



TOWN OF ST. JOHNSBURY

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Meeting of the St. Johnsbury Select Board February 8, 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, Stacy Jewell, Joe Kasprzak, Tim Page, Anthony Skelton

Press: Todd Wellington, KATV

Public: Barbara and Darryll Rudy, James Brown, Don Smith, Stephanie Clarke, Joe Weith

Agenda Amendments:

- None

Public Comment:

- None

Warrants:

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

Minutes:

- On a motion by Kevin and second by Dennis to approve the meeting minutes from 01/11/2021 as presented. All in favor.
- On a motion by Daniel and second by Kevin to approve the meeting minutes from 01/25/21 with the correction of the date and name. All in favor.

Liquor Licenses:

- On a motion by Kevin and second by Dennis the following Liquor Licenses were approved. Brendan abstained.
 - CG Pizza Hut- 1st class renewal
 - Wesco, Inc.- 2nd class renewal
 - ABFB Corp., Inc. - 2nd class renewal
 - KPH Drugs, Inc.- 2nd class renewal

- R.L. Vallee, Inc.- 2nd class renewal
- M & S Grenier, Inc.- 2nd class renewal
- Petty, Pamela- 2nd class renewal

Local Cannabis Ballot Language:

- Chad Whitehead, Town Manager presented an update regarding the legal ballot language. Including whether the Town wished to include integrated licenses with the cannabis retail or not.
- Dennis stated he didn't think the Town was going down the path regarding integrated licenses. Kevin agreed and stated he believes it would be best to start with Retailers in the beginning and see how it goes. Then integrated licenses could be looked at later.
- Dennis agreed that it would be best to take one step at a time. Brendan agreed.
- Tim asked if Devon Deyhle was aware that this was on the agenda for this evenings meeting. Chad said yes he had let him know.
- Tim asked Chief Page his experience with local cannabis retail. Chief Page said everyone is in the same boat. He agreed that one step at a time was a good idea.
- James Brown provided the Select Board with an update from the Planning Commission regarding the potential Local Cannabis Retailors.
- On a motion by Dennis and second by Kevin to approve the local cannabis ballot language as follows: Shall the voters of the Town of St. Johnsbury authorize cannabis retailers in town pursuant to 7 V.S.A. § 863? All in favor.

Armory Project:

- Stephanie Clark and Joe Weith from White and Burke presented an update on the Armory, 1187 Main Street and Fire Site projects. Currently 1187 Main Street is not fully functional for a Dispatch Center, Police Department and Fire House at this time.
- Joe Kasprzak, Assistant Town Manager spoke on behalf of the Fire Site developments. Rural Edge continues to be cooperative with the Town. Surveying and site assessments are being completed and expect a corrective action plan soon.
- Stephanie Clark presented the Select Board with building site plans for the Armory. Working with a historical preservation consultant as the building is over 100 years old and would like to preserve some of the history.
- Continue to work on the brownfield contamination and environment assessment. EPA grant has been submitted. Slums grant is due in the spring.
- Time Line Presented:
 - 2023 Sept. Open Doors
 - 2022 Nov. Begin Construction
 - 2022 July Begin Remediation
 - 2022 April Bid Construction
 - 2022 February Bid Remediation
 - 2021 Fall Bond Vote
 - 2021 Spring/Summer Permitting
- Expect moving forward bi-monthly updates to the Select Board.
- Tim thanked Stephanie and team. Incredible amount of work has gone into this. Most forward work so far. Asked if they would have enough information for a fall 2021 bond

vote. Stephanie is hopeful that they will have enough information for a fall 2021 bond vote. Some information will be known and some will be unknown but the bond vote would allow for that. Joe Weith commented that they expect to have the results of the EPA grant in April or May and Slums Grant by June. At which point they will know if they have to reapply for the grants or not.

