August 20<sup>th</sup>. The Board agreed to move the September 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting to Tuesday, September 4<sup>th</sup> due to the Labor Day holiday. The Primary is Tuesday, August 14<sup>th</sup>.

### **Car Show – Bay Park**

B. Cheeseman stated he was very pleased with all the activity that occurred at the Bay Park over the weekend with softball tournaments and the car show.

### **EPI Center Hard'Ack**

The EPI Committee is working on a long range plan for Hard'Ack. B. Cheeseman and A. Voegele represent the Town on this committee. They are looking into whether it will be feasible to add a skating rink, at Hard'Ack and if not there, where. The committee is asking for \$5,000 from the Town and \$5,000 from the City to do a study to figure this out. Kevin Lawler spoke about the need for an additional ice rink but, asked where all the St. Albans Skating Associations (SASA) money was.

Town resident, Kathy Hickory stated that she works at Collins Perley and from 6am to 10pm the ice is booked and public skating has been pushed aside. The Selectboard must determine where the money is coming from once we get an invoice.

**MOTION: B. Cheeseman made a motion to allocate up to \$5,000 to the EPI Center Committee for their study. Motion carried 3-2 with B. Nihan and S. Dukas voting against.**

### **Adjournment**

**MOTION: A. Voegele made a motion to adjourn the Selectboard meeting at 8:36 p.m. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted, Jenn Gray, Recording Secretary