

**Town of St. Albans
Selectboard Special Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 10th, 2022
5:30 p.m.**

On Monday, January 10th, 2022 at 5:30 p.m., the Town of St. Albans Selectboard met at Town Hall for a budget work session.

Officials and Staff: Chair Brendan Deso, Vice Chair Jessica Frost, Erin Creley, Jonathan Giroux, Bryan DesLauriers, Director of Public Works Alan Mashtare, Town Clerk Anna Bourdon, and Town Manager Carrie Johnson.

Staff participating via Zoom: Director of Operations