

**Town of St. Albans
Selectboard Meeting Minutes
Monday, November 9th, 2015
6:30 p.m.**

On Monday, November 9th, 2015 at 6:30 p.m., at Town Hall the Town of St. Albans Selectboard held a regular meeting.

Officials and staff present: Vice-Chair Stan Dukas, Bruce Cheeseman, Sam Smith, David McWilliams, Town Clerk, Anna Bourdon and Town Manager, Carrie Johnson. Absent was Chair, Brent Palmer.

General Public: Peter Blouin, Bob Fairbanks, Peter Thomas, Mark Ashline, Steve Hauck, Dave Allerton, Robert Hathaway, Martha Hathaway, Dan Desorcie, Real Cyr, Bob Johnson and Tom Barden.

The Pledge of Allegiance.

Vice-Chair Stan Dukas called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Veteran's Day

B. Cheeseman took this opportunity to thank those who serve our country in the armed forces.

Informational Hearing & Meeting for the Special Election on Nov. 10th, 2015

S. Dukas opened the informational hearing and meeting by reading the official warning for the special election.

Article One: Department of Public Works Complex

C. Johnson gave a presentation on the three articles to be voted on at the special election, starting with a brief overview of some historical data regarding the construction of the Department of Public Works (DPW) complex. The discussion was opened to the public.

P. Blouin asked whether the consideration of moving the doors on the garage was discussed with the engineer on this project. C. Johnson explained it was discussed and it was decided that the garage bay doors should open away from neighbors and Brigham Road.

Town resident, Robert (Nick) Hathaway asked would there be any LOT funds left for future projects or will all the LOT funds be used for the construction of the Public Works garage. C. Johnson explained we continually get LOT funds on a quarterly basis and are proposing to use about 33% on this project.

Mr. Hathaway asked why we couldn't wait to vote on this in March. C. Johnson explained that now is the best time to go out to bid because costs would be less expensive. Bidding later in the year, construction costs would be much higher.

Mr. Hathaway asked what would happen to the old site. B. Cheeseman stated we would like to hear what the public would like to do with that property. C. Johnson explained that considerable testing would need to be done to the site before making a decision.

P. Blouin asked if the paving for the complex would be included in the construction or the annual paving for the Town. S. Dukas stated there were no plans to pave at this time.

An audience member asked if the Town had gone out to bid for construction contractors. S. Dukas explained this cannot happen until the project has been approved by voters. B. Cheeseman added that contractors will be qualified in advance.

Bob Fairbanks questioned whether the septic system design will be able to handle this project. Department of Public Works Relocation Committee member, Dave Allerton explained that the septic system will be able to handle more than just the DPW complex.

Article Two: Salt Shed

C. Johnson explained the cost to construct the salt shed would be about \$268,000. It is being proposed to pay for it from previously collected funds. These funds include Impact Fees, Highway Salvage, Capital Projects, Capital Equipment and DPW Rollover.

Town resident, Dan Desorcie asked if the salt shed article passes and the DPW complex doesn't, will the Town still build the salt shed. S. Dukas stated that it wouldn't be built right away.

Article Three: Rescind the Junk Ordinance

C. Johnson explained that in August, the Selectboard approved a Junk Ordinance. Within the appeal period, a petition was brought in to rescind the Junk Ordinance.

MOTION: S. Dukas made a motion to close the informational hearing at 7:24 p.m. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Executive Session

MOTION: S. Smith made a motion to go into executive session at 7:25 p.m. to discuss legal, contractual or personnel issues where premature general public knowledge of the subject matter would place the Town (or person involved) at a substantial disadvantage. It was further moved to enter into executive session to discuss legal, personnel and contractual issues under the provisions of Title 1, section 313(a)(1) of Vermont Statutes and invite in Town Manager, Carrie Johnson. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

MOTION: S. Smith made a motion to come out of executive session at 7:35 p.m. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Payroll Warrant

MOTION: B. Cheeseman made a motion to approve the payroll warrant dated November 6th, 2015 in the amount of \$13,564.67 and October 30th, 2015 in the amount of \$22,927.20. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Industrial Park Warrant

MOTION: B. Cheeseman made a motion to approve the Industrial Park warrant in the amount of \$110. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

General Warrant

MOTION: D. McWilliams made a motion to approve the general warrant for October 13th through October 26th, in the amount of \$69,146.26. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Minutes

MOTION: S. Dukas made a motion to approve the Selectboard meeting minutes for Monday, October 26th, 2015. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

St. Albans Historical Museum

The museum cancelled their appearance.

Fire Department – 2015 Officials Report

C. Johnson explained due to the rewrite of the Fire Department bylaws, the Officials Report must come before the Selectboard annually. Matt Mulheron was promoted to Assistant Fire Chief, Jason Bonnett was promoted to Captain 5C4 and David Brady was promoted to Captain 5C5. S. Smith asked if it is a conflict to have Matt Mulheron on both the City Fire Department and the Town Fire Department. The Board came to consensus that there was no conflict.

MOTION: S. Dukas made a motion to accept the Fire Department Officials Report as presented. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Town Manager's Report

Letter of Support Requested for Digester

Green Mountain Power would like the Selectboard to consider writing a letter of support for a proposed digester. S. Dukas, B. Cheeseman and D. McWilliams were in consensus that there needs to be more local control when it comes to Public Service Board applications and do not support writing a letter at this time. S. Smith would like to tender the Town's support with concerns.

MOTION: S. Smith made a motion to send a letter of support to the Vermont Public Service Board with conditions. Motion failed with a 3-1 vote opposed.

Request for Charter Committee Members

The Town is still seeking members to participate in the charter committee. The term of this committee would be about 1 year and we are looking for 4 - 5 citizens and a member of the Selectboard. S. Smith suggested the Board put this committee on hold for now until a charge is developed by the Selectboard. The Board was in consensus

Public Comment

Bob Fairbanks addressed the Board regarding not being notified about the Letter of Support for the Bio-Digester being on the agenda for tonight. The Board reminded him to view the Selectboard agenda to stay informed and that the digester is a Public Service Board process.

Schedule

The special election is Tuesday, November 10th. Next Selectboard meetings are November 23rd and December 14th. In January, 2016, Selectboard meetings will change to the 1st and 3rd Monday's of each month. A budget kickoff meeting is scheduled for on Monday, November 30th.

Other Business

The Selectboard in 2006 stated that anyone looking to hook up to City water will need to get approval from the Selectboard, per the approved 2006 ordinance.

Executive Session

MOTION: D. McWilliams made a motion to go into executive session at 8:04 p.m. to discuss legal, contractual or personnel issues where premature general public knowledge of the subject matter would place the Town (or person involved) at a substantial disadvantage. It was further moved to enter into executive session to discuss legal, personnel and contractual issues under the provisions of Title 1, section 313(a)(1) of Vermont Statutes and invite in Town Manager, Carrie Johnson. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

MOTION: S. Smith made a motion to come out of executive session at 9:40 p.m. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Adjournment

MOTION: S. Smith made a motion to adjourn the Selectboard meeting at 9:40 p.m. All in favor, none opposed, motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Gray