



TOWN OF ST. JOHNSBURY

51 Depot Square, Suite 1

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www.stjvt.com

Meeting of the St. Johnsbury Select Board February 23rd, 2026 @ 6:00 pm

Present-

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

Staff: Chad Whitehead, Kate Bent, Joe Kasprak (via Zoom), Stacy Jewell, Lesley Russ (via Zoom), Matthew Walsh

Public: KATV, Jim Brown, Richard Boisseau, Issaiah Wilson (via Zoom), Gillian Sewake (via Zoom), Deb Dolgin (via Zoom), Ellen Burt, Jason Marks (via Zoom), Chase Empsall, Liam Abbate, John

Agenda Amendments:

- Chad made the agenda amendment by adding Municipal Climate Recovery Fund after the Tier 1B agenda.
- On a motion by Dennis and second by Tracy to accept the amended agenda. All in favor.

Public Comment:

- Chase Empsall thanked the Public Works crew for their work after the recent water main break on Bay Street. Chase suggested working on the existing infrastructure there.
- Another resident voiced concern about the training of those working for Public Works, directly regarding the sidewalk plows.
- Richard Boisseau expressed concern about the Fire Hydrants being covered. Richard emphasized the importance of Firefighters being able to access hydrants at any time.

Minutes:

- On a motion by Dennis and second by Tracy to approve the February 9th meeting minutes with noted corrections. All in favor.

Warrants:

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

Liquor Licenses/ Tobacco Licenses:

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

Tier 1B:

- Chad shared that he confirmed that there is no municipal obligation for overseeing any existing Act 250 permit that is currently under Tier 1B.
- Steve thanked Jim Brown and Matthew for their work on this. Frank added Liam to thank also.

- On a motion by Frank and second by Dennis to approve the municipal resolution and Tier 1B. All in favor.

Municipal Climate Recovery Fund:

- Chad gave an overview of the Municipal Climate- GAP funding. Chad shared that he would need the board to approve the \$1.124 Million loan and to authorize Chad and Stacy as the certified officials.
- This is a loan that would be paid back when FEMA reimbursement comes in, with an interest cost of 1.300%.
- On a motion by Dennis and second by Frank to authorize Chad and Stacy as the certified officials and to approve the \$1.124 Million loan. All in favor.

Town Manager's Report:

- Chad shared that the Town reports are out. Residents may find copies at the Town Clerk's office, the Welcome Center, 1187 Main Street, and the bookstore.
- Chad addressed the recent water main break on Bay Street and stated that there are aging pipes; this has been the worst main break Chad seen.
- Chad expressed how hard the Public Works crew worked during the recent water main breaks that occurred.
- Rec Department update: Friday, February 20th, may be the last day the rinks will be up for use due to the warmer temperatures coming.
- Chad gave a reminder about the Town Meeting on Tuesday, March 3rd, from 8 am-7 pm at the Welcome Center.
- Thursday, February 19th, is the last day the Town Clerk's office will be mailing out ballots. Though ballots can be picked up until 4 pm on Town Meeting Day.
- Taxes are due March 10th, and dog licenses are due April 1st without a late fee.

Other Business:

- A resident asked if the interim Chief of Police is getting paid to drive from Danville to work. Chad said no, he is not.
- Jim Brown inquired about the cost of the repairs to the Bay Street infrastructure. Chad summed up that this would be an ongoing issue in that area and could persist for many more years.

Executive Session:

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

February 23rd Select Board Meeting Video:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/51-w9cB9y2HKfY3hOZlZAYaYL5FJUGbYaOCm9FncbCg8lhbtVOhxyjEy1olvQbU.thMclz91goJ7obqf>

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