



# TOWN OF ST. JOHNSBURY

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## Special Meeting of the St. Johnsbury Select Board February 23rd, 2026 @ 5:30 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, Issaiah Wilson (via Zoom), Gillian Sewake (via Zoom), Deb Dolgin (via Zoom), Ellen Burt, Diane (via Zoom), John (via Zoom), Jason Marks (via Zoom), David Hare, Rachel De Amicis, Chase Empsall, Robin Burnash, Kimberly White, Kacy G, Liliias Ide, Adam Kane, Treny Burgess, Michael Burt, Elizabeth Emmett, Andrew McGregor, Jen Grant, Liam Abbate

### Special Appropriations Presentation:

- Good Living Senior Center requested an amount of \$20,000. Kimberly White explained that the \$20,000 will allow the Senior Center to continue providing programs and support to seniors in St. Johnsbury. She thanked the voters for their continued support.
- Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium in the amount of \$63,000. Adam Kane spoke on behalf of this special appropriations request. He mentioned that St. Johnsbury residents get free admission to the museum and highlighted some current and upcoming events and exhibits.
- NEK Learning Services in the amount of \$2,500.
- St. Johnsbury Athenaeum in the amount of \$115,000. Kacey Guill mentioned that the Athenaeum is requesting the same amount as in the past. She mentioned that last year, the special appropriation made up 19% of the Athenaeum budget. These funds are used for community needs, including employment, technology, and services.
- Rural Edge SASH Program in the amount of \$2,000. The SASH program supported and maintained housing, medical needs, mental health, and wellness.
- Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging in the amount of \$9,000. Kimberly White thanked the Town.
- NEKCA in the amount of \$12,000. An overview of the services NEKCA offers, including community-based activities and supports, was provided.
- St. Johnsbury Town Band in the amount of \$7,500. David Hare explained that the Town Band was founded in 1898 and is an embodiment of the Town. The band is open to anyone who plays an instrument. The band holds 10 concerts in the summer concert series and is present at the Memorial Day parade, which includes free ice cream, and a place where anyone can go and play music during the concert.
- Umbrella in the amount of \$9,500. Jordan explained that the \$9,500 helps sustain programs including advocacy, social change, and family-based services.
- Caledonia Home Health Care and Hospice in the amount of \$18,382. An overview mentioned that 100% of the special appropriations go to direct patient care.

- St. Johnsbury Meals on Wheels in the amount of \$10,000. Diane spoke on behalf of this special appropriations request. She explained that Meals on Wheels serves the great St. Johnsbury Monday through Friday, providing hot meals and wellness checks.
- Northeast Kingdom Youth Services in the amount of \$5,500.
- Catamount Arts in the amount of \$5,000 and First Night North in the amount of \$3,000. Jody Fried gave an overview.
- Northeast Kingdom Human Services in the amount of \$7,983.
- RCT is requesting an amount of \$17,510 due to the increase in rides being given. These are non-emergency rides for residents, and the surrounding areas can get transportation.
- Kiwanis Swimming Pool is requesting the amount of \$29,00 to continue to run the community pool for Town residents.
- VT Assoc. for the Blind is requesting the amount of \$675.
- On a motion by Dennis and second by Frank to adjourn. All in favor.

DRAFT