

**Town of St. Albans
Selectboard Meeting Minutes
Monday, July 6th, 2020
6:30 p.m.
Via Zoom Teleconferencing**

On Monday, July 6th, 2020 at 6:30 p.m., the Town of St. Albans Selectboard met in person at Town Hall with the public participation via Zoom Teleconferencing.

Officials and staff in attendance: Chair Brendan Deso, Vice Chair Jessica Frost, Stan Dukas Jonathan Giroux, Erin Creley, Town Manager Carrie Johnson, Director of Public Works Alan Mashtare, and Recording Secretary Jenn Gray.

No public allowed in Town Hall for the meeting due to pandemic containment rules.

Public Participation via Zoom Teleconferencing: Sargent Paul Morits and Sheriff Roger Langevin of the Franklin County Sheriff's Office, and Al Voegele.

Chair B. Deso called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Police Services Contract Negotiations Update

B. Deso explained that the Board has a new proposal from the St. Albans Police Department (SAPD) that they will discuss in executive session later in the meeting. Per the suggestion of the Selectboard, we have spoken to a couple of municipalities who have contracts with the Franklin County Sherriff's Office (FCSO) and we received positive feedback. B. Deso went on to say that SAPD has offered a one-year extension to our current contract. The FCSO proposed a three-year agreement with two option years for a total of five years. Over the course of that five year agreement, it would save the Town taxpayers a significant amount of money versus a \$300,000 savings from the SAPD's one-year extension.

Payroll

MOTION: E. Creley made a motion to approve the payroll warrants dated June 19th, 2020 in the amount of \$22,754.17, June 26th, 2020 in the amount of \$33,263.46, and July 3rd, 2020 in the amount of \$22,412.84. Seconded by J. Giroux. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

General Warrant

S. Dukas explained that the highest invoice paid on this warrant was to the Franklin County Court's Office in the amount of \$85,991.38.

MOTION: S. Dukas made a motion to approve the general warrant dated July 6th, 2020 in the amount of \$144,367.21. Seconded by J. Frost. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Minutes

B. Deso asked to add to the Selectboard special meeting minutes of June 22nd, 2020 the times that both Franklin County Sheriff Roger Langevin and St. Albans Police Chief Gary Taylor arrived and departed executive session. Times of arrival and departure for the general public from an executive session will be included in all future meeting minutes.

MOTION: J. Frost made a motion to approve the Selectboard meeting minutes from Monday, June 15th, 2020 as presented and Selectboard special meeting minutes from Monday, June 22nd, 2020 as amended. Seconded by E. Creley. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Public Comment

None.

Town Manager's Report

Parks Ordinance

C. Johnson explained that it was discussed at the last Selectboard meeting to review the Parks Ordinance and to add language prohibiting large domestic animals and horseback riding in the Town Forest. There was a recent event in the Town Forest when someone rode a horse on the trails and caused some damage. E. Creley asked if there was any signage stating what is allowed in the forest or the suggestion of wearing orange during hunting season? C. Johnson stated that there is currently no signage at this time. The Board was in consensus of the proposed changes to the ordinance.

S. Dukas explained that back last fall, the Board discussed whether to allow carrying a loaded firearm in the Town parks and to put that in the Parks Ordinance. C. Johnson stated that there was a reason as to why we didn't specifically put something in the ordinance at that time, but she couldn't recall what that was. Recording Secretary Jenn Gray read from the Selectboard meeting minutes from October 21st, 2019, *"the signs should read that there are no loaded firearms or hunting allowed in parks and remove the words no trespassing. The Board agreed"*. J. Gray stated that there was consensus not to change to the ordinance. The Board agreed to add the words "a loaded" to section 6.4.8 just after the word "carrying". Changes will be made and the final draft of this ordinance will be brought back to the Board for their signatures at their meeting on July 20th.

MOTION: J. Giroux made a motion to approve the Parks Ordinance as amended. Seconded by J. Frost. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Salt Shed Update

C. Johnson explained that the State gave authorization to issue post our Request for Proposal (RFP) for construction contractors for the Salt Shed. Matt Young, our Project Manager is currently accepting proposals.

C. Johnson explained that Alan Mashtare and his crew have been working hard to clean up the former Department of Public Works site. Two older buildings and trees have been taken down.

COVID-19 Update

C. Johnson stated that we are holding steady with Town Hall open by appointment only. We are updating our COVID-19 tab on the Town website daily. Updated information is available on the healthvermont.gov website. No other updates at this time.

2020 Census

C. Johnson encouraged people to fill out the 2020 Census. It takes about 5 minutes to complete and is critical to State and local grant revenues.

Notice of Initial Act 250 Application Filing - R.L. Vallee, Inc.

No action required.

Act 250 Land Use Permit Amendment – Lawrence J. Handy Business Property

No action required.

Education Tax Rate & Municipal Tax Rate

C. Johnson explained that normally, at this time of year, we receive the education tax rate from the State. Due to COVID-19, everything is delayed. We are still waiting on folks to file their homestead declarations. First tax payment is due August 15th, however, C. Johnson explained that after a discussion with Town Clerk Anna Bourdon, it was decided that the due date for the first tax payment of FY '21 may need to be pushed up 5-10 days. The Town must receive the State education tax rate prior to setting the municipal tax rate to avoid the Town sending out two rounds of tax bills.

Schedule

The next regular Selectboard meetings are Monday, July 20th and Monday, August 3rd. The Town Forest grand opening is scheduled for Saturday August 1st. J. Frost explained that Bird Diva Bridgette Butler, County Forester Nancy Patch, Mike Cain, and the Mountain Bike Club will be hosting all types of activities during the grand opening. You must call ahead and reserve a spot with any activity as activities are limited to small groups due to social distancing measures. People may contact Jessica Frost to reserve spots.

Chair's Report

B. Deso explained he had a meeting today on water quality with local leaders from St. Albans City, one Franklin County State Senator, and the Selectboard Chair from the Town of Georgia. There are 4 areas of the Bay and Maquam Shore that are in really bad shape. The current water level is at mid-August low. B. Deso went on to explain that the State has increased the funding for water quality, although a lot of it will go towards administrative costs. The thought is once that money starts rolling out, we've got to petition St. Albans, Georgia, and Swanton to get as much of it as possible for meaningful projects.

Other Business

None.

Executive Session

MOTION: E. Creley made a motion to go into executive session at 7:03 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 is further moved to enter into executive session to discuss legal, contractual, or personnel issued under the provisions of Title 1, section 313(a)(1) of Vermont Statutes and to invite Town Manager Carrie Johnson. Seconded by J. Frost. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

MOTION: S. Dukas made a motion to come out of executive session at 7:36 p.m. Seconded by J. Frost. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Police Services Contract

MOTION: J. Giroux made a motion for the Selectboard to authorize the Town Manager to negotiate a contract for police services with the Franklin County Sheriff's Office. Seconded by E. Creley. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Adjournment

MOTION: S. Dukas made a motion to adjourn the Selectboard meeting at 7:42 p.m. Seconded by J. Giroux. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Jenn Gray, Recording Secretary