



TOWN OF ST. JOHNSBURY

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Meeting of the St. Johnsbury Select Board August 9, 2021 at 6:00 PM Select Board Meeting

Present-

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

Staff: Chad Whitehead, Rachel Waterhouse, Chief Christopher Olsen

Press: KATV, Todd Wellington

Public: Don Smith (via zoom), Jim Brown, Pam Parker, Steve Isham, Ben Deede, Scott Campbell, Mary Berlejung (via zoom)

Agenda Amendments:

- On a motion by Dennis and second by Frank to add the Clean Water Revolving Water Loan Application for Railroad and Portland street to the agenda after the Pleasant and Gilman Update. All in favor.

Public Comment:

- None

Minutes:

- On a motion by Daniel and second by Frank to approve the minutes for July 12, 2021. All in favor.

Warrants:

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

Liquor Licenses:

- None

Enhanced Energy Plan/ Town Plan Amendment:

- On a motion by Dennis and second by Frank to approve the Enhance Energy Plan as a Town Plan Amendment. All in favor.
- Daniel commended everyone on all the work they put into the plan.

- Todd Wellington asked if the plan would now go to a vote. Chad explained that it has been adopted by the Select Board and no vote is needed.
- Todd Wellington asked for a summary of the Enhanced Energy Plan and Pam provided an overview.

Health Officer Appointment:

- Chad Whitehead, Town Manager introduced Interim Chief Olsen.
- Chief Olsen provided the board with his background and experience.
- On a motion by Brendan and second by Dennis to appoint Chief Christopher Olsen as the Health Officer for the Town of St. Johnsbury. All in favor.

Planning Commission Request for Hearing for Zoning Bylaw Changes:

- Chad Whitehead explained the Planning Commission has requested a hearing for Zoning Bylaw Changes. He proposed having a hearing on September 13th at 5:30 pm before the regularly scheduled Select Board meeting.
- The board agreed that 5:30 pm on September 13th would work.
- Chad will work with the Zoning Administrator to get the meeting warned.

Pleasant and Gilman Project Update:

- Chad Whitehead, Town Manager provided the following update regarding the Pleasant and Gilman Project.
- The project is under contract with JA McDonald. They are expected to begin immediately.
- JA McDonald will start with the Gilman portion of the project. While working on Gilman it will be closed to through traffic but open at night and on weekends.
- Hoping to have Gilman completed by late October.
- A public meeting with community members will be happening in the coming weeks. Flyers are expected to go out this week.
- Residence in the area should expect dust and vibration when work is being done.
- Any concerns with regards to the project should reach out to Dufresne Group or the Town Manager.
- Todd Wellington asked when the project is expected to start. Chad explained they are immobilizing now and expect to be active on site by 8/16/21.

Clean Water Revolving Loan Railroad and Portland Street:

- Chad Whitehead, Town Manager explained that the state is encouraging ESO projects to get shovel ready. By approving this loan application it will get the project shovel-ready should funding become available.
- The cost would be \$82,300 for the Portland Street Project and \$67,200 for the Railroad Street project.
- Railroad Street and Portland Street are the larger projects as part of the Long Term Control Plan.
- Daniel asked if these amounts could be forgivable. Chad said yes.
- Daniel confirmed that by approving the application the projects would be shovel-ready. Chad said yes.

- On a motion by Daniel and second by Frank to approve the Portland Street Clean Water Revolving Loan application in the amount of \$82,300 and the Railroad Street Clean Water Revolving Loan application in the amount of \$67,200. All in favor.

Town Manager's Report:

- Chad Whitehead, Town Manager provided the following Town Manager's Report.
- Auditors were here last week and completed the yearly audit and single audit. Expect to schedule a meeting with the board down the road to review findings and recommendations.
- The last #GETDOWNTOWN Event is Saturday August 14th.
- Town received \$806,851 in funding from Northern Boards Regional Commission for phase II of the 3 Rivers/LVRT path project.
- Congressman Leahy announced his support for the \$543,000.00 for the next phase of the 3 Rivers project. This funding would assist in adding lighting, a cross country trail, art exhibits, honking tunnel improvements and parking improvements. Total cost of the project is estimated at 1.55 million.

Other Business:

- Frank asked if there has been any updates on the Knob property. Chad explained that a hearing date has been set for September with the grant announcement following that. The purchase and sale agreement is currently good through November.
- Frank asked if Tracey is working on securing additional funding and raising money. Chad said yes she continues to do so.

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