

**Town of St. Albans
Selectboard Meeting Minutes
Monday, December 17th, 2018
5:30 p.m.**

On Monday, December 17th, 2018 at 5:30 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, and Town Attorneys Dan O'Rourke and Chad Bonanni. Absent was Vice Chair Bruce Cheeseman.

B. Nihan called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. The purpose for the earlier start to the meeting was to conduct an executive session to discuss a contractual legal issues.

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 and Town Attorneys Dan O'Rourke and Chad Bonanni. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

MOTION: B. Deso made a motion to recess the Selectboard meeting at 6:28 p.m. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Regular Meeting – 6:30 p.m.

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

Public: Representative Lynn Dickinson, Bob Fairbanks, and St. Albans Messenger Report, Mike Frett.

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 December 17th, 2018 in the amount of \$267,327.24. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

St. Albans Police was the largest invoice on the warrant followed by Cross Consulting for the DPW project and Cargill for salt.

Fire Department Reserve Warrant

MOTION: B. Deso made a motion to approve the Fire Department Reserve Warrant in the amount of \$4,971.40. 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 \$1,106.77. 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 \$610.44. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Payroll Warrants

MOTION: B. Deso made a motion to approve the payroll warrants dated December 7th, 2018 in the amount of \$38,513.04 and December 14th, 2018 in the amount of \$18,341.18. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Stipends for the fire department, payments in lieu of insurance and two vacation buy back payments made up the larger payroll warrant for December 7th, 2018.

Minutes

MOTION: A. Voegele made a motion to approve the Selectboard meeting minutes for Monday, December 3rd, 2018 and the 'special' meeting minutes for December 10th, 2018 as written. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Representative, Lynn Dickinson

Representative Dickinson came before the Board to provide a legislative update.

Act 250 – Act 250 had a 50th anniversary committee that met for about 18 months and will be coming out with a report in the next few weeks. Looking at the future of Act 250 to see where we go from here. One of their proposals is to add climate change as a criteria for project review and approval, it would minimize emissions and greenhouse gases and also ensure that design and materials used in development would enable projects to adapt to climate change. Another would be to prevent woodland development causing forest fragmentation. Also, encourage migration of rural Vermonters into compact urban areas and increase the alignment of Act 250 with the goals of supporting Vermont settlement patterns and compact centers surrounded by rural countryside. Another proposal is to give Act 250 jurisdiction over development of interstate highway interchanges. Reactivate the Executive Branch Development Cabinet established by law in 2012 to ensure climate reduction throughout government and require municipal and regional plans conformity to Act 250.

Marijuana Tax and Regulate

Representative Dickinson went on to explained another issue coming up is the Marijuana Tax and Regulate. This gives towns the option to create an ordinance to not allow retail sales of marijuana in their community.

Representative Dickinson also stated that they have and will continue to work on Paid Family Leave and a Carbon Tax.

Drug Issues

Vermont State Police and Burlington Police told the Judiciary Committee that there are 3 tiers of drug issues:

Tier 1 – Large dealers out of state

Tier 2 – Local people (enablers) – live in the community and partner up with the larger dealers

Tier 3 – Street users – usual commit the crimes.

The aim in the Judiciary Committee is to rehabilitate offenders.

Committees will be assigned the first day of the new legislature, January 9th.

S. Dukas stated that some communities are starting stormwater utilities. Representative Dickinson explained that there is no big fund to fund the clean water bill. Something needs to be put together to defray the costs municipalities have to pay for stormwater.

Unified Development Bylaws Update

Director of Administration, Ned Connell came before the Board to provide an update on the Unified Development Bylaws. He's been working with Zoning Administrator Becky Perron and the Planning Commission on the update. The Board had been provided a copy. The draft was revised with all the changes Ms. Perron had accumulated over the last couple of years. Regional Planning also asked for some changes which were included in the draft.

The largest change in the bylaws was to the Zoning map changing the zoning for the Ever Ready property from industrial to commercial which will follow existing lot lines.

B. Nihan provided some comments to N. Connell. Next reading will be Monday, January 7th 2019.

Better Connections Presentation

N. Connell explained that the bicycle and pedestrian final report is just about complete. This study looked at the possibility of having bicycle and pedestrian paths going from North Main Street to Walmart. The federal government can provide the Town \$.80 or \$.90 on the dollar in grant funds. There will be a public meeting in January or February.

Town Manager's Report

Department of Public Works Relocation Project Update

C. Johnson explained that application for the Department of Public Works (DPW) garage was presented to the Development Review Board (DRB). We should be meeting with VTrans on the salt shed grant soon and should have renderings fairly soon.

Phone caller: Wants to know what the need is for the proposed police boat when the State Police, Fire Department, and Coast Guard all have boats and if the Town would be paying for it.

The Board explained that it's just a proposed Police Department Marine Unit and nothing has been approved yet. If approved, the Town would be paying for 100% of it.

Health Path Update

The Town went out to bid for design coordination and awarded the bid to Stantec. They sighted some successful grant awards in their proposal. They are pushing to meet with VTrans first. S. Dukas asked what was going on with the light at the intersection of the SASH and Main Street. A. Voegele explained that he's working with the St. Albans Chief of Police at this time. He explained that he needed to draft a letter and request endorsements for the request for the traffic light. A. Voegele had offered to take on this task at the last Selectboard meeting.

Public Comment

David McWilliams called in to discuss the issues and concerns with placing animals. He had spoken to Franklin, Burlington, and Morrisville and none of their facilities will accept dogs from the Town. He went on to explain that we'd held a dog for 10-15 days and luckily found a home for the dog. Another issue is that most veterinarians don't want to euthanize animals. D. McWilliams suggested to the Board that they request a meeting with the Franklin Animal County Rescue (FCAR) to try and solve these issues. These issues are occurring in several communities throughout the state. Currently, it costs \$100/dog to euthanize. A. Voegele suggested working with neighboring towns to see how they are dealing with this issue.

C. Johnson explained that the Town was contacted by the new president of FCAR explaining that they would like to hold a joint meeting with municipalities in Franklin County to brainstorm a resolution. They know that we need for them to provide a service. C. Johnson asked the Board if they would like to meet with FCAR ahead of time. S. Dukas stated that we had talked about this before and suggested we should go back and look at what was said and go with that. Asked if the Board would like to meeting with FCAR, they agreed to hear about their plans.

Schedule

The next regular Selectboard meetings are Monday, January 7th and Wednesday, January 23rd, 2019. The next budget meeting is Monday, January 14th, 2019

Other Business - None.

Adjournment

MOTION: A. Voegele made a motion to adjourn the Selectboard meeting at 7:50 p.m. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Jenn Gray, Recording Secretary