



TOWN OF ST. JOHNSBURY

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Meeting of the St. Johnsbury Select Board June 22nd, 2026 @ 6:00pm

Present-

Select Board: Frank Empsall, Ellen Burt, Dennis Smith, Steve Isham, Brendan Hughes (via Zoom)

Staff: Chad Whitehead, Stacy Jewell, Brad Reed, Matthew Lennox, Dennis Farnham, Matt Montgomery, Shane Thrasher, Troy Derby, Brendan Greaves, Kate Bent

Public: KATV, Chase Empsall, Rep Deb Dolgin, Dana Gray, Issiah Willson, John (via Zoom), Connor (via Zoom), Michael Miller (via Zoom), Barbara Edelman (via Zoom), Steve Dolgin (via Zoom), Gillian Sewake (via Zoom)

Agenda Amendments:

- None

Public Comment:

- Issiah Willson shared some recommendations with the selectboard due to how the June 8th Selectboard meeting went. Those recommendations were that the rules of procedure should be stated before the meeting starts and when order is put together during the meeting, Issiah suggested that words should be used rather than banging on the table. Frank Empsall voiced that the meeting got out of hand, and there were a lot of out-of-order actions happening like booing, and yelling. Frank stated that meeting is over with, and he wants to move forward. Steve Islam asked Frank if he thinks he was Trump, Chad stepped in, stating it was not the right place or time.
- Gillian Sewake shared that Final Friday starts this Friday June 26th with a new time starting at 5pm. Both sides of Railroad Street will be closed. This will make the 5th year that the event takes place in St. Johnsbury.

Minutes:

- On a motion by Dennis and second by Ellen to approve the meeting minutes from June 8th as presented. All in favor.

Warrants:

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

Liquor Licenses/ Tobacco Licenses:

- On a motion by Dennis and second by Ellen to approve the Liquor Licenses as presented. Brendan Abstained. The motion passed.

May Financials:

- Chad gave the following May Financials;

The property taxes are prorated in the governmental funds as well as interdepartmental and reserve transfers in all the funds.

General Fund: At the end of May 2026, the General Fund revenues were \$5,184,999 and expenses were \$6,700,308 resulting in a deficit of \$1,515,309. The deficit is due to revitalization expenses of \$130,505, the purchase of RK Miles, the new fire truck purchase, fire and dispatch overtime and legal and IT expenses. The delinquent tax balance was \$399,390 at month end (down from \$442,757 the previous month) and the operating cash balance was \$2.1 million.

Special Services Fund: Special Services revenues were \$1,922,343 and expenses were \$1,891,0118 resulting in a surplus of \$31,325. The surplus is due to significant savings in benefit expenses.

Highway Fund: The Highway fund had \$7,057,565 in revenues and expenses were \$4,474,743 resulting in a surplus of \$2,585,822. The surplus is due to grant payments and FEMA reimbursements and will offset the large deficit from the prior year.

To date the Town has received \$2.9 million from FEMA towards storm damage. The State will be reimbursing the Town 7.5% of FEMA reimbursements once all work is complete.

Water Fund: The Water fund revenues were \$1,179,517 and expenses were \$1,536,688 resulting in a temporary deficit of \$357,170. This is due to billing in arrears.

Sewer Fund: Sewer Fund revenues were \$1,629,301 and expenses were \$1,811,441 resulting in a temporary deficit of \$182,140 due to billing in arrears.

Parking Meter Fund: Revenues in the parking meter fund were \$48,112 and expenses were \$38,305 resulting in a surplus of \$9,807. The surplus is due to permit sales.

Recreation Fund: Revenues in the recreation fund were \$122,030 and expenses were \$128,861 resulting in a deficit of \$6,831.

Public Safety Building Update:

- Chief Reed, Firefighter Lennox and Firefighter Farnham shared a Public Safety Building PowerPoint.
- The PowerPoint included the committee members which are Chief Reed, Chad Town Manager, Joe Assistant Town Manager, Interim Chief Kevin Wilson, Firefighter's Farnham and Lennox, and Chair Frank Empsall of the selectboard.
- The PowerPoint subjects covered Committee Activity, Committee Progress, 1187 Projects and Location Assessments.
- Firefighter Lennox spoke on the current needs at 1187 Main Street, which include replacing the front lobby floors, fixing the bathrooms at the Fire Department, replacing the front lights in front of the building, installing outlet to charge the EV. The committee will still continue to activity look for necessary needs.
- Firefighter Farnham shared the Location Assessment and the research around New England for comparisons. Location Assessment helps determine Response Time, Physical and geographic barriers, as well as space needs.
- Chief Reed ended with the importance of prioritizing the need for a safer workplace at 1187 Main Street.

Town Manager's Report:

- Chad stated he attended the Land Use Review Board public meeting in Lyndonville. NVDA has submitted a pre-application with a draft regional plan which relates to Tier 1B status, which provides for Act 250 exemption in specific areas.

- Chad stated he is still attending the Governor's Public Safety Enhancement Team meetings as well as the Town's Public Safety Task Force and Situation Table meetings. The Situation Table meetings are confidential.
- The Auditors are currently working in preparation for the current Fiscal Year Audit.
- Chad confirmed what Gillian about the Final Friday events are scheduled for this upcoming Friday.
- Dana Gray asked about the Action Plan developed by Chief Pierce, and Chad confirmed that the Action Plan was still in effect and being followed by Interim Chief Wilson
- Gillian Sewake confirmed that the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail was open.

Other Business:

- None

Executive Session:

- On a motion by Dennis and second by Ellen the board determined that there was a need for Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. All in favor.
- On a motion by Dennis and second by Ellen the board entered executive session and invited the Town Manager to join. All in favor.
- On a motion by Dennis and second by Ellen the board exited Executive Session. The Chair had nothing to report.
- On a motion by Dennis and second by Ellen the board adjourned.

June 22nd Select Board Meeting Video:

https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__us02web.zoom.us_rec_share_KuTRCqnR9buKRc-5FUdKjteM-2DUm3ZWeKFin3paov3Zc-5F3oc8Jf1yVOpweMPNESiXK2.ficngwlQz6b7iaSR&d=DwMFAw&c=euGZstcaTDllvimEN8b7jXrwqOf-v5A_CdpgnVfiiMM&r=Ju1b0XBLvFAGEVrHqulCPACXIn_2b1lVTCCbe_28U&m=x9JsDd2iHKIFcu5R0ogTnMcREmcYB_IE8o-YOxGxuxT-5zs-UnqK7YkuG6N2xw_j&s=vkLBOn-rjDJPeCjS2LVYuK3mUgrFU1jzmQRDJ8xaEyc&e=

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