

**Town of St. Albans
Selectboard 'Special' Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 20th, 2019
5:30 p.m.**

On Wednesday, November 20th, 2019 at 5:30 p.m., at Town Hall the Town of St. Albans Selectboard met.

Officials and staff present: Chair Brendan Deso, Vice Chair Bruce Cheeseman, Stan Dukas, Jessica Frost, Al Voegelé, Town Manager Carrie Johnson, Director of Public Works Alan Mashtare, and Town Clerk Anna Bourdon.

Public: David McWilliams

Chair B. Deso opened the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Budget Work Session – 5:30 p.m.

The Board began by reviewing Chair B. Deso's proposed changes to draft 4 of the expense budget, reaching consensus on those sections in draft 4 that had been revised since October 28th, 2019.

Planning & Zoning

Professional Consultation line item changed from \$5,000 to \$0.

Director of Administration

Stormwater Consultation line item changed from \$10,000 to \$0.

Selectboard

B. Deso proposed cutting the Selectboard stipends to \$2,500. Board consensus was to leave them at \$4,000.

Town Manager

Engineering/Consulting line item to go from \$30,000 to \$25,000.

Park/Recreation

An error had changed the Park Infrastructure line item amount from \$20,000 to \$15,000. Consensus was to leave it at \$20,000.

B. Deso proposed cutting the Trail Maintenance line item from \$5,000 to \$3,000. Consensus was to leave it at \$5,000.

Department of Public Works (DPW)

B. Deso proposed cutting this Director of Public Works Miscellaneous Expenses line item from \$2,000 to \$1,000. Consensus was to leave it at \$2,000. A. Mashtare uses this line to reward crew with meals.

A. Mashtare lobbied to keep the Sign line item at \$14,000. B. Deso proposed cutting to \$12,000. Consensus was to leave at \$14,000. David McWilliams provided costs for signage.

B. Deso proposed cutting the Building Maintenance line item from \$36,000 to \$20,000. This line supports maintenance of all Town owned buildings. Consensus was to leave this line at \$36,000.

Stormwater: After a lengthy discussion, B. Deso proposed dropping the Stormwater line item from \$75,000 to \$0 and supporting stormwater expenses with a utility. Consensus was to explore a utility, but during the transition year to fund this line to meet our stormwater obligations. Consensus was to leave \$75,000 in the Stormwater line. Staff was asked to inquire about what steps must be taken to facilitate approving a stormwater utility, i.e. is a town wide vote required or a Selectboard vote?

D. McWilliams stated that he'd prefer the Town focus on building a new town hall and not the community pool that was mentioned in today's Messenger.

Capital Improvement Program.

Director of Administration Ned Connell and Planning Commissioner Erin Creley arrived at the meeting to participate in the second section of the meeting to discuss the proposed Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). A healthy debate ensued with the consensus being that the Town should pursue undesignating the Local Option Tax/Infrastructure Funds to include spending them on equipment (DPW & Fire Dept.). Doing this allows the Town to plan for 5-10 years its infrastructure and equipment funding. The Board asked staff to inquire about what steps must be taken to approve this version of the CIP. It was generally understood after a few clarifying comments that the Selectboard should approve the CIP and ask the tax payers to approve undesignating the infrastructure funds to allow use for equipment and infrastructure.

Schedule

The Selectboard will meet again on January 13th to review Town Meeting Day questions. Consensus was to focus on the CIP approval and revised use of LOT funds and leave the Town Hall soft cost question off the March ballot. Once the CIP is approved, the Selectboard will focus on moving the Town Hall project forward possibly asking for project approval in November 2020.

Adjournment

MOTION: A. Voegele made a motion to adjourn the Selectboard meeting at 7:20 p.m. Seconded by J. Frost. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Jenn Gray, Recording Secretary