

**Town of St. Albans
Selectboard Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 6th, 2020
6:30 p.m.**

On Monday, January 6th, 2020 at 6:30 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 Voegele, Town Clerk Anna Bourdon, Director of Public Works Alan Mashtare, Town Manager Carrie Johnson, and Recording Secretary Jenn Gray.

Public: St. Albans Messenger Michael Frett, Paul and Sally Lerner, Ann Pomeroy, Paul Link, Erin Creley, Jonathan Giroux.

Chair B. Deso called the Selectboard meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Industrial Park Warrant

MOTION: B. Cheeseman made a motion to approve the Industrial park warrant in the amount of \$666.54. Seconded by J. Frost. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Infrastructure Development Fund Warrant

MOTION: B. Cheeseman made a motion to approve the Infrastructure Development Fund warrant in the amount of \$7,639.61. Seconded by A. Voegele. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Fire Department Reserve Account

Fire Department equipment.

MOTION: A. Voegele made a motion to approve the Fire Department Reserve Account in the amount of \$5,225. Seconded by B. Cheeseman. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Impact Fee Warrant

Fire Department equipment

MOTION: A. Voegele made a motion to approve the Impact Fee warrant in the amount of \$27,000. Seconded by J. Frost. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Capital Equipment Account

Fire Department equipment.

MOTION: A. Voegele made a motion to approve the Capital Equipment Account in the amount of \$115,000. Seconded by J. Frost. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Payroll

MOTION: J. Frost made a motion to approve the payroll warrants dated December 20th, 2019 in the amount of \$21,697.59, December 27th, 2019 in the amount of \$35,783.95, and January 3rd, 2020 in the amount of \$19,123.51. Seconded by A. Voegele. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

General Warrant

MOTION: S. Dukas made a motion to approve the general warrant dated January 6th, 2020 in the amount of \$38,671.54. Seconded by B. Cheeseman. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Minutes

MOTION: A. Voegele made a motion to approve the Selectboard meeting minutes from Monday, December 16th, 2019 as written. Seconded by J. Frost. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Public Comment

Erin Creley came before the Board to state she is running for Selectboard in March. She explained that she has experience managing costs and budgets and felt that those skills would benefit the Town.

Jonathan Giroux came before the Board to state he is running for Selectboard in March. If elected, he'd like to keep the Town growing at maintaining a responsible tax rate. He currently sits on the Development Review Board (DRB).

A. Voegelé read a statement and said he will not run for Selectboard in March. " I am pleased to support Erin and Jonathan for seats on the next Selectboard. It's my opinion the Board needs younger people to determine the future in which they will live. These younger people are facing extremely difficult social, economic and environmental problems for which there must be common agreement to move forward for the greater good of our community. I accept the scientific prognostications for 2050. Those who will be alive then need to begin the planning and interventions to secure their future for which I can't and won't be present. To assure change to younger generations of leadership, I will not be seeking re-election to the Selectboard in March."

Town Manager's Report Town Hall Site Summary

C. Johnson explained that A. Voegelé worked with her on a timeline summary of the work the previous committee has done thus far on a new Town Hall site.

S. Dukas pulled meeting minutes from the 2017 Town Hall committee. He reviewed his summary of events. He gave a timeline description of the process the committee went through to arrive at 2 sites to be considered for a new Town Hall. S. Dukas wanted to know if the purchase and sales agreement was ever drawn up and the \$2,500 paid. C. Johnson stated it was not. S. Dukas stated that before the Board goes any further, he would like them to consider using the 2.5 acres (current Department of Public Works site) on the lake for Town Hall.

C. Johnson suggested that the Board consider a work session to make a decision on moving forward. B. Cheeseman agreed and went on to say that Town Hall should remain in the Bay as the Town Center.

B. Deso suggested a non-binding referendum on the Town Meeting Day ballot asking if residents would support the construction of a new Town Hall outside of the bay. The Board agreed.

Town resident Paul Lerner wanted to know if a study had been done on what the cost would be to completely strip the current Town Hall, making it convenient for the next 100 years? C. Johnson stated a study had been done which highlighted the shortcomings of remaining in the current location. Mr. Lerner dismissed this response. Mr. Lerner also wondered how is it going to alter the character of the entire St. Albans Town if you pick up what has been the Town's core for the last 100 years and move it indiscriminately somewhere else? His suggestion was to keep Town Hall in the Bay.

Lamoille Valley Rail Trail Support

C. Johnson explained they are asking for space on our ballot and local support. B. Cheeseman stated that he would like to think about it before putting it on the ballot and would get some more information. The Board asked to have this on the agenda for the meeting on January 21st.

Request of Certificate of Public Good- New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC

No action required.

Municipal Pool – Fee Waiver Request

The municipal pool is on the February DRB agenda for the application for the municipal pool. Zoning Administrator Becky Perron had asked if the Selectboard would waive the DRB fee for this application.

Mr. Lerner expressed his concerns about only knowing about the proposed pool for 3 months and wanted to know how this fits into the Town's 5-year Capital Plan. A new Town Hall and Department of Public Works garage are in the Town Plan. Mr. Lerner did state that a new pool is an extremely good idea. What is hard to swallow is why something that came up 3 months ago is expected to be bonded with taxpayers' money so the City can build their pool on their land. What are we getting in return?

After much discussion, it was decided that if the City was the sole applicant, the Board would consider waiving the fee.

MOTION: A. Voegele made a motion to waive the DRB fees if the City of St. Albans is the sole applicant for the municipal pool. J. Frost seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-1 with S. Dukas voting opposed.

Final 411 List

No action required.

Schedule

The next Selectboard meetings are Tuesday, January 21st and Monday, February 3rd. A budget meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 16th at 5pm.

Chair's Report

None.

Other Business

None.

Adjournment

MOTION: A. Voegele made a motion to adjourn the Selectboard meeting at 7:38 p.m. Seconded by B. Cheeseman. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Jenn Gray, Recording Secretary