

**Town of St. Albans
Selectboard Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 12th, 2015
6:30 p.m.**

On Monday, January 12th, 2015 at 6:30 p.m., at Town Hall the Town of St. Albans Selectboard met.

Officials and staff present: Chair, Bernie Boudreau, Vice Chair, Brent Palmer, Joe Montagne, Stan Dukas, Bruce Cheeseman, Town Manager, Carrie Johnson, Fire Chief and Public Safety Administrator, Bob Cross, Director of Public works, Steve Beauregard and ACO/HO, David McWilliams.

General Public: Dave Allerton, Peter Garceau, Cross Engineering and St. Albans Messenger Reporter, Elodie Reed.

The Pledge of Allegiance. Chair, B. Boudreau called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Town Warning Articles & FY'16 Budget

The Board went over the warning for the 2015 Town Meeting.

Article 2 is the fiscal year 2016 budget; it is down \$48,612 from fiscal year 2015 budget.

Article 5, regarding funding of the Department of Public Works facility, B. Boudreau suggested using 100% of local option tax. J. Montagne agreed.

S. Dukas is concerned that we won't have a good number to present to the voters in March. B. Boudreau believes we will have a good number by January 26th, when the final ballot articles are due.

Article 6, regarding the bike/pedestrian path, local option taxes may be used for this project as well. Planner, Maren Hill will apply for any available grants. A number for the cost of this project should be ready for the ballot by January 26th.

Article 8 would ask the voters for the Selectboard to place \$80,000 in a fire department reserve fund every year for the next 5 years. They could ask each year for 5 years or just ask for it once for a total of 5 years. The Board agreed to ask the question once for the 5 years.

Article 9 would ask the voters to replace turnout gear for the fire department. Fire Chief, Bob Cross explained that with the current turnout gear, working in high temperatures, the life of the turnout gear is about 5 years. He is requesting to replace 20 sets at this time. The Board agreed.

The Board agreed to **Article 10** to spend up to \$70,000 to repair the seawall at the St. Albans Bay Park.

B. Cheeseman has received some inquiries regarding the Town adopting a Junk Ordinance. It was suggested to him to put it on the ballot and have the voters decide. B. Palmer, J. Montagne and B. Boudreau did not want to put this on the ballot and had concerns about enforcement. S. Dukas and B. Cheeseman would like to put it to the voters. B. Cheeseman is going to do a petition and try to get it on the ballot that way.

Dept. of Public Works Relocation Project Update

C. Johnson gave a brief description as to what the Steering Committee has worked on since being appointed at the end of October. She explained that Director of Public Works, Steve Beauregard did many site visits within both Franklin and Chittenden counties and spoke to other Public Work Directors and came up with a conceptual plan presented to the Board.

J. Montagne has received some complaints regarding ATV's riding around on the Town's property where the DPW complex would be relocated and suggested putting up signs and/or fencing.

Director of Public Works, Steve Beauregard, Dave Allerton from the steering committee and Peter Garceau of Cross Engineering came before the Board to answer any questions they may have regarding this project.

J. Montagne had concerns about placing any structures near the railroad, as the land may be worth a great deal in the future. P. Garceau explained the layout of the buildings would not be near the railroad and would also be in front of the wetlands area and closer to the road.

B. Cheeseman pointed out that the complex would only use about 5 acres. The Board agreed with the scope of work presented by the steering committee and authorized moving forward with this project.

Town Manager's Report

2015 Ecosystem Restoration Grant Update

At the previous meeting, C. Johnson had pointed out that the Town was not awarded this grant. A response from the state was provided to the Board.

Dogs in Municipal Buildings Policy

C. Johnson explained the Town Hall has had new carpet installed in a few areas of the building. The carpet will be replaced in the Boardroom and the side entrance hallway. C. Johnson suggested having a policy to keep dogs out of Town Hall, except for service dogs. B. Boudreau stated that being the Town Manager, C. Johnson is responsible for the building and she needs to do what's appropriate for the building. The Board agreed to the policy.

Town Warning Articles & FY'16 Budget

B. Boudreau revisited the articles by stating it was discussed at a prior budget workshop to put an article on the ballot to put money towards the purchase of a weed harvester. The Board agreed to put an article on the ballot for \$20,000 to support a weed harvester.

Public Comment

David McWilliams asked the Board if we can charge the City the 1% tax on water going into the City. The Board asked if it has been discussed with an attorney if it's even possible. This will be researched further.

School Impact Fee Warrant

MOTION: J. Montagne made a motion to approve the Impact Fee warrant dated January 12th, 2014 in the amount of \$60,528. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Warrants

MOTION: J. Montagne made a motion to approve the general warrant dated 12/23/2014 – 1/12/2015 in the amount of \$268,198.48. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Paving, Radio North (grant), AmCare, salt and brine were the large amounts on the warrant.

Payroll Warrants

MOTION: B. Boudreau made a motion to approve the payroll warrants for January 9th, 2015 in the amount of \$23,443.89, January 2nd, 2015 in the amount of \$14,312.09 and December 24th, 2014 in the amount of \$22,188.69. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Minutes

MOTION: J. Montagne made a motion to approve the Selectboard meeting minutes for Monday, December 22nd, 2014. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Schedule

The next Selectboard meetings are Monday, January 26th and Feb. 9th. January 22nd at 6pm the Board will have a work session to discuss the articles. Town offices closed on Monday, January 19th for the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

Other Business

S. Dukas would like a status update of 2014 projects. C. Johnson will draft one.

C. Johnson asked the Board if they would be interested in going on a road trip to Canada to visit a factory. The Board will contact C. Johnson to let her know.

Executive Session

None.

Adjournment

MOTION: B. Palmer made a motion to adjourn the Selectboard meeting at 7:36 p.m. All in favor, none opposed, motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Gray

Bernie Boudreau, Chair

Vice Chair, Brent Palmer

Joseph Montagne

Stan Dukas

Bruce Cheeseman