



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 14th, 2025 @ 6:00 pm

Present-

Select Board: Steve Isham, Frank Empsall, Dennis Smith, Tracy Zschau, Brendan Hughes (via zoom)

Staff: Chad Whitehead, Kate Bent, Stacy Jewell (via zoom), Matthew Walsh, Chief Joel Pierce, Collin Gillespie, Joe Kasprak, Chief Bradley Reed, Firefighters

Public: KATV, Jim Brown, Richard Boisseau, Don Smith, Brittany Petty (via zoom), Jess Bliss (via zoom), Michael iPhone (via zoom), Barbara E and Darryll Rudy, Peg Pearl, Tony W., Diane C, A. Monarty, Dana Gray, Isaiah Willson

Bylaw Modernization Public Hearing:

- Chair Planning Commission Jim Brown and Zoning and Planning Administrator Matt Walsh gave a brief update on the Bylaw Modernization. Jim said many changes were made that were requested from the selectboard.
- Selectboard member Dennis mentioned that on page 106, under farming would still fall under Agriculture, therefore still making it a gray area.
- On a motion by Frank and second by Dennis to Adjourn the Bylaw Modernization Public Hearing. All in favor.

Agenda Amendments:

- None

Public Comment:

- A group spoke in favor of the selectboard, and their support for the rKmiles property project, and support in the selectboard.

Minutes:

- On a motion by Dennis and second by Frank to approve the September 22nd meeting minutes with noted corrections. All in favor.

Warrants:

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

Liquor Licenses/ Tobacco Licenses:

- None

Grand List Adjustments:

- First Grand List Adjustment was an increase of \$49.26
- Second Grand List Adjustment was a decrease of \$1,044.70
- Third Grand List Adjustment was a reduction of \$316.91
- Fourth Grand List Adjustment was a reduction of \$1,464.93
- On a motion by Dennis and second by Tracy to approve the Grant List Adjustments. All in favor.

St. J Revitalization Fund Update:

- Brittany Petty gave an update on her Micro-grant that was awarded to fix up the bleachers on Leonard Park. She sent it photos and shared more photos on the zoom. Brittany expressed how thankful she was for receiving the grant, and so wasn't the community and families that use the field to play their sports.
- Peg Pearl gave an update that the History & Heritage is still a work in progress, but the project is coming together smoothly. They are continuing to add more exhibits.
- Jess Bliss filled in to speak on behalf of Ali at Dog Mountain to give an update on their grant award. Their grant was for a trail enhancement. Making the trail safer and more accessible. Their blue trail, and 30FT bridge are being wrapped up. They plan to have the project completed by August of 2026. Jess showed pictures of the trails they have at Dog Mountain, and the bridge that is almost completed. Jess thanked the selectboard members, and read a message from Ali, the director of Dog Mountain, also thanking the Town for the grant.

Bylaw Modernization:

- On a motion by Tracy to accept the Bylaw Modernization as presented. No one seconded the motion.
- Dennis is requesting that the Planning Commission redefine the definition of Agriculture.

EPA Multipurpose Grant Update:

- Joe Kasrpak gave a brief update about the EPA Grant stating that there has not been much activity with the grant so far. In total about roughly \$71,000 has been spent.
- The focus of the grant was on the Tru Temper site.
- Planning and assessment at the site is still in progress.

SAFER Grant:

- Chief Reed spoke about how the SAFER grant is to increase Firefighter staffing, offer more protection to our firefighters and allows the firefighters to give the community more coverage.
- The grant is roughly around \$354,000 in total.
- The grant is very competitive, and the Town finally has received it after years of trying to obtain this grant.

Police Equipment Reserve Request:

- On a motion by Frank and second by Tracy the board approved \$114,200 from Reserve for Police Equipment and \$20,800 from Special Services Reserve to be moved to Special Services unallocated for the purchase of two police cruisers.

Dispatch Equipment Reserve Transfer:

- On a motion by Dennis and second by Tracy to approve the \$37,123.16 Dispatch Equipment Reserve to be moved to unallocated general funds to be used for Dispatch Simalcast Project.

Town Manager's Report:

- Chad Whitehead gave an update that the rKmiles property has been executed. Environmental clean-up assessment has begun.
- Chad and Matt Walsh have met with Northern Forest to see where their role will come into the rK miles project.
- Looking for volunteers to join the advisory committee.
- DPW is working on sand blasting, and sidewalk paving for the next few weeks.
- Leslie is getting ready to complete budget reviews, and this will be brought back to the selectboard in Fall.
- More information on the water supply due to the drought can be found on the Town Facebook page.
- Quarterly grant reports are also in the works Joe Kasprak shared.

Other Business:

- None

Executive Session:

- On a motion by Frank and second by Dennis voted unanimously to adjourn. All in favor.

October 14th Select Board Meeting Video:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/AtVumT08kR01AUet_x5LMlZnFNBpQs5hJpcznllCsoEaNXb82pa1-G520Bve04cU.NJDmDda02srthW0y

Passcode: C!kV1\$pp