

**Town of St. Albans
Selectboard Meeting Minutes
Monday, August 1st, 2016
6:30 p.m.**

On Monday, August 1st, 2016 at 6:30 p.m., at Town Hall the Town of St. Albans Selectboard met.

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

Public: Peter Blouin, Representative, Lynn Dickinson, Representative, Corey Parent, Representative, Kathy Keenan and Galen Willis.

Pledge of Allegiance. S. Dukas called the Selectboard meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Payroll Warrants

MOTION: B. Cheeseman made a motion to approve the payroll warrants dated July 29th, 2016 in the amount of \$25,825.39 and July 22nd, 2016 in the amount of \$22,428.35. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

General Warrant

MOTION: D. McWilliams made a motion to approve the general warrant dated August 1st, 2016 in the amount of \$35,423.64. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Minutes

Selectboard meeting minutes for Monday, July 18th, 2016 will need to be approved at the next Selectboard meeting as there wasn't a quorum from that meeting in attendance to approve.

MOTION: S. Smith made a motion to approve the Selectboard 'special' meeting minutes for Monday, July 26th, 2016. Motion carried 3-0 with B. Cheeseman abstaining.

Legislative Update

Corey Parent, Kathy Keenan and Lynn Dickinson came before the board to give a legislative update.

Representative, Lynn Dickinson explained that she and Carrie Johnson attended an Associated Industries of Vermont (AIV) conference in Montpelier on some of the bills that were passed that addressed environmental concerns and water regulations.

Representative Dickinson explained the Department of Environmental Conservation Act 150 that deals permitting, making the process a little more flexible, quicker and creating a more streamline process for appeals. This would address the issues of the large back log of liens and the duplication of processes.

Representative Dickinson explained Act 154 which deals with conservation, land development, hazardous materials, and natural resources along with rules for water quality standards.

Representative, Corey Parent explained he serves on the House Commerce and Economic Development Committee. The main item the committee worked on was the contractor bill. It was intended to clarify the language on what defines an independent contractor. The committee passed this 11-0 but, the Speaker never allowed it to the floor. This bill did not pass this year.

Representative Parent explained that the biggest item they worked on in the last 2 years in the economic development bill was the First Time Homebuyer Program. This program provides an interest free loan for first time homebuyers in the amount of \$5,000 to go towards a down payment. 60 families participated in this program last year.

Representative, Kathy Keenan reiterated the contractor bill that Representative Parent explained and stated that it is a serious issue that needs to be addressed. She went on to explain that she serves on the Appropriations Committee. They were presented by the Governor a lot of new taxes which they took out. One of those taxes was a grant for

every baby born in Vermont; the funds would be put into an education fund. There would have been a payment for every year until child reached 18 and would be administered by VSAC.

Representative Keenan explained that while working on the 2016 budget, the administration never informed the committee that there was a 53rd week of Medicaid payments in the amount of \$10.9 million. They thought they had a balanced budget but, in January 2016, they learned of this last Medicaid payment. A fund has since been set up to handle that 53rd Medicaid payment.

Representative Keenan explained that they increased Vermont State College funds this year by \$600,000. This money will all go towards scholarships.

Representative Keenan explained that she sponsored a bill that requires notification when there is a discharge, whether it is planned or not. This would make people aware if the water is safe to go into or not.

S. Smith asked the representatives what they had for goals.

Representative Dickinson stated she would like to see more private sector jobs in Vermont, people making more money.

Representative Parent stated that people want to see changes higher up in government. There is a lack of true leadership at the top. He also stated he would like to see a budget balanced without increase in taxes.

Representative Keenan stated she would like to address the retirement fund for teachers. Economic Development needs a shot in the arm.

Corey provided a list of the bills that were passed this year.

Town Manger's Report

Bessette Water Allocation Request

A request from Mr. James Bessette went before the Board for approval of a water allocation for his property at 4553 Lower Newton Road.

MOTION: B. Cheeseman made a motion to approve the water allocation for Mr. James Bessette. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Public Comment

Peter Blouin requested a moment of silence in remembrance of Frank Montagne who passed away on July 22nd, 2016.

D. McWilliams suggested a picture of Frank Montagne for the boardroom. After much discussion by the Board, they came to a consensus.

MOTION: D. McWilliams made a motion to have a picture of Frank Montagne mounted on the boardroom for the life of the Town Hall. S. Smith seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Galen Willis came before the Board to discuss again the intrusive light that is shining in his house. He had come to the meeting of July 18th and requested that the light be adjusted or removed. C. Johnson explained she asked Director of Public Works, Steve Beauregard to call Green Mountain Power to request the light be removed. S. Dukas explained that at the Selectboard 'special' meeting of Tuesday, July 26th, he asked Steve to check on the status of the light removal. Mr. Willis was reminded that Green Mountain Power had a busy week due to summer storms and was behind on non-emergency repairs.

Schedule

The next Selectboard meetings are Monday, August 15th and Monday, September 12th. The meeting on September 12th was moved up due to the Labor Day holiday but, the Board didn't want to go 3 weeks between meetings and decided to move that meeting to Wednesday, September 7th. The Primary is on August 9th.

Other Business

B. Cheeseman made the suggestion to start Selectboard meetings by asking that the meeting agenda be accepted prior to going further with the meeting. The Board agreed.

Executive Session

MOTION: S. Dukas made a motion to go into executive session at 7:45 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. Dukas made a motion to come out of executive session at 9:25 p.m. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Town Manager Contract

MOTION: S. Dukas made a motion to approve the Town Manager's contract for a term of one year and the salary increase. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Adjournment

MOTION: D. McWilliams made a motion to adjourn the Selectboard meeting at 9:35 p.m. All in favor, none opposed, motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Gray