



TOWN OF ST. JOHNSBURY

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Meeting of the St. Johnsbury Select Board October 16th, 2024 @ 6:00 pm

Present-

Select Board: Steve Isham, Frank Empsall, Dennis Smith, Tracy Zchau (via zoom)

Staff: Chad Whitehead, Rachel Waterhouse, Stacy Jewell

Public: KATV, Paul Taylor

Agenda Amendments:

- None

Public Comment:

- None

Minutes:

- On a motion by Dennis and second by Frank to approve the minutes from Sept. 23rd with the noted corrections. All in favor.

Warrants:

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

Liquor and Tobacco Licenses:

- None

Grand List Adjustments:

- Steven Isham presented several Grand List adjustments.
 - 2024 #3 involved a reduction in the amount of \$1,823.40.
 - 2024 #4 was a reduction in the amount of \$357.59.
 - 2024 #5 was a reduction in the amount of \$111.31.
 - 2024 #6 was an increase in the amount of \$76.90
 - 2024 #7 was a reduction in the amount of \$1,657.94.
 - 2024 #8 was a reduction in the amount of \$488.39.

- On a motion by Dennis and second by Frank to approve the grand list adjustments 2024 #3-#8 as presented. All in favor.

Deputy Health Office Appointment:

- Chad mentioned that the Deputy Health Office needs to be appointed every three years. He explained that it has been 3 years since Kresten Sterling was appointed as the Deputy Health Officer therefore he needs to be reappointed. He mentioned that Kresten is aware that he is being reappointed and doesn't have an issue.
- Steve Isham asked how long the appointment was for. Chad explained that it was for three years.
- On a motion by Frank and second by Dennis to appoint Kresten Sterling at the Deputy Health Office. All in favor.

WWTF Sludge Management Final Design Loan:

- Chad presented the Select Board with a loan agreement in the amount of \$195,360 for the final design of the wastewater treatment facility. He explained that no payments would be due for the first five years and that the loan includes a 50% principal forgiveness. He expects that by this time the project would be in construction and the loan could be rolled into a USDA or Clearwater Revolving Loan.
- On a motion by Dennis and second by Frank to accept loan RF1-298 2.0 in the amount of \$195,360 for the WWTF Sludge Management Final Design. All in favor.

Town Manager's Report:

- Chad Whitehead, Town Manager provided the following report.
- The Town continues road repairs with the goal of having everything plowable by winter.
- GW Tatro was contracted to do work on the Rail Trail but it has been postponed. They reached out to the Town to see if they could come help with road repairs if needed. Public Works is working to determine what they are able to assist with.
- The Town continues to track all FEMA eligible expenses for reimbursement.
- Cash flow remains good standings and the line of credit is available should it be needed.
- Discussed a water main leak under the river that is scheduled to be repaired within the next week, barring any large rain events. Highlighted the importance of keeping this river crossing as it assists in keeping the South tank full.
- Long term repair plans include preliminary design work is underway for a permanent fix involving designing a water main to cross the lower bridge as this redundancy is needed. Hoping to have a bond ready for Town Meeting so funding can be secured.
- Public Safety Task Force work is ongoing, working with the State PEST in evaluating St. Johnsbury's law enforcement and emergency response statistics and comparing them to perceived high crime areas. Crime is eating up a lot of resources from all entities.
- Important to continue to work with Human Services agencies to ensure that everyone is held accountable. Exploring the possibility of having a mental health worker embedded within the Police Department. This would provide a better response to mental health emergencies.
- Chad shared crime statistics, noting that the St. Johnsbury community response rate is in line with other municipalities within the state.

- Discussed the approval of the Town's bylaw modernization which includes changes to the zoning bylaws. He clarified that these changes do not significantly alter the use of properties, but do allow for additional residential units on certain lots.
- Steve Isham mentioned that he spoke with Jim Brown regarding the Public Hearings and requested that the Planning Commission present the changes to Select Board at one meeting and come back at the following meeting for the Public Hearing.
- Town plan update is due in May and time has been dedicated to this task.

Other Business:

- None

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

October 16th Select Board Meeting Video:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/3Jboxt8hRrJXiA-q4C2SKG95PIFXxNGixQJMvrZwpFS_doNYRnoTe2ia52Be2XN4.C9z4MOXxl0IB2QUp

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