



TOWN OF ST. JOHNSBURY

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Meeting of the St. Johnsbury Select Board January 19, 2021 at 6:00 PM-Via Zoom Special Select Board Meeting

Present-

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

Staff: Chad Whitehead, Rachel Waterhouse, Joe Kasprzak, Lesley Russ, Steve Beauregard, Anthony Skelton, Tim Page, Paul Berlejung, Stacy Jewell

Press: Todd Wellington

Public: James Brown

Budget Information:

- Chad Whitehead, Town Manager presented an overview of the 2021/2022 proposed budget.
- Highlighted the positive things happening around St. Johnsbury amid a pandemic.
- Explained the increase in the proposed budget is from the following. \$300,000 is from the August 2020 budget reduction, \$180,000 increase in highway funding for road repairs and \$129,552 increase in labor and benefits.
- Results in a 1.83% increase in expenses inside the special services district and a 0.77% increase in expenses outside the special services district over the adjusted 2020/2021 budget.
- No questions from the board or the public.
- Kevin questioned with the Town Meeting Date moved to April 6, 2021 what the deadline to have the budget to Stacy is.
- Stacy said Feb. 26th, 2021. The absolute last day would be March 1, 2021 for the budget. Appropriations would be due Feb 14th, 2021.
- Kevin suggested that the budget be approved after Feb 14th, 2021 for a solid budget with no changes coming.
- Tim suggested the Select Board adopt the budget at the Select Board meeting on Feb. 22nd, 2021. Asked the boards pleasure.
- Daniel thought it was a good idea and would allow time to see if another stimulus was announced.
- On a motion by Dennis and second by Kevin to table the 2021/2022 budget approval until the Select Board Meeting on Feb. 22nd, 2021. All in favor.

Town Meeting Date:

- Chad explained that the School Board voted to change Town Meeting date to April 6, 2021. Chad explained that it would make sense if the Select Board approved to do the same thing for a few reasons including 1. Safety- it would give more time for the vaccine to be deployed to a larger group of people and 2. The Town would have more information regarding where the Town stands in terms of March tax payments and delinquent taxes. This might help alleviate some uncertainty with residences.
- Kevin questioned the legal procedures should the Select Board decide to move Town Meeting to April.
- Stacy explained that will all be part of the legislation with moving the date and elected positions. All statutory dates move with the Town Meeting date including appropriation and names on the ballot.
- Tim asks what the Boards pleasure was
- Kevin suggested making a move on the second item on the agenda and giving us extra time on the budget which could be adopted at a later date.
- On a motion by Dennis and second by Daniel to move the 2021 Town Meeting date to April 6, 2021. All in favor.

Other Business:

- Stacy explained that the Town has the option to mail all ballots to all voters for Town Meeting. Stacy will be reaching out to a mailing company.
- Daniel asked if it was plausible to only mail to the special services district versus the whole town.
- Stacy said those questions will be asked to the mailing company.
- Kevin asked if money will be coming from the legislation to help offset the cost of the mailing like in November of 2020.
- Stacy explained that there is 2 million dollars state wide in funding available for Town Meeting day and that she is hoping to set it up like November 2020.
- Kevin asked about the bad addresses and how much time was spent on that for the November election.
- Stacy mentioned that this time around it would be the Town's responsibility to get the information to the mailing house not the state's. She commented that she is confident with the addresses the Town now has on file. She mentioned the issue would be the short turnaround time of about only 20 days.
- Dennis asked how long it would take to get the information regarding the legislation.
- Stacy commented that she plans to work on it tomorrow. LHS who prints the Town ballots also is a mail house.
- Tim questioned if it was possible to have an update on this at the Monday Select Board meeting.
- Stacy mentioned she plans to have the directives by Monday and would provide an update.
- Tim asked if there was any other questions or comments
- Chad mentioned that he will reach out to Brian Ricca regarding possibly doing an Informational Session with KATV. Most likely a virtual platform will be used for Town Meeting day but will keep everyone posted on how things unfold.

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