



TOWN OF ST. JOHNSBURY

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Meeting of the St. Johnsbury Select Board Sept. 27, 2021 @ 6:00 pm Select Board Meeting

Present-

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

Staff: Chad Whitehead, Rachel Waterhouse, Stacy Jewell

Press: KATV

Public: Jim Brown, Bernie Timson, Darryll and Barbara Rudy (via zoom), Stan Welch (via zoom), Jim Brimblecomb (via zoom)

Agenda Amendments:

- None

Public Comment:

- Kevin Oddy, Chair of the Select Board congratulated Stacy Jewell on receiving Treasurer of the Year. Shows what great work the Town Clerk and Treasurer's Office does. Thanked Stacy.

Minutes:

- On a motion by Dennis and second by Frank to approve the Special Select Board Meeting minutes from 9/13/21 at 5:30 pm as presented. All in favor.
- On a motion by Dennis and second by Frank to approve the Select Board Meeting minutes from 9/13/21 at 6:00 pm as presented. All in favor.

Warrants:

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

Liquor Licenses:

- None

Grand List Adjustments:

- On a motion by Dennis and second by Frank the board approved the grand list adjustment 2020 #12 in the amount of \$860.37. All in favor

- On a motion by Dennis and second by Frank the board approved the grand list adjustment 2021 #1 in the amount of \$850.28, 2021 #2 in the amount of \$230.68, 2021 #3 in the amount of \$1,001.42, 2021 #4 in the amount of \$66.53, 2021 #5 in the amount of \$1,609.14 and 2021 #6 in the amount of \$847.50. All in favor.

WWTF Solid Handling Contract:

- Chad Whitehead, Town Manager provided an overview of past land apply practices and the states plan to do away with land apply permits. The Town evaluated several options for disposal and Senesac is the most favorable one. Provided the Select Board with a copy of the contract proposal from Senesac for drying and disposal of solids. The digesters are getting full and will need to be emptied before winter. This will give Dufresne Group time to finalize the long term plans for the Town.
- Stan Welch explained that the digesters are approaching a million gallons. Something needs to be done soon to get through winter. Explained that several options were considered and costs were weighed. Senesac was close in the amount to other options but also provided the services to dispose of the solids which others did not.
- Dennis mentioned that the specs of the contract stated that clean water with low chlorine content is needed for the drying process. Questioned if the Towns water meets this spec. Stan explained that he believes the Town water meets that requirement.
- Dennis mentioned that the contract states the Town is to supply a forklift. Surprised that the Town has to supply the equipment. Stan mentioned that currently there is a skid steer at the wastewater plant and other equipment would be available from the DPW garage if needed. Jim Brimblecomb mentioned that he thinks we are in good shape to meet that requirement.
- Kevin asked if the contract was for 800,000 gallons. Jim Brimblecomb said no. Steve had thought about 600,000 gallons would be removed. However currently there is almost a million gallons in the tank now. Not sure if the wastewater plant would make it until June 2022 with only disposing of 600,000 gallons.
- Kevin asked if the contract is based on the 800,000 gallons. Jim explained it is based on dried tons. Chad explained that the cost is not based on how many gallons go in but what is trucked off.
- Frank asked if the 600,000 gallons was sufficient for the Town. Jim explained that it would be really tight. More dry tons are in the tank. Jim expressed that he would love to get rid of what we can now.
- Frank suggested emptying the digesters all at once if affordable. Kevin agreed. Stan commented that while this isn't a permanent solution this would give lead time to finalize a permanent solution and obtain the equipment needed.
- Kevin asked if the funds were available to empty the whole tank. Chad said yes based on August financial report. Kevin suggested emptying the tank and get it over with and continue to work on a permanent solution.
- Bernie Timson asked if the separation of storm water and sewer was ever completed in the area of Summer and Spring Street. Chad said yes.
- On a motion by Dennis and second by Frank to approve the WWTF Solid Handling Contract and move forward with emptying the entire sludge holding tank estimated to cost \$250,000 to be paid by the sewer fund. All in favor.

Town Manager's Report:

- Chad Whitehead, Town Manager provided the following Town Manager's Report.
- Vermont Land Trust will be presenting at the VT Housing Board on Wednesday 9/29/21 with regards to the Knob Property. Likely will be extending the purchase and sale agreement past the

November deadline. Dave Brown is working on gifting a parcel of his property that is abutting to the Knob Property. Currently he is working on having the parcel surveyed.

- The Planning Commission continues to work with the Town Manager on obtaining more information and answers to the questions presented at the Public Hearing on 09/13/21. Chad explained that the Assessor's Office has recommended leaving the taxation out of the zoning bylaws. Jim Brown explained that the Planning Commission recognizes the mistake written in the bylaws and will correct at their next meeting.
- The Charter Review Committee plans to bring an update to the Select Board at the next meeting. Expect to have the first public hearing in January of 2022.
- Work continues on Gilman and Pleasant Street. Moving along as expected. Dennis asked if they are on schedule. Chad said yes.

Other Business:

- None

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