



TOWN OF ST. JOHNSBURY

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Meeting of the St. Johnsbury Select Board April 12, 2021 at 6:30 PM-Via Zoom Select Board Meeting

Present-

Select Board: Kevin Oddy, Dennis Smith, Brendan Hughes, Daniel Kimbell, Frank Empsall

Staff: Chad Whitehead, Rachel Waterhouse, Joe Kasprzak, Steve Beauregard

Press: Todd Wellington, KATV

Public: Bob Joly, Don Smith, Barbara and Darryll Rudy, James Brown, John Habershaw, Bryan's Iphone, Betty Keller, Rebecca Ellis, Rep. Peter Welch

Agenda Amendments:

- None

Organizational Meeting:

- Kevin welcomed reelected and newly elected Select Board Members.
- On a motion by Daniel and second by Dennis to appoint Kevin as the Chair for the Select Board. All in favor. Kevin abstained.
- On a motion by Brendan and second by Daniel to appoint Frank as the Vice Chair for the Select Board. All in favor. Frank abstained.
- On a motion by Daniel and second by Brendan to adopt the rules of procedures as presented. All in favor. Rules of procedures will be posted at the Welcome Center.
- On a motion by Dennis and second by Brendan to adopt the Select Board Meeting Schedule as the second and fourth Monday of the month at 6 pm. All in favor.
- On a motion by Dennis and second by Frank to appoint Robert Swartz, Edwin Magnus and Don Smith to the Board of Assessment. All in favor.
- On a motion by Brendan and second by Frank to appoint Elizabeth Emmons and Keith Chamberlin to the Development Review Board. All in favor.
- On a motion by Dennis and second by Daniel to appoint Ben Copans, Ed Behr and Lawrence Dolan to the Planning Commission. All in favor.
- On a motion by Dennis and second by Frank to appoint Kim Behr, Diane Cummings, Ashley Moriarty and Lorna Higgs to the Design Advisory. All in favor.
- On a motion by Dennis and second by Frank to appoint Buddy Chapman, Brooke Demers, Iris Gilbert, Robert Holmes, Katherine Rossell and Bernie Timson to the Housing Review Board. All in favor.
- On a motion by Daniel and second by Dennis to appoint Jim Impey, Edwin Magnus, Ron Steen and Jamie Murphy to the Tax Stabilization Committee. All in favor.

- On a motion by Dennis and second by Frank to appoint Jim Brown, Tara Holt, Lorrie Brown, Gina Glidden, Heather Alger and Kim Behr to the Beautification Committee. All in favor.
- On a motion by Dennis and second by Frank to appoint Scott Campbell, Brendan Fowler, John Unger-Murphy, Pam Parker, Steve Isham, Lynn Wurzburg, John Ajamie, Elmore Dickstein, Keith Whitmore and David Zajko to the Energy Committee. All in favor.
- On a motion by Dennis and second by Frank to appoint Daniel Kimbell as the NVDA Board Representative. All in favor. Daniel abstained.
- On a motion by Dennis and second by Frank to appoint Brendan Hughes to the Industrial Park. All in favor. Brendan abstained.
- On a motion by Daniel and second by Frank to appoint Dennis Smith and Kevin Oddy to the Negotiations Committee. All in favor. Kevin and Dennis abstained.
- On a motion by Brendan and second by Daniel to appoint Kevin Oddy and Dennis Smith to the Water/Sewer Committee. All in favor. Kevin and Dennis abstained.
- On a motion by Dennis and second by Brendan to appoint Kevin Oddy and Daniel Kimbell as Warrant Signatories. All in favor. Kevin and Dennis abstained.
- Kevin thanked previous board members for all their hard work and dedication to the Town. Kevin also thanked the staff of the Town of St. Johnsbury for their commitment and progress to continue to move St. Johnsbury forward.

Public Comment:

- None

Warrants:

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

Minutes:

- On a motion by Dennis and second by Brendan to approve the minutes as presented. All in favor. Daniel abstained.

Liquor Licenses:

- On a motion by Dennis and second by Daniel the following Liquor Licenses were approved. All in favor. Brendan abstained.
 - Central Cafe - 1st class renewal
 - Elks Lodge- 1st class renewal
 - Moose Lodge- 1st class renewal
 - St. Johnsbury Brewery- 1st class renewal
 - Catamount Film and Arts- 1st class renewal
 - Elks Lodge- 3rd class renewal
 - Moose Lodge- 3rd class renewal
 - Elks Lodge- Outside Consumptions
 - Moose Lodge- Outside Consumptions

Notice of Award, Pleasant and Gilman Infrastructure:

- Chad Whitehead, Town Manager approached the board with a recommendation from the Dufrense Group to award the Pleasant and Gilman Infrastructure Project to J.A McDonald.
- Kevin asked if the cost was included in the budget. Chad said yes. The impacts on user rates are less than presented in the bond approval.
- On a motion by Dennis and second by Frank to authorize the Town Manager to enter into an agreement with J.A. McDonald for the Infrastructure work on Pleasant and Gilman. All in favor.

