



# TOWN OF ST. JOHNSBURY

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## **Meeting of the St. Johnsbury Select Board March 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

Staff: Chad Whitehead, Rachel Waterhouse, Lesley Russ, Stacy Jewell

Press: Todd Wellington, KATV

Public: Barbara and Darryll Rudy, Don Smith, Bob Joly, Frank Empsall, Peter VanStraten, Nick Anzalone

### Agenda Amendments:

- None

### Public Comment:

- None

### Warrants:

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

### Minutes:

- On a motion by Dennis and second by Daniel to approve the meeting minutes from 02/22/2021 with the correction under Emergency Check Signatory to say that Stacy will discuss job duties with Rachel and Chad will obtain approval from the auditors. All in favor.

### Liquor Licenses:

- Dennis asked what RL Operating Company was. Stacy explained it was Moose River.
- On a motion by Daniel and second by Dennis the following Liquor Licenses were approved.
  - VFW Post 793 - 1<sup>st</sup> class renewal
  - Firinn Golf Group- 1<sup>st</sup> class renewal
  - New Century Chinese- 1<sup>st</sup> class renewal
  - St. Johnsbury Distillery- 1<sup>st</sup> class renewal
  - RL Operating Company.- 2<sup>nd</sup> class renewal
  - Global Montello Group #452 - 2<sup>nd</sup> class renewal

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- St. Johnsbury Distillery- 2<sup>nd</sup> class renewal
- Eastern and Main Deli- 2<sup>nd</sup> class renewal
- Horizons Beverage and Redemption – 2<sup>nd</sup> class renewal
- VFW Post 793- 3<sup>rd</sup> class renewal
- Firinn Golf Group- 3<sup>rd</sup> class renewal
- VFW Post 793- Outside Consumption
- Firinn Golf Group- Outside Consumption
- Kingdom Taproom and Table- Outside Consumption
- St. Johnsbury Distillery- Outside Consumption

#### February Financial Update:

- Lesley Russ, Financial Manager provided the select board with the February financials. Including the following.
- General fund revenue is better than projected and expenses are on target.
- Delinquent taxes at \$82,310. Tax sale was very effective in receipt of delinquent taxes.
- Special Services revenue and expenses are on target.
- Highway fund has a deficit due to the purchase of a truck and timing of a loan payment.
- Water and Sewer funds have a deficit due to billing in the arrears but expense are on target.
- Parking fund has a deficit due to lag in parking permit sales and parking tickets. Expecting deficit of \$15,000-\$20,000 by the end of the year.
- No questions from the board or the public.

#### Communication Union District Update:

- Nick Anzalone provide the select board with an overview of the program, 2020 accomplishments and plans for 2021.
- Feasibility study has been completed.
- Bill project slated for St. Johnsbury however hitting resource problems with getting fiber and funding.
- Daniel complemented the work of the group out on the lines. However there was lack of communication on how to get hooked up.
- Chad commended Nick's work representing the Town of St. Johnsbury. Chad would like to see him continue.
- Nick explained that if the board wished for him to continue they didn't need to do anything. However he recommends the Town look for alternate. Chad and Nick will reach out to see if the others are still interested. Nick mentioned he would like to have an informational public meeting soon to hopefully develop a potential pool of alternates.
- Tm asked when Nick thought he would have a better sense of relief funds. Nick said he was not entirely sure but hoping soon.
- Darryll Rudy commented that he believes developing this project is a strong piece to offer to the growing area and going the way we want it to. He inquired about meeting with Nick for more information and determine if he might be able to help and make a difference. Nick will provide his email and the meetings are open meetings if anyone would like to attend.
- Darryll Rudy also commented that he likes what he is seeing on Railroad Street. Positive way of progression. Keeping the spirit of the area alive.

- The board thanked Nick.

#### Solid Waste Implementation Plan Update:

- Chad Whitehead, Town Manager explained where the town currently stands with the solid waste implementation plan updated and next steps.
- This is the second hearing to comply with state mandate.
- Solid Waste Implementation Plan Update includes recycling, composting, household hazardous waste day and yard debris day.
- The state has reviewed the Town's plan.
- Town is working with Casella on public outreach.
- Chad opened the floor to public comment.
- No questions from the public or the select board.
- Chad will get the information back to the state and update the Town's website.

#### Managers' Report:

- Chad Whitehead, Town Manager provided the following Manager's Report.
- Efforts coming into spring and working on developing plan for downtown reopening including outside dining, retail space, parking and pedestrians. Permit process will be like last year. Apply through the Town Managers Office and will be reviewed with the PD and DPW.
- Working with NVDA on downtown parking and pedestrian plan to help determine traffic.
- V-Trans will be taking over the Rail Trail project with an expected deadline of completion for 2023. Town is working to develop maintenance plans with DPW. Working to obtain another round of funding from Northern Boards and USDA to line up everything to finalize the town portion.
- Another Armory meeting with White and Burke on April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at the Select Board Meeting.
- Working on establishing 3 EB charging stations at the 3 furthest south parking spots at the Welcome Center almost directly across from TD Bank. The Town will receive 5% of the funds from the charging stations.
- The Town is working with the Chamber on downtown events for the summer. Chamber is looking at moving the concert series at Dog Mountain.
- Beautifications Committee has developed a 5 year plan and will be increasing meetings.
- Lots of people interested in the charter change review. Need a minimum of 10 people currently have 8 people at this time.
- Joe Fox has inquired about a bike trail within the Town forest. This will need to include looking at the forestry management as well.
- Town Meeting voting will take place on April 6<sup>th</sup> from 7 am to 7 pm at the Welcome Center.
- Chad has been working with the David Ryenolds to develop the informational session on April 5<sup>th</sup> along with rules and procedures. Hope is to have instructions posted prior to the meeting. People will be monitoring the chad as well. This process has been successful with other communities.
- Dennis asked how did tax sale go? Chad said it went well. The town obtained two properties. The delinquent taxes is the lowest he has ever seen it.

- Tim asked if Kingdom Access would be available for Town Meeting. Chad said yes on their YouTube channel. Ballots could be mailed as early as Friday. Dr. Ricca and Chad are working on informational segments for the public.
- Peter VanStraten asked if a decision had been made regarding the gym at the Armory or if it was to be determined. Chad explained that currently the Armory is still in the mitigation of pcbs phase. There has been talk of potential demo of the back end and addition of a sally port.
- Peter VanStraten Asked if an indoor gym has been consider as it is an asset as well. Chad said it is still a possibility. Peter asked if people have worked on this before and Chad said yes a private group and that Joe Kasprzak would know more. Suggested that Peter reach out to Chad via email and Chad would assist in getting him more information.

#### Other Business:

- Kevin asked that Chad reach out to the appointed people for the town to ensure they are still interested in continuing as the April organizational meeting is approaching. Chad said he would.
- Tim commented on how nice Caplins came out

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