



TOWN OF ST. JOHNSBURY

51 Depot Square, Suite 1

St Johnsbury, VT 05819

802-748-4331

www.stjvt.com

Meeting of the St. Johnsbury Select Board October 9, 2023 @ 6:00 pm

Present-

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

Staff: Chad Whitehead, Stacy Jewel;

Public: Ben Deedee; Monica Myles (via zoom); Lawrence Dolan, Margaret Healey KATV

Agenda Amendments: None

Public Comment: None

Warrants:

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

Minutes:

- On a motion by Dennis and second from Brendan to table to minutes. All in favor.

Liquor/Tobacco License:

- On a motion by Dennis and second by Tracy, the Liquor Licenses were approved.

Small Business Administration- Disaster Loan Program

- Monica Myles of the Small Business Administration discussed the Disaster Loan Program with the Select Board. Loans were available to help residents, homeowners, business owners and non-profits in property damage sustained between July 7-21 rain events. Loan deadline is October 12th.
- Economic Injury relief can be applied for until April of 2024.

Grand List Adjustments:

- On a motion by Dennis and second by Brendan the board approved Grand List Adjustments 5 and 6.

Authorized Check Signer:

- On a motion by Dennis and second by Tracy, Brooke Demers was approved as the authorized check signer and Diane Perkins was removed as an authorized check signer effective October 30, 2023.

Planning Commission Appointment:

- Chad introduced Ben Deedee to the Select Board and indicated that members of the Planning Commission had met with Ben and recommended appointment to the Planning Commission.
- On a motion by Brendan and second by Tracy, the Select Board appointed Ben Deedee to the Planning Commission.

Loan RF3-499-1.0:

- Chad reviewed loan documents for the Lead Line Inventory that the State is mandating of all municipalities which includes verifying the materials and sizes of all water service lines in the water system. The loan is in the amount of \$235,000 with \$167,500 of principal forgiveness. Loan term is 5 years with 0% interest with first payments beginning in May of 2028.
- On a motion by Brendan and second by Dennis the board approved Loan RF3-499-1.0 loan documents.

Caledonia Coop funding Agreement:

- Chad presented the St Johnsbury Revitalization Fund Grant Agreement as prepared by the Town's attorneys. The grant agreement provided for a total of \$150,000 in payments to include \$75,000 to be provided immediately for their option payment and an additional \$75,000 to be provided upon their hiring of a project manager. The agreement also included a mortgage security to the Town on the building once a purchase was complete, and released the mortgage after 5 years.
- On a motion by Brendan and second by Tracy the board approved the Grant Agreement as presented.

Town Manager's Report:

- The Town, through its attorney has filed a motion to dismiss to the Superior Court for the Human Right's Council alleged violation.
- A new Zoning and Planning Administrator, Matthew Walsh has been onboarded
- Joel Pierce will be appointed as the new Chief of Police and there will be a brief ceremony at 3:00 at the Welcome Center and is open to the public.
- A fire at 68 Higgins Hill Road destroyed a house, which had been foreclosed on.
- The Town will track legal fees associated with the Revitalization Fund grant agreements and make recommendations to use Revitalization Funds to cover these expenses as we get closer to year end.
- The Wastewater Treatment Facility is continuing to process solids for as long as possible while temperatures are above freezing.
- The Fire Chief has reported concerns with Fire Apparatus and is developing a plan for replacement of two of the Apparatus.
- The Police Department has developed a contract with the Sheriff's Department to provide Sheriff's Deputies to fill in and provide relief to the PD.

Other Business: none

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