



TOWN OF ST. JOHNSBURY

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Meeting of the St. Johnsbury Select Board August 24th, 2026 @ 6:00pm

Present-

Select Board: Frank Empsall, Ellen Burt, Dennis Smith, Steve Isham, Brendan Hughes

Staff: Chad Whitehead, Joe Kasprzak, Stacy Jewell, Kate Bent (via zoom), Matt Walsh, Chief Wilson (via zoom)

Public: KATV, Steve Dolgin (via Zoom), Jim Brown, Deb Dolgin, Dana Gray, Chase Empsall, Robert Holmes, Isaiah Willson, Jim Impey, Henry Brava III, David Roth, Dennis Farnham, Terri Lavelly, Juliet Emas, Richard Boisseau, Scott Beck, Brad Reed, Gillian Sewake (via zoom), Fig VT digger (via zoom), Temp (via zoom), Mike (via zoom)

Agenda Amendments:

- Add Authorization of line of credit.
- On a motion by Dennis and second by Brendan to approve the Agenda Amendment. All in favor.

Public Comment:

- Jim Impey mentioned the removal of the trees at Mount Pleasant Cemetery. Jim went over prices and the trees with Steve Beaugard- Jim shared it was never put on the budget. Jim also showed photos to the Selectboard members of the trees dying and becoming in the roadways. Chad explained that the town has a policy on tree removal that determines whether a cost is at the towns, or the property owners.
- A resident asked what can be done with the homeless and drug problem happening in Town. The resident lives on Eastern/Pearl Street and sees drug activity quite often. The residents shared that the children should not be seeing it, and there should be something that the Town can do. Chad explained that the homeless problem is at a state level, but there are public safety meetings still taken place. Chad also let the resident know to keep an eye out on the St. Johnsbury webpage for a forum that community can join.

Minutes:

- On a motion by Dennis and second by Brendan to approve the meeting minutes from August 10th with noted corrections. All in favor.

Warrants:

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

Liquor Licenses/ Tobacco Licenses:

- None

St. Johnsbury Community Hub:

- Juliet Emas shared that the hub is relocating to 105 Eastern Ave.

Planning Commission- Short Term Rentals:

- On a motion by Steve and second by Brendan to accept the Planning Commission Short Term Rentals. All in favor.

Rodd Roofing Assessment Settlement Agreement:

- On a motion by Steve and second by Dennis to approve the settlement of Rodd Roofing vs Town of St. Johnsbury at an assessed value of \$1,590,600 for parcel 241008 for April 1, 2025, 2026, and 2027, and to authorize Attorney Bloomer to sign the stipulation and order on behalf of the Town, in substantially the form provided to the Board. All in favor.

Authorization of Line of Credit:

- On a motion by Ellen and second by Dennis to accept a six-month line of credit of up to \$1 million dollars with a 6.2% interest and for it to be repaid after the tax bills are collected, and to authorize Stacy Jewell to make the transfers required for expenses. All in favor.

Town Manager's Report:

- Chad reported job openings and interviews happening in Dispatch, the Fire Department, and Zoning and Planning as Matt Walshes last day is Aug 27th.
- The last Final Friday of the Summer takes place this Friday. Railroad Street will be closed. Chad thanked the Catamount Arts for the music events.
- Chad also shared the public safety has taken much of his time this last month.
- The Bay Street contract has been signed, plans to start on September 28th.
- Chad mentioned that the sewer plant is currently in queue.
- Sheriff contract did not go through due to the staffing
- Chad shared there have been many compliments on the plants, that the beautification committee put together, and that there is a national photo contest for the planters being held.
- Joe Kasprzak shared there is continued work being done with Northern Forest Center, and the Bay Street corridor advisory committee. There is also continued work with NVDA.
- Joe reported continued work with the public safety community to identify solutions and options for the Town.
- Joe also shared Senator Bernie Sanders is expected in Town this week.

Other Business:

- Dennis asked about the 2nd floor being rented out. Chad said they had two people interested but they backed out. Chad stated if anyone is interested to please reach out.
- Frank thanked Matt Walsh for his service.

Executive Session:

- On a motion by Dennis and second by Brendan to adjourn. All in favor.

August 24th Select Board Meeting Video:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/5_NJr4xjnjTJwo9DlWJfbpVaCMsJHDw7Vdsqz436wFOU-RGlvHwaZxkCi2pJGydj.tlANzqAGAy-afIID?startTime=1787608651000

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