Rep. Peter Welch:

- On a motion by Dennis and second by Brendan to move Rep. Peter Welch until after the Town Managers Report. All in favor.
- Rep. Peter Welch spoke to the Select Board regarding the American Rescue package and funding coming to the Town. The nation has been in a pandemic for over a year now. Making progress with vaccinations. Washington needed to provide additional assistance. Direct payments made to states and towns will provide an impact on the community and hopefully a lasting benefit closer to home.
- The Town of St. Johnsbury is slated to receive 2.1 million. The first half of the allocation will come within 60 days of President Biden signing the bill. The remaining balance will come a year from then. All funds will need to be spent by 12/31/24.
- Rep Peter Welch urged the Town to be wise in making decision on how to spend the funds. Great opportunity. Urged the Town to apply for funding the state has received as well. Rep. Peter Welch thanked the Select Board for their time, for leading and taking responsibility.
- Kevin thanked Peter for all the work he has done to help St. Johnsbury, the state of VT and the nation.
- Daniel expressed his appreciation and help with the PPP loans. He questioned what qualifies as infrastructure for the funds. Asked if the police department/fire department would fall under those guidelines. Rep. Peter Welch said there were no rules on police departments and fire departments yet. Broadband, water and sewer have been approved.
- Dennis asked if it was possible that additional funds would be available later for broadband. Rep. Peter Welch commented that he hoped so. If the Presidents bill on infrastructure moves forward more funding would possibly be available for broadband.
- Chad Whitehead, Town Manager updated Rep. Peter Welch on the Town's Main Street Revitalization project. Currently working on securing funds then remediation and remodel of the Armory. Help to fill holes on Main Street. Hoping for a bond vote later this summer. Chad also discussed plans for the Rail Trail. Rep. Peter Welch commented that he was thrilled with the progress St. Johnsbury is making.

Managers' Report:

- Chad Whitehead, Town Manager provided the following Manager's Report.
- Town is currently working with the Chamber with regards to the opening of downtown. Pedestrian by passes will be going back in to allow business the option to do business on the sidewalk. Optimistic and cautious as we move forward with the opening of the downtown.
- Emergency Operations Center opened in 2020 when the inmates who tested positive for COVID were transported to ST. Johnsbury. The EOC has remained open since. Currently holding monthly meetings at this time.

- 2021-2022 Budget passed and was well supported by the voters. Chad shared the results with the Select Board. Significant voter turnout on April 6th. Mail in ballots worked well. Will need to determine if this is something that should be continued in the future. Believe the cost to have been around \$1,400.
- Main Street Redevelopment continues to be a priority for the Town of St. Johnsbury. The Armory is currently a two phase project. Phase 1 being environmental clean-up and Phase 2 being development into a Police and Dispatch Center.
- Expansion of the Rail Trail remains on the agenda. The Governor plans to have the state portion completed within the next two years. The Town would like to see lighting along the trail and river front access. The Town is working on securing funds in hopes to make this possible. Trails and Outdoor Recreation is part of what St. Johnsbury is and make us unique compared to others.
- Working with Jamie Murphy with regards to the Town Forest. Also, there is growing community interest in the Town purchasing a parcel of land referred to as the 'Knob' and preserving it for the purpose of outdoor recreation.
- Hopeful for possible Water/Sewer Infrastructure programs coming from the federal government.
- Police, Dispatch and Fire Department are at regular operations. Recently, Officer Guyer passed his physical and will be going to the Police Academy this spring. Another Officer is currently on a yearlong deployment.
- Public Works is currently running at full staff. Working on regular spring maintenance and repairs including clean up from the winter and grading.
- Fire Department Ladder Truck is currently in Montpelier for repairs. The estimate is about \$15,000 for a new transmission.
- Friday the Town of St. Johnsbury had a fire at 168 Cherry Street. The Town received aerial support from Lyndonville and Littleton. Also received other fire suppression support from other towns.
- First regional fire discussion took place recently. Representatives from each department were present. Next steps are to review the report with staff. Planning a public presentation soon.
- Expect Gilman and Pleasant Street construction to begin soon. However this project is expected to take two years to complete.
- Portland Street Scope Study is in the finalization of recommendation process. Cost projected at 1-1.2 million. Looking into the impacts.
- Eastern Ave/ Pearl Street working to obtain a 50/50 match from ACD to address the sidewalk and lighting.
- Alliance Construction is expect to begin Oak Street Drainage Project in the next few weeks.
- Working on getting the South Main and Railroad Street Project out for bid. This project includes line stripping coming into the downtown.
- No other questions.

Other Business:

- None

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