



# TOWN OF ST. JOHNSBURY

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## Select Board Meeting Minutes 51 Depot Square, St Johnsbury, VT April 13, 2020 6:00 PM

Present (virtually via Zoom):

Select Board: Jeff Moore, Kevin Oddy, Tim Angell, Dennis Smith, Brendan Hughes

Staff: Chad Whitehead, Joe Kasprzak, Steven Beauregard, Jon Bouffard, Stacy Jewell, Tim Page

Press: Todd Wellington, KATV

Public: Alicia Armstrong, Eric Armstrong, Scott Campbell, Scott Beck, Joe Benning, Patrick Shattock, Patricia Johnson, Werner Hiedemen, Ron Stein, Alan Cormier, Tara Holt, Andy Mossdale, Alan Keays, James Bake, James Brown, Susan Cherry, Irene Nagle, Rachel Feldman, Michael Wright

### **Agenda Amendments:**

- On a motion by Tim and second by Kevin the board added the St J Chamber USDA Grant Application to the agenda following the Housing Grants.

### **Minutes:**

- On a motion by Dennis and second by Brendan the March 23 meeting minutes were approved.

### **Warrants:**

- On a motion by Dennis and second by Brendan the warrant for accounts payable dated 4/6 for the amount of \$136,582.95 was approved.
- On a motion by Kevin and second by Dennis, the warrant for account payable dated 3/30 in the amount of \$3,565,833.84 was approved
- On a motion by Brendan and second by Kevin the warrant for account payable dated 4/10 in the amount of \$16,217.96 was approved.
- On a motion by Kevin and second by Dennis the payroll warrant dated 3/27 in the amount of \$38,812.58 was approved.
- On a motion by Brendan and second by Dennis the payroll warrant dated 4/3 in the amount of \$35,540.45 was approved.
- On a motion by Dennis and a second by Kevin the payroll warrant dated 4/10 in the \$34,959.44 was approved.

### **Liquor License:**

- On a motion by Kevin and second by Dennis the Liquor License for the Elks Club was approved. Brendan abstained.
- On a motion by Kevin and second by Dennis the 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Liquor License for the Elks Club was approved. Brendan abstained.

### **Housing Committee Grant Recommendations:**

- Patricia Johnson of the Housing Review Board presented to the board their recommendations for Housing improvement grant awards.
- On a motion by Dennis and second by Kevin the board approved 1429 Crepault Hill Road for the amount of \$313.00.
- On a motion by Kevin and second by Brendan the board approved the grant for 212 Pleasant Street, Unit 29, in the amount of \$3000.
- On a motion by Dennis and second by Brendan the board approved the grant for 212 Pleasant Street, Unit 33 in the amount of \$3,000.

#### **St Johnsbury Chamber USDA Grant Application:**

- Tara Holt addressed the Select Board about a USDA Grant application in the amount of \$63,000 for free public wi-fi and St Johnsbury Marketing which will market travel marketing within the Northeast Kingdom.
- On a motion by Tim and second by Dennis the board approved to use \$3000 from the Economic Development Reserve funds to be used for match for the St Johnsbury Chamber USDA RBEG Grant, contingent on success of the grant application. Brendan abstained.

#### **Correctional Facility:**

- Chad Whitehead indicated that the Town of St Johnsbury wanted to make sure that the Town had the communications as well as the resources that are needed to protect the Town. The Town is not happy with the inmates being sent to St Johnsbury, but it appears to be beyond local control.
- Department of Corrections Facilities Executive Alan Cormier and Commissioner James Baker addressed the Select Board to discuss the planning that was developed for the use of the Northeast Correctional Facility as a surge location.
- The St J site was identified because of the layout of the facility as well as the air handling system which allowed them to isolate one portion of the facility and utilize other areas of the facility for staff and managing the facility.
- Staff working at the facility are required to follow decontamination policies before exiting the facility to mitigate any risk of causing contamination outside of the facility in the community.
- Currently within the facility there are 25 inmates that are not infected with COVID-19 that are working at the kitchen and providing housekeeping services. 27 inmates that have tested positive for COVID-19 are housed at the facility. There may be a few more being sent to St Johnsbury in the next few days, but plans are being developed at all other facilities to shelter in place.
- DOC is working on plans for transport should inmates require hospital care and not take resources from the local community.
- Once inmates are no longer COVID-19 positive they will be sent back to the Northwest Facility.

#### **Manager's Report:**

- Chad Whitehead provided the Manager's report and reviewed the town departments and adjustments being made during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Town is providing information and updates on their operations on the town website at [www.stjvt.com](http://www.stjvt.com)

#### **Other Business:**

- Jeff Moore opened Other Business for public comment.

Executive Session:

- On a motion by Dennis and second by Brendan the board approved that an executive session was needed to discuss potential litigation.
- On a motion by Dennis and second by Kevin the board entered executive session and invited the Town Manager and representatives from Primmer and Piper.
- On a motion by Dennis and second by Brendan the board exited Executive Session.
- The board had nothing to report

On a motion by Dennis and second by Tim the board adjourned by unanimous decision.