



TOWN OF ST. JOHNSBURY

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Meeting of the St. Johnsbury Select Board July 27th, 2026 @ 6:00pm

Present-

Select Board: Frank Empsall, Dennis Smith, Steve Isham, Brendan Hughes

Staff: Chad Whitehead, Joe Kasprzak (via Zoom), Stacy Jewell, Kate Bent (via Zoom), FF Charest, FF Lennox, FF Farnham, FF Taylor Peyton, Chief Reed, Chief Wilson, Officer Pereira, Kresten Sterling, LT Ruggles

Public: KATV, Issiah Willson, Steve Dolgin (via Zoom), Gillian Sewake (via Zoom), Jim Brown, Chase Empsall, Deb Dolgin, Mike (via Zoom), Google Pixel 9 Pro XL (via Zoom), Dana Gray

Agenda Amendments:

- None

Public Comment:

- None

Minutes:

- On a motion by Dennis and second by Brendan to approve the meeting minutes from July 13th with the noted correction. All in favor.

Warrants:

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

Liquor Licenses/ Tobacco Licenses:

- None

EPA Multipurpose Grant Update:

- Joe briefly went over the EPA Multipurpose Grant. Assessment efforts starting at the Tru Temper Site. Clean-up grant agreement.
- Starting on the R.K Miles project.
- Quarterly reports are in the works.

Short Term Rentals- Planning Commission Update:

- Jim Brown said that the next step is to hold a Public Hearing on the Short-Term Rentals. August 24th at 5:30pm is set for this to take place.

Private Road Names- Trillium Way and Dodge Place:

- On a motion by Brendan and second by Dennis to approve the road names. All in favor.

Bay Street Infrastructure Project:

- On a motion by Dennis and second by Steve to approve the Bay Street Infrastructure Project and authorize the Town Manager to execute construction agreements on behalf of the Town. All in favor.

Public Safety Facilities Update:

- Chief Reed and Firefighter Lennox went over the recent projects that are still in progress. They recently took a tour to the Lebanon NH Fire Department.
- Some of the projects include the electrical supply, tower 4 apron, lobby floor and stabilization in the basement.
- So far, there have been 23 tasks completed, 8 tasks in process.
- Space needs include meeting with a contractor; the predicted square footage is (15,000-16,000).
- Determining if a renovation of 1187 Main Street could provide adequate space.

Police Department Update:

- Interim Chief Wilson gave a brief update which included increased calls, new dispatch technology, and a bike patrol. Officer Pereira and Officer Carson will be attending a bike patrol school.
- The holding cells have now been updated to two.
- Both Chief Wilson and Chief Reed have been working together on updating dispatch policies and procedures.
- New cruisers with updated equipment.
- New patches, and Chief Wilson brought them to have the Selectboard look at them.
- There are currently 11 full-time officers and 1 part-time.

Town Manager's Report:

- Chad read this email that he sent out "Following up after a conversation last week at our Public Safety Task Force meeting, I plan to prepare a letter for our state representatives as well as the Governor's office. Bad behaviors around town continue to escalate. In our call data reviewed last week, 18 individuals represented 131 calls to our Police Department. We have currently received half a dozen injury notices from our officers, most of which are associated with taking offenders into custody. There is a group of 11 individuals openly drinking and smoking pot in our Welcome Center Park this morning, including one who was released on conditions last Friday after being charged with aggravated assault. This same person threw a can through a window at the Welcome Center causing \$500 in damage to this historic building. At 3:30 am on Friday morning, a group of people administered Narcan 3 times to a woman and provided CPR for approximately 15 minutes, while instructing each other not to call anyone. She appears responsive at approximately 3:45 am, but one of the men carry her away. To my knowledge, our emergency services were not contacted, and her whereabouts are uncertain. The PD and the Town can only do so much, but we can also only tolerate so much.
- Chad also shared that the Town has so many significant and very positive initiatives underway. Rural Edge will be breaking ground on their Packard Court Project in a few weeks. NVDA has secured nearly \$4M in funding to clean up the Tru Temper property as an initial step toward turning it over to a housing developer. We opened bids for the first phase of improvements on Bay Street yesterday.

- Chad stated he feels it is important to look toward the positives, so the momentum is not lost, but Chad is asking for help. Our public spaces need to be accessible and comfortable for our law-abiding citizens to enjoy. Any ideas or suggestions are welcome.
- Chad asked the selectboard to authorize \$25,000 for increased patrolling, possibly by the Sherriff's department.
- On a motion by Dennis and second by Brendan to authorize the \$25,000 from the Special Service Reserve fund for increased patrol. All in favor.
- Chad said he will have more to share at the next meeting, but the focus lately has been public safety.

Other Business:

- Steve reminded everyone that Final Friday is this Friday. Gillian Sewake stepped in and shared that the theme for this Friday's event is "All together now."

Executive Session:

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

July 27th Select Board Meeting Video:

https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__us02web.zoom.us_rec_share_PxT9WAVS1CGRsl7n0WWbN8c3wbURvhFlemT5EiEle2ubi7ezST7oDYKHFW4WFco.kiMMruDVEup3Je-2D9&d=DwMFAw&c=euGZstcaTDllvimEN8b7jXrwqOf-v5A_CdpgnVfiiMM&r=Ju1b0XBLvfVAGEVrHqulCPACXln_2b1lVTCCbe_28U&m=aJWksH2sxhKvjnzycf-q66lcp9OvwbMgTv98hvEW8SZBmjKj515HiKa3mB1fxT2lr&s=lnyzl7UtW1MJxCShqZwhwx0aW3CBUqczfbNHlsVxxg&e=

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