- Dennis asked Chief Page if he has had a chance to review the plans. Chief Page said yes he keeps reviewing them as the project moves forward.
- Dennis asked Chief Page if he is confident that the plans will meet the needs of the department now and into the future. Chief Page commented that yes the facility will work well both for the PD and dispatch. It will be a great facility for years to come.
- Tim asked with regards to the grant applications how many public sessions would be needed? Joe Weith stated it depends on funding sources. Chad mentioned that several hearings will be required for the bond vote as well.

Town Charter Review Committee:

- Chad Whitehead, Town Manager presented the board with communications from VLCT regarding what needs to happen in order to make changes to the Town Charter. Chad recommended the Town develop a committee to review the whole charter. Chad recommended that the Town place an ad in the paper to ask for community involvement.
- Tim asked how many people Chad suggested for the Advisory Committee. Chad said he was thinking 5-7 people. Kevin commented that he wanted to be involved with those 5 to 7 people.
- Committee will review and make suggestions. There will be at least two public hearings before it goes out to the voters. There will be opportunity for public input.
- Tim asked if interested parties should contact Chad. Chad said yes by the first select board meeting in March. Kevin said consider him in. Dennis said if not enough public interest he would serve on the committee as well.

Town Highway Plan and Certificates:

- Chad Whitehead, Town Manager presented Town Highway Plan and Certificates.
- On a motion by Dennis and second by Brendan to certify the funds raised by municipal taxes are equivalent to \$300 per mile. All in favor.
- On a motion by Kevin and second by Dennis to certify that the Town of St. Johnsbury meets the compliance of town road and bridge standards. All in favor.
- On a motion by Dennis and second by Kevin to certify that the town highway mileage has had no changes. All in favor.

Appoint Tax Sale Representative:

- Chad Whitehead, Town Manager explained tax sale is set to take place on February 25th, 2021 at 10 am and the Town needs a representative from the Board Kevin stated he was willing to be the Tax Sale Rep for the town again.
- On a motion by Daniel and second by Dennis to appoint Kevin as the tax sale representative for the Town of St. Johnsbury. All in favor.

Clean Water Loan Amendment:

- Chad Whitehead, Town Manager approached the board with a proposal to amend the Clear Water Loan agreement to add in CSO monitoring devices in the amount of \$107,930. The full amount would still be eligible for loan forgiveness. Step in the right direction.
- On a motion by Dennis and second by Brendan for the board to accept the amendment of an additional \$107, 930 for CSO monitoring devices and authorize the Town Manager to execute and sign the agreement. All in favor.

Managers' Report:

- Chad Whitehead, Town Manager provided the following Manager's Report.
- Budget will be in the next Select Board agenda.
- Town was approached by a company regarding placing a fast charge EB system in St. Johnsbury. Chad is working with DPW and Parking to determine the best location for the EB system.
- Daniel commented that it would be best to coordinate the EB stations near stores and restaurants. Chad said he is hoping by having it located near the downtown it will bring business to the downtown.
- Tim questioned the plans on outreach for Town Meeting day and how it will be presented. Chad will reach out to Brian Ricka and KATV to discuss.
- Jim Brown asked if Chad had spoken with zoning regarding the EB stations and if zoning need changes he reminded him that they have a meeting next Tuesday. Chad stated the project would require a permit but at this time doesn't believe it requires any changes to zoning.

Other Business:

- The board was notified that Paul Larmie was moving out of town and would no longer be able to be a lister for the Town of St Johnsbury. Chad Whitehead, Town Manager will conduct outreach to fill the position for April 2021. Chad thanked Paul for all of his years of service as a lister.
- Jim Brown approached the board regarding an observation that ash was being disposed of on the back bank of the school property on High Street. Jim was concerned that the ash was not good for the water quality. Ben checked and confirmed it was not a good process as the water way was impaired. Jim contacted the school through both Brian Ricka and Patrick Campbell and the school confirmed immediately they would no longer dump ash back there. Patrick Campbell was very apologetic and Dr. Ricka thanked Jim for presenting them with the problem. Good response from the school and thankful how quickly it was resolved.
- No need for executive session.
- No other business.

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