



TOWN OF ST. JOHNSBURY

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Meeting of the St. Johnsbury Select Board February 14, 2022 at 5:30 PM Special Select Board Meeting

Present-

Select Board: Kevin Oddy, Dennis Smith, Brendan Hughes (via zoom), Frank Empsall, Daniel Kimbell

Staff: Chad Whitehead, Rachel Waterhouse (via zoom), Joe Kasprzak (via zoom), Stacy Jewell (via zoom), Steve Beauregard (via zoom)

Press: Todd Wellington, KATV

Public: Bob Joly (via zoom), Mary Ellen Reis (via zoom), Gary Chester (via zoom), Robin Burnash (via zoom), Jim Brown (via zoom), Don Smith (via zoom), Tracy Zschau (via zoom), Amy Obenauf (via zoom), Anne Campbell (via zoom), Steve's I-pad (via zoom), Kelsey S (via zoom), Brynn Evans (via zoom)

Special Appropriations:

- Northeast Kingdom Youth Services in the amount of \$5,500.
- Good Living Senior Center in the amount of \$20,000
- St. Johnsbury Athenaeum in the amount of \$115,000. Bob Joly spoke on behalf of this special appropriation request. He highlighted that the Athenaeum has been requesting special appropriations from the Town since 2011. 2021 was the 150th anniversary for the Athenaeum. In 2021 the Athenaeum had around 25,000 visitors, implemented a video steaming service and had around 40,000 items borrowed. The Athenaeum is open six days a week; Monday thru Friday from 10 am until 5 pm and Saturday from 10 am until 3 pm.
- St. Johnsbury Town Band in the amount of \$770.
- Caledonian Home Healthcare and Hospice in the amount of \$18,382. Brynn Evans spoke on behalf of this special appropriations request. She highlighted that they are requesting the same funding as last year to provide services to the Town of St. Johnsbury residents. In 2021 the program provided services to 7,771 people. The program services the community from birth through death.
- First Night North in the amount of \$3,000. Anne Campbell spoke on behalf of this special appropriations request. While typically this event takes place in St. Johnsbury 2021 was the second virtual event. The virtual event hosted over 22,000 views. Hoping to have this event back in person this year.
- Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium in the amount of \$63,000.
- St. Johnsbury Kiwanis Pool in the amount of \$19,900.

- Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging in the amount of \$7,200. Mary Ellen Reis spoke on behalf of this special appropriation request. This agency supported over 4,478 people in 2021 of that 571 were St. Johnsbury residents. Supports ranged from counseling, case management, meals, wellness programs and help line coverage.
- St. Johnsbury Meals on Wheels in the amount of \$10,000.
- Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) in the amount of \$810.
- Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired (VABVI) in the amount of \$675.
- Rural Community Transportation (RCT) in the amount of \$13,050. Amy Obenauf presented on behalf of this special appropriation. In 2021 over 26,000 individuals were served. RCT saw an increase of 149% in ridership in 2021.
- Northern Vermont Chapter of the American Red Cross in the amount of \$1,800.
- Catamount Arts in the amount of \$5,000. Anne Campbell presented on behalf of this special appropriation. Anne highlighted the new programs developed in 2021 and the opening of the Art Port at the Green Mountain Plaza. Plan to continue the St. Johnsbury Art on the Street and the St. Johnsbury Get Downtown Event.
- Umbrella Inc. in the amount of \$9,500.
- NEK Human Services in the amount of \$7,983. Kelsey spoke on behalf of this special appropriation. Provided an overview of the services provided by NEK Human Services in 2021 they supported 595 people in the area and employed 78 St. Johnsbury residents.
- Kingdom Animal Shelter in the amount of \$2,000.
- Support and Services at Home Rural Edge (SASH) in the amount of \$2,000. Robin Burnash spoke on behalf of this special appropriation request. In 2021 over 5,000 people were served by SASH of that 77 were residents of St. Johnsbury. Hoping to increase their presences in St. Johnsbury in 2021 with additional access to wellness programs and education.

On a motion by Dennis and second by Frank the board adjourned the special appropriations section of the meeting by unanimous decision.