



TOWN OF ST. JOHNSBURY

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Meeting of the St. Johnsbury Select Board April 13th, 2026 @ 6:00 pm

Present-

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

Staff: Chad Whitehead, Kate Bent, Stacy Jewell, Joe Kasprzak, Bradley Reed

Public: KATV, Jim Brown, Richard Boisseau, Gillian Sewake (via Zoom), Rep Debbie Dolgin, Chase Empsall, Rudy and Emily Grass, Mike Sullivan, Steve Dolgin (via Zoom), Jason Marks (via Zoom), iPhone 52 (via Zoom), Shane LaCroix (via Zoom), Lonnie, Victor Gamel, Paul Conlon, Dennis F., Heather Whitmore, Mr. Whitmore

Agenda Amendments:

- Joe Kasprzak asked the Selectboard if they could table the Co-op VCDP Grant Resolution agenda until the April 27th meeting. On a motion by Brendan and second by Steve to table the Co-op VCDP Grant Resolution until April 27th. All in favor.

Public Comment:

- Resident Mike Sullivan asked about an update on Chief Pierce. Chad said he is not on payroll and still cannot discuss further updates as of right now.
- Mike also asked what the Town plans on doing with the old police cruisers that were replaced recently. Chad said they are being fixed and then will be sold to get money for them.
- Rep Deb Dolgin mentioned finding out about salt and sand use, as there is a bill coming up about lawsuits regarding whether someone slips on the salt or sand the Town uses. Deb wanted to know if the Town would want to put a cap on how much they could be sued. Chad and Selectboard said yes.
- Resident Victor asked about George Johnson still being on payroll, Chad confirmed that he is.
- Victor voiced concern about George having a second job, and the State not allowing something like that to happen. Chad said he was not sure but would look into the answer of that.
- Victor also inquired about why the Town hired an outside company for escalators at Fairbanks recently, when the Town has its own escalators. He also asked if the 5 Town employees who were standing there were watching the outside company do the escalating work if they were getting paid overtime. Chad said he was not sure and would follow with Director Steve of Public Works.

Minutes:

- On a motion by Dennis and second by Ellen to approve the meeting minutes from March 23rd with the noted correction. All in favor.

Warrants:

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

Liquor Licenses/ Tobacco Licenses:

- Rudy Grass gave a brief introduction of him and his wife Emily Grass taken over ownership of the St. Johnsbury Country Club.
- On a motion by Steve and second by Ellen to approve the Liquor Licenses that were presented. Brendan Abstained. The motion passed.

RCT Board Appointment:

- On a motion by Brendan and second by Dennis to approve Jacob Wood has RCT Board Appoint. All in favor.

Local Emergency Management Plan (LEMP):

- On a motion by Brendan and second by Steve to table the Local Emergency Management Plan until April 27th. All in favor.

Hazard Mitigation Plan:

- On a motion by Brendan and second by Steve to adopt the Hazard Mitigation Plan. All in favor.

Class 2 Highway Grant:

- On a motion by Brendan and second by Ellen to accept Class 2 Highway Grant. All in favor.

Armory Update:

- Dennis asked Joe how the consultant conversation went. Joe stated he could ask Larry Ruggles to come to the April 27th meeting to give an update and his opinion on the Armory Project.
- Joe briefly went over the previous updates that he had given on prior Selectboard meetings.
- Ellen asked Joe if the information that Larry comes with on April 27th, in his opinion, would be enough information for the Selectboard to make a final decision on whether to continue the Armory project or move on. Joe said he could not answer that due to not knowing what Larry would say. Joe also reminded the Selectboard of the Grant Funders.
- The Selectboard will hold off on any decisions until Larry comes to the April 27th meeting and the board gets to hear what he has to say.

St. Johnsbury Revitalization Grant Fund Update:

- The total allocation for the St. Johnsbury Revitalization Fund was \$2,139,413.67.
- Chad gave the following update on the St. Johnsbury Revitalization Grant Update:
- All funds have been allocated. A good portion of the grantees have been paid. There are a few that are still sending in reimbursement forms like History & Heritage.
- Frank asked for an update with Scott Beck's grant. Chad said he will reach out to him, to come in to get an update.
- Brendan asked wasn't there a 90-day update window, Chad said there were stipulations put in.

Town Manager's Report:

- Chad said the budget projections will begin this week with department heads.
- Chad will present a draft water/sewer plans at the April 27th meeting.
- Chad shared that there are current openings in dispatch, if anyone knows anyone with dispatch experience, to feel free to apply.

Other Business:

- Frank drafted a letter for Act 181. Steve did not have enough information to make a motion to agree on the drafted letter, and not enough context. Rep Deb Dolgin gave a small overview of her knowledge of Act 181.
- Jim Brown shared that the Planning Commission have been working on the new bylaws and the Town plan is still being looked into.
- Steve reminded everyone of the Maple Fest this weekend. Steve asked Gillian if she still needed more volunteers. Gillian shared that she has plenty of help but could use one extra helping hand if there was someone available to do so.

Executive Session:

- On a motion by Brendan and second by Ellen to adjourn. All in favor.

April 13th Select Board Meeting Video:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/AalfXia_9T1IkVZ3yJUs6NP6Lh_Nfp0u7-3c2aXoTziTdkzVtJEiC_c7i9oW1-Z.BDm5nv_qrlyrr4Nw

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