

**Town of St. Albans
Selectboard Meeting Minutes
Monday, August 24th, 2015
6:30 p.m.**

On Monday, August 24th, 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, David McWilliams, Sam Smith, Town Clerk, Anna Bourdon, Public Safety Officer and Fire Chief, Bob Cross and Town Manager, Carrie Johnson. Absent was Chair, Brent Palmer.

General Public: Police Chief, Gary Taylor, Peter Blouin, Dick Day, Bob Fairbanks, Roger Langevin, Art Omartian, Bill Fitzgerald and Messenger reporter, Elodie Reed,

The Pledge of Allegiance.

Vice Chair, S. Dukas called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. **LIVE**

Police Chief Gary Taylor - Contract for Police Services

Police Chief Taylor came before the Board to provide an overview of the Police Services contract that will go into effect July 1st, 2016. The contract is pretty much the same as the current contract except for the COLA which includes annual pay raises for police officers and staff.

Dick Day alleged he heard a car came down his road (Brigham Road) going 60 miles per hour and is concerned with the safety of people jogging or biking.

Bob Fairbanks asked Chief Taylor about coverage in the Bay.

MOTION: D. McWilliams made a motion to accept and have Town Manager, Carrie Johnson sign the contract for police services with St. Albans Police. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Fire Department Bylaws

The Board previously requested to have a couple of changes made to the bylaws. The section on social media, B. Cheeseman stated that the social media policy could border on infringing upon one's First Amendment rights, freedom of speech.

B. Cheeseman suggested to Fire Chief Cross adding the social medial policy to the personnel conduct section of his SOG's. S. Dukas suggested adding a section to the bylaws explaining that if a volunteer can't settle an issue within the department, they can go to the Town Manager.

C. Johnson stated that she and Chief Cross will go over the suggestions by the Board and make changes to the bylaws and bring it before the Board at their next meeting.

B. Fairbanks explained to Chief Cross the visibility is very poor as you cross the railroad crossing on Jewett Avenue. Chief Cross stated he would contact the railroad and ask them to cut back the brush.

Harbor View

Bill Fitzgerald came before the Board requesting the Town take over Phase One of Harbor View Road. The Town's Attorney has drafted a Warrant Deed and Stormwater Maintenance Agreement. Phase One meets all the road requirements. Mr. Fitzgerald explained that Director of Public Works, Steve Beauregard suggested a temporary easement allowing a turnaround area for school buses and snow plows.

S. Dukas had a concern regarding Town trucks going onto private property to turn around from house 28 to Over Lake Court (cul de sac). B. Cheeseman was concerned about emergency vehicles. C. Johnson explained that Chief Cross said that there would be no issues with a firetruck or other emergency vehicles turning around.

S. Smith stated that not having a hammerhead for a vehicle to turn around would present some problems. Vehicles (plows, buses, emergency vehicles) would need to continue at least 375 feet to get to the cul de sac in order to turn around. This is the section that is recommended for an easement.

S. Dukas suggested the Town Attorney talk to Mr. Fitzgerald about getting an easement for the 375 feet. C. Johnson will talk to the Town Attorney and bring this back to the Board at their next meeting.

SATEC Emergency Access Gate Agreement

At the previous Selectboard meeting, there were some questions regarding liability with the agreement. C. Johnson had spoken to Joe Damiata at VLCT and the Town Attorney and both had no problems with the language in the agreement. SATEC will be responsible for building the access. Bids are going out for the work.

MOTION: B. Cheeseman made a motion to approve the SATEC Emergency Access Gate Agreement. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Town Manager's Report

Draft Junk Ordinance - #10

Minor changes have been made to the draft Junk Ordinance. D. Day asked the Board who determines what is junk. S. Dukas stated that piles of metal taking more than 200 square feet would be considered junk in violation of the ordinance. He explained that a conversation may need to take place between the landowners should an issue arise.

Peter Blouin stated he feels the ordinance is a constitutional violation. D. McWilliams explained that going forward, if the ordinance needs to be amended, it can be.

MOTION: B. Cheeseman made a motion to approve the Outdoor Storage of Junk and Junk Vehicles Ordinance. Motion carried with a vote of 3-1 with S. Smith voting opposed.

S. Smith explained that he is opposed to the Junk Ordinance.

Crosswalk Updates

C. Johnson provided copies of plans for the Bay Store and Collins Perley crosswalks. Jesse Danner from Ruggiano Engineering has received confirmation that the State has received the plans and there is a meeting scheduled for August 31st with Ruggiano and the state at 9:00 a.m., starting at the complex.

Brightsky Solar 1, LLC

The Act 248 process has begun on this project. It is proposed to construct the panel field near Harbor View. This was just informational, no action required.

Public Comment

Mr. Fairbanks came before the Board to express his displeasure about the digester on the Dunsmore Road. He wants to know if there would be a public meeting for this. C. Johnson explained there is state process they (Green Mountain Power Corporation) must go through. Mr. Fairbanks feels this could be a health issue. S. Smith stated the digester is being installed by Green Mountain Power.

Mr. Day presented photographs to the Board claiming brine damage to his 2004 Ford Ranger truck. The truck has 92,000 miles on it. He wanted the photos and his explanation to be classified as an Affidavit of Testimony. He has maintenance records for his truck which has sustained damage he feels is from the brine used on the roads. He explained he may lose about 3 years of value/use in his truck, totaling \$10,000. He stated that the brine also killed grass on his property and weeds are growing instead. He suggested the Town stop using brine and use sand in its place. Mr. Day alleges the Town and the State can be liable because they both are using brine, willingly knowing that it causes damage. He feels it's a public safety issue.

D. McWilliams agrees that he has noticed rust damage underneath his truck as well.

Peter Blouin came before the Board stating that he feels the brine is killing his apple tree on his front lawn.

Payroll Warrant

MOTION: B. Cheeseman made a motion to approve the payroll warrant dated August 14th, 2015 in the amount of \$18,184.14. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Payroll Warrant

MOTION: B. Cheeseman made a motion to approve the payroll warrant dated August 21st, 2015 in the amount of \$17,632.02. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

General Warrant

MOTION: D. McWilliams made a motion to approve the general warrant for August 11th, 2015 through August 24th, 2015 in the amount of \$200,273.15. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Industrial Park Warrant

MOTION: S. Smith made a motion to approve the Industrial Park warrant in the amount of \$858.97. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Minutes

MOTION: D. McWilliams made a motion to approve the Selectboard meeting minutes for Monday, August 10th, 2015. Motion carried with a 3-0 vote with B. Cheeseman abstaining as he was not in attendance for the meeting.

MOTION: S. Smith made a motion to approve the Selectboard 'special' meeting minutes for Monday, August 13th, 2015. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Schedule

Next Selectboard meetings are September 14th and September 28th.

Other Business

None.

Executive Session

MOTION: S. Dukas made a motion to go into executive session at 8:05 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, contractual and personnel 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. Dukas made a motion to come out of executive session at 9:50 p.m. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Adjournment

MOTION: S. Smith made a motion to adjourn the Selectboard meeting at 9:50 p.m. All in favor, none opposed, motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Gray