



TOWN OF ST. JOHNSBURY

51 Depot Square, Suite 1

St Johnsbury, VT 05819

802-748-4331

www.stjvt.com

Meeting of the St. Johnsbury Select Board January 25, 2021 at 6:00 PM-Via Zoom Select Board Meeting

Present-

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

Staff: Chad Whitehead, Rachel Waterhouse, Paul Berlejung, Jon Bouffard, Stacy Jewell

Press: Todd Wellington, KATV

Public: Barbara and Daryl, Bob Joly

Agenda Amendments:

- None

Public Comment:

- None

Warrants:

- On a motion by Brendan and second by Dennis to approve the warrants as presented.

Minutes:

- On a motion by Dennis and second by Brendan to approve the meeting minutes with the correction of the date to reflect 01/11/21. All in favor.
- On a motion by Dennis and second by Kevin to approve the meeting minutes from 01/19/21 as presented. All in favor.

Liquor Licenses:

- On a motion by Kevin and second by Daniel the following Liquor Licenses were approved. Brendan abstained.
 - Nommik Unlimited, LLC- 1st class renewal, 3rd class renewal and outside consumption
 - Eastern Ave Flowers, LLC- 2nd class renewal
 - Martel Enterprises, Inc. - 2nd class renewal

- Center One, Inc.- 2nd class renewal

Fines and Fees Schedule:

- Chad Whitehead, Town Manager approached the board regarding the tabled fines and fees schedule from the 01/11/2021 Select Board meeting. Chad explained he reached out to VLCT regarding state law around towing and storage fees. Chad recommends amending the ordinance to state that the person who owns the car is responsible for all fines and fees. Suggested approve as is and revise the ordinance.
- On a motion by Kevin and second by Dennis to approve and accept the Fines and Fees for 2021 as presented with the inclusion of 12-157 pending discovery. All in favor.

Town Meeting Voting:

- Stacy Jewell, Town Clerk approached the board about the ability for a company to print, stuff and mail ballots to all active voters. Still waiting on a final cost however the Town will be given some reimbursement from the state due to the increase in cost.
- Dennis asked if it was a full reimbursement from the state. Stacy commented that she doesn't believe so.
- Kevin asked if the reimbursement would cover the extra cost to mail these ballots including postage.
- Dennis asked if the Town would be able to count ballots early. Stacy said yes.
- Daniel asked if this will put undue burden on the Town Clerk's Office. Stacy said the timing should be fine. It will give the Town Clerk Office a week of breathing room from taxes before ballots start arriving.
- On a motion by Dennis and second Brendan to approve the mailing of ballots for Town Meeting Day 2021 to active voters if there is no additional cost to the Town.

Local Cannabis Retail:

- Devon Deyhle and another individual are interested in having Local Cannabis Retail on the ballot for April.
- Tim asked the boards wishes. He stated that other items don't require signatures currently due to COVID 19. Should this be placed on the ballot as well?
- Chad explained that the Planning Commission is currently reviewing bylaws to include impacts of this should it be allowed.
- Tim explained the Select Board will have control over the verbiage for the ballot but untimely the voters will decide if cannabis should be sold in St. Johnsbury.
- Chad stated if the board is interested he will get the language drafted up and bring it to the Select Board Meeting on 02/02/21.
- Brendan commented that some local people have reached out to him and are not in favor of this. However it has not been a normal year and doesn't see a reason not to have it on the ballot. Let the voters decide.
- Chad mentioned the only regulations the Town would have on this would be through zoning.
- On a motion by Dennis and second by Danial to place local cannabis retail on the April Town Meeting ballot pending verbiage. All in favor.

Zoning Report:

- Paul Berlejung, Zoning Administration approached the board to provide a year end updated on zoning in the town of St. Johnsbury.
- Highlighted that zoning complaints have in 2020. 2020 saw 27 violations/complaints compared to only 8 in 2019.
- 18 event permits were issued in 2020 which was the same as 2019.
- Doug Reid runs the dwelling unit registrations which is at 98%. Excellent job.
- Town looks great. Two new business on Railroad Street within the last month.
- Solar installations are going in around town.
- A tiny house is going in on Breezy Hill.
- No questions from the board. Tim thanked Paul.

Managers' Report:

- Chad Whitehead, Town Manager provided the following Manager's Report.
- Currently building the water/ sewer budget. Rate changed will need to be in place for 07/01/2021.
- White and Burke will be at the next Select Board meeting to provide an Armory update.
- Gilman/ Pleasant Street Sewer Project was awarded a loan subsidy for the 5.43 million sewer project. 40% grant remaining loan at 0% interest. Good project backing for the Town. Looking to apply into budget for 10 year projections.
- Costs are increasing for the Water Treatment Plant but funding is also becoming available. Working through final approval.
- Town is going to need to look into how to get rid of waste water moving forward. Currently the town land applies waste water at three farms. One farmer has requested to no longer have waste water land applied at his farm. State is in the process of changing regulations to Class B waste water. Unknown at this time if it would make sense for the Town to move to making Class A waste water.
- Tim asked what other options there would be for waste water if not able to land apply. Chad explained option to treat at Class A which is a higher level and is generally used for agriculture or landfill. However in the past have had a hard time getting rid of 30,000 gallons to a landfill and the town creates around 600,000 gallons a year. Need to re-evaluate fees for septic haulers as the Town currently only charges 10 cents a gallon. Other treatment plants are struggling as well. Need to look at short term vs. long term. Next steps are working on RFP and getting an Engineer on board.
- EV charging stations- looking at possibly putting a fast charge station near the downtown St. Johnsbury.

Other Business:

- Kevin stated it would be beneficial to look at the charter regarding fines and fees. Questioned how the board should go about doing it and if that meant they should create a committee. Tim commented that was a great idea.
- No need for executive session.
- No other business.

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