

**Town of St. Albans
Selectboard 'Special' Meeting Minutes
Monday, June 1st, 2015
6:30 p.m.**

On Monday, June 1st, 2015 at 6:30 p.m., at Town Hall the Town of St. Albans Selectboard held a special meeting.

Officials and staff present: Chair Brent Palmer, Vice-Chair Stan Dukas, Bruce Cheeseman, David McWilliams, Sam Smith, Police Advisory Board members, Gary Greeno, Mark Leclair, Jack Rugg and Al Voegele and Town Manager, Carrie Johnson.

General Public: County Courier report, Greg Lamoureux, Roger Langevin, Sarah and Paul Larner and Tammy Taylor.

The Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Palmer called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Public Safety Forum

The purpose of the 'special' meeting was for the Selectboard to conduct a public safety forum to discuss police services for the Town.

C. Johnson provided a presentation explaining some of the history regarding the current police contract and explained that former Police Chief Doug Hoyt was hired as a consultant through the Vermont Leagues of Cities and Towns (VLCT) to study our public safety needs.

C. Johnson also explained that the Police Advisory Board (PAB) was formed in 2012. The PAB met regularly to address policing issues as well as the feasibility of the Town having their own police department. PAB member, Al Voegele compiled data from 14 municipalities in the state of Vermont regarding the costs of their police services. The study found that it would be cost prohibited for the Town to form their own police force at this time.

C. Johnson explained that she had been working on a Request for Proposal (RFP) for police services. D. McWilliams asked what the length of the contract would be. C. Johnson explained it would be the same as the current contract, 3 years with two 1-year extensions.

B. Cheeseman asked who the RFP would be sent to. C. Johnson stated St. Albans City, Franklin County Sheriff's office. Milton and Swanton will also be considered. Vermont State Police have expressed that they do not have the staff to take on a full time contract.

S. Dukas explained the cost of constructing our own police department building. A. Voegele pointed out that supervisors would be hired at a higher salary than brand new officers. He also stated that the average cost of a fully loaded police cruiser is around \$60,000.

S. Smith stated we would need to have a larger population to have our own force. It makes sense to contract this service out at this time.

Town resident, Paul Larner asked C. Johnson if there are reports on incidents and case closures. C. Johnson explained simple calls are closed immediately. The St. Albans Police Department does an excellent job with response times and closing incidents. S. Dukas stated response time is about 5 minutes.

Mr. Larner asked if we had engaged business owners, have they been participating with the PAB. C. Johnson stated that we have not reached out to the business yet. A. Voegele explained Chief Taylor has reached out to Walmart.

S. Dukas explained that SOARS was generating a lot of incident calls but, after a meeting with SOARS officials that number of incidents has declined.

B. Palmer stated that the PAB will stay in place for now. A. Voegele suggested that the Selectboard reevaluate the PAB's purpose and consider revising its mission.

B. Palmer encouraged residents to contact Town Manager, Carrie Johnson or any of the Selectboard members with any questions, comments or suggestions.

Executive Session

MOTION: S. Dukas made a motion to enter into executive session at 6:55 p.m. and to invite in Town Manager, Carrie Johnson to discuss legal, contractual and personnel issues where premature general public knowledge of these subjects could place the Town or person involved at a substantial disadvantage. S. Dukas further moved to enter into executive session to discuss personnel, legal and contractual under the provisions of Title 1, section 313(a)(1) of Vermont Statutes. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

MOTION: D. McWilliams made a motion to come out of executive session at 7:30 p.m. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Adjournment

MOTION: D. McWilliams made a motion to adjourn the Selectboard meeting at 7:30 p.m. All in favor, none opposed, motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Gray