



TOWN OF ST. JOHNSBURY

51 Depot Square, Suite 1

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Meeting of the St. Johnsbury Select Board March 9th, 2026 @ 6:00 pm

Present-

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

Staff: Chad Whitehead, Kate Bent, Stacy Jewell

Public: KATV, Jim Brown, Chase Empsall, Issaiah Wilson, Dana Gray, Sharon Howell (via Zoom)

Open Meeting

Public Comment:

- Jim Brown asked how the Special Appropriations were allocated. Stacy explained how it works and what it comes from in the fiscal year.
- Dennis voiced that he is going to advocate for every citizen to contact their legislators and express concern about the current redistricting plan that has the school superintendent deciding where your high school student will go to high school. Dennis believes it has always been the parents' and their kids' choice, and he believes that is how it should stay.

Organizational Meeting:

- Select Board Chair: Frank Empsall. On a motion by Dennis and second by Brendan to appoint Frank Empsall for Select Board Chair. All in favor.
- Select Board Vice Chair: Ellen Burt. On a motion by Dennis and second by Brendan to appoint Ellen Burt as Vice Chair. All in favor.
- Rules of Procedures: On a motion by Brendan and second by Dennis to keep the Rules of Procedures the same. All in favor.
- Select Board Meeting Schedule: On a motion by Brendan and second by Dennis to approve the Meeting Schedule. All in favor.
- Planning Commission- Jim Brown and Issaiah Wilson (3- year term)- On a motion by Dennis and second by Brendan. All in favor.
- Development Review Board- Rich Lyon, Tony Higgs, Kyle Sipples, and Liam Abbate (3-year term)- On a motion by Dennis and second by Brendan. All in favor.
- Design Advisory Committee- Sarah Gagne and Mary Hughes (3-year term)- On a motion by Dennis and second by Steve. Brendan Abstained. The motion passed.
- Housing Review Board- Buddy Chapman, Brooke Demers, Iris Gilbert, Robert Homes, Katherine Rossell, Bernie Timson- On a motion by Dennis and second by Steve. All in favor.
- Rental Housing Improvement Grant Program Committee- Patrick Shattuck, Greg Brown, Pam Dearborn, and Matthew Walsh (1-year term)- On a motion by Dennis and second by Brendan. All in favor.

- St. Johnsbury Development Fund- Daniel Kimbell and Jamie Murphy- On a motion by Dennis and second by Brendan. All in favor.
- Beautification Committee- Gena Glidden, Jim Brown, Lorrie Brown, Gillian Sewake, Vanessa Allen, and Phoenix Anise (1-year term)- On a motion by Dennis and second by Brendan. All in favor.
- Energy Committee- Pam Parker, Steve Islam, Lynn Wurzburg, Susan Parker, Donley Johnson, Ben Deede, Jason Kaiser, and Robert Michaels (1-year term)- On a motion by Dennis and second by Brendan. All in favor.
- Tax Stabilization Committee- Jim Impey, Jamie Murphy, and Heather Alger (1-year term)- On a motion by Dennis and second by Brendan. All in favor.
- Bike/Ped Committee- Susan Cherry, Joe Fox, John Raser, Doug Morton (1-year term)- On a motion by Dennis and second by Brendan. All in favor.
- Knob Property Committee- Diane Chadderson, Barry Moore, James Sweeny, Jamie Murphy, Tracy Zschau, David Brown, Kiko Pacum, David Pacum, Linda Caamano, Sarah Gagne, and Tim Tierney (1-year term)- On a motion by Dennis and second by Brendan. All in favor.
- Town Moderation- David Reynolds- On a motion by Dennis and second by Brendan. All in favor.
- CUD- Nick Anzalone and Colleen Morris- On a motion by Dennis and second by Brendan.
- NVDA Board of Representatives- Jim Brown and Chad Whitehead- On a motion by Dennis and second by Brendan. All in favor.
- Industrial Park Board- Brendan Hughes- On a motion by Dennis and second by Steve. All in favor.
- Negotiation Committee- Steve Islam and Dennis Smith. On a motion by Brendan and second by Ellen. All in favor.
- Warrant Signatories- Frank Empsall and Ellen Burt. On a motion by Brendan and second by Dennis. All in favor.

Agenda Amendments:

- None

Minutes:

- On a motion by Dennis and second by Brendan to approve the Special Meeting Minutes of February 23rd. All in favor.
- On a motion by Dennis and second by Brendan to approve the regular Meeting Minutes from February with noted corrections. All in favor.

Warrants:

- On a motion by Brendan and second by Dennis to table the warrants for the end of the meeting. All in favor.

Liquor Licenses/ Tobacco Licenses:

- On a motion by Dennis and second by Steve to approve the 1st and 2nd class Liquor License, and the Tobacco License for Maple Fields. Brendan abstained. The motion passed.

Town Manager's Report:

- Chad said town officials are keeping an eye on the river level, with snow melting rapidly and a rain forecast for this week. If necessary, an excavator could be brought to the riverbank to break up any ice jams.

- Chad reached out to the league about the Capital Improvement Plan. Chad will go to the public and the Select Board for feedback.
- Chad also mentioned the Select Board training and having an on-site training. Stacy mentioned there is an open meeting law scheduled for next week.
- Chad also stated he will bring Ellen on a tour to meet the department heads and go to each facility upon her return.

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

Other Business:

- Jim Brown asked about the rK miles agreement. Chad mentioned that the closing date should be March 26th.
- Dana Gray asked if the Town is doing anything for America's Anniversary on July 4th. Chad mentioned a few organizations in Town that might be holding events.

Executive Session:

- On a motion by Dennis and second by Brendan for a need to enter an Executive Session. All in favor.
- On a motion by Dennis and second by Brendan to invite the Town Manager. All in favor.
- On a motion by Dennis and second by Brendan to enter an Executive Session. All in favor.
- On a motion by Dennis and second by Brendan voted unanimously to adjourn. All in favor.

March 9th Select Board Meeting Video:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/cIKxmbraJq3jLvdsiiNbpWPCyXIP3qesvsWLEihLywSZ2Lu20a-SU49XP6ZMpm9p.ZNxqBVt2GJv0RtCa>

Passcode: N76cwDb.