



TOWN OF ST. JOHNSBURY

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Special Select Board Meeting of the St. Johnsbury Select Board March 27th, 2023 @ 5:30 pm

Present-

Select Board: Dennis Smith, Steve Isham, Brendan Hughes, Frank Empsall, Tracy Zschau

Staff: Chad Whitehead, Joe Kasprzak, Rachel Waterhouse,

Press: KATV,

Public: Bob Holmes, Katelyn Robinson (via zoom), Linda Lotti, Jenna O'Farrell, Casey Winterson

Town of St. Johnsbury VCDG CDGP Planning Grant of Behalf of NEKCA:

- Joe Kasprzak, Assistant Town Manager explained that the Town has been asked to submit an application for the VCDG CDGP Planning Grant on behalf of NEKCA. He explained that a Public Hearing is required prior to Select Board approval to submit the application.
- Jenna O'Farrell, Linda Lotti and Casey Winterson provided an overview of what the Planning Grant would be used for if awarded.
- Jenna O'Farrell provided an overview of NEKCA's current location and the services provided there. She explained that given all the services and no really ability to remodel the given location to accommodate all services NEKCA has looked at other options. The Planning Grant would allow NEKCA the ability to more thoroughly look at purchasing property on Memorial Drive and creating a campus where services would not be on top of each other. This would also allow NEKCA to co-locate with the weatherization programs for the community actions agency.
- Linda Lotti explained that the funding from the VCDG CDGP Planning Grant would allow for further assessment work including community outreach, environmental investigative work and traffic studies.
- Casey Winterson explained that currently NETO is not in-house however with the campus it would allow NETO to be in-house and give the Northeast Kingdom additional green energy services.
- Chad explained that the Town has been asked to submit the application on behalf of NEKCA. If awarded the grant would be sub granted to NEKCA.
- Dennis asked how much the grant request was for. Linda Lotti said \$60,000.
- Katelyn Robinson explained that the funds for VCDG CDGP must be applied for through a municipality. The application request is for up to \$60,000 along with pledge funds from NEKCA and the Town of St. Johnsbury. These funds will be used for scope work, project management, engineer design and phase 2 assessment. She mentioned that NEKCA's project conforms with the Town Plan.
- Joe explained that another component is a letter of support from NVDA and conformation with the regional plan.
- Brendan asked if the \$60,000 was to purchase the property. Linda Lotti said no the \$60,000 will be used for site assessments.

- Brendan asked what the plan was for their current location on Lincoln Street. Linda Lotti said most likely they would sell the location down the road.
- Joe explained that any action would be taken in the regular Select Board meeting this evening and not during the Public Hearing.

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