



# TOWN OF ST. JOHNSBURY

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## **Meeting of the St. Johnsbury Select Board September 28, 2020 at 6:00 PM-Pomerleau Building Select Board Meeting**

Present-

Select Board: Tim Angell, Chair, Kevin Oddy, Vice Chair, Brendan Hughes, Dennis Smith (via zoom), Daniel Kimbell

Staff: Chad Whitehead, Rachel Waterhouse, Joe Kasprzak (via zoom), Stacy Jewell, Steve Beauregard

Press: Todd Wellington (via zoom), KATV

Public: None

### Agenda Amendments:

- None

### Public Comment:

- Steve Beauregard, Director of DPW approached the board to notify them that 8 catch basin covers have gone missing from Thursday night to Saturday night. Steve encouraged the community to be aware and encouraged anyone who sees something to call the Police Department. Steve estimated that replacement covers will cost between \$350-\$400 each.

### Minutes:

- On a motion by Daniel and second by Brendan the select board meeting minutes from 09/14/2020 were approved with the following corrections: removal of the special meeting title for the regular board meeting and correction on a last name. All in favor.
- On a motion by Kevin and second by Brendan the special select board meeting minutes from 09/14/2020 were approved as presented. All in favor.

### Warrants:

- On a motion by Kevin and second by Daniel the warrants were approved as presented. All in favor. Dennis abstained.

### Liquor Licenses:

- None

### Beautification Committee Appointment:

- Chad Whitehead, Town Manager approached the board about Heather Alger's interest in joining the Beautification Committee.

- On a motion by Kevin and Brendan to appoint Heather Alger to the Beautification Committee until March of 2021. All in favor.

#### Grand List Adjustments:

- On a motion by Kevin and second by Brendan the board approved the grand list adjustment for #1 homestead in the amount of \$592.49. All in favor.
- On a motion by Kevin and second by Brendan the board approved the grand list adjustment for #2 homestead in the amount of \$2,750.60. All in favor.
- On a motion by Kevin and second by Brendan the board approved the grand list adjustment to 2019 #16 court agreement in the amount of \$1,561.45.
- On a motion by Kevin and second by Brendan the board approved the grand list adjustments for 2020 #3 BCA in the amount of \$15,184.20. All in favor.

#### Tax Abatement Hearing Date and Time

- Stacy Jewell, Town Clerk approached the board to set a date and time for the Tax Abatement Hearings. She said there are 6 formal abatements, 4 are town owned and 2 are private.
- The Select Board and Town Clerk set the date of 10/13/2020 following the regular Select Board Meeting at 7 pm for the Tax Abatement Hearing.

#### Underclyffe Drainage Repair

- Chad Whitehead, Town Manager presented the board with an update in regards to the storm water drainage on Underclyffe. Plans have been put together for the re-piping and erosion repair at an estimated cost of \$52,000. Steve Beauregard, Director of DPW secured a \$20,000 grant from NRCB towards the cost of the project. The Town manager approached the board to ask that the remaining \$30,000 come from the construction reserves to complete this project.
- Steve Beauregard, Director of DPW confirmed that the project needed to be completed this season and could not wait as the erosion was affecting a community member's house. The original plan was for the DPW crew to complete the repairs but due to COVID and other storm damages the town DPW crew would not be able to get to the project this season. He was hopeful with the board's approval that the project would start mid-October.
- Bids were accepted for the re-piping and erosion repair and the Director of DPW and Town Manager have recommended the town contract with Jay Hutchins in the amount of \$43,461.00 with an additional \$8,000 in material costs.
- On a motion by Daniel and second by Kevin for the Town Manager to enter into an agreement with Jay Hutchins to complete the Underclyff Drainage Repairs in the amount of \$43,461.00 and purchase the materials in the amount of \$8,000. All in favor.
- On a motion by Daniel and second by Kevin the transfer of \$30,000 from the construction reserve funds for the Underclyff drainage repair project. All in favor.

#### UC Church Appeal

- The board agreed to take no action at this time.

Manager's Report: Chad Whitehead, Town Manager provided the following updates:

- Updated the board on the Portland Street Bridge and sidewalk project which will require closure of the bridge for approximately 3 days.
- The Grand Opening of the Three Rivers Trail Head Center was 09/26/2020. The Town Manager thanked Senators Leahy and Sanders as well as Representative Welch and Governor Scott for their support of the Northern Borders Regional Commission, as well as the Select Board for their support with the trail head center and investing in the recreational aspects of the St. Johnsbury community. These investments are transformative for communities within the Northern Borders region.
- #GETDOWNTOWN event on 09/26/2020 was well received and the town was extremely busy. People were safe with their masks and social distancing and it was overall a good event for downtown St. Johnsbury.
- Hazardous Waste day on 09/26/2020 was well attended.
- Update on Brownfield Grant Application and possible application status update from STANTEC at 10/13/20 Select Board meeting.
- Secured Alliance Construction to complete the Oak and Buzzell Street project. Should be breaking ground shortly and done by November 2020. This project will cost an estimate of \$242,000 and is all grant funded.
- Unlikely that Gilman Ave. will open before winter. Residences on Gilman Ave will need to be notified.

#### Other Business

- Kevin brought up Halloween in the Town of St. Johnsbury. Town Manager will look into State and CDC guidelines.

#### Executive Session

- On a motion by Kevin and second by Dennis the board voted that there was a need for an executive session to discuss a contractual issue that premature general public knowledge would place the public body and the Town at a substantial risk. All in favor.
- On a motion by Kevin and second by Brendan the board voted to enter executive session and invited the Town Manager to join them. All in favor.
- On a motion by Tim and second by Brendan the board voted to exit executive session.
- The chair had nothing to report.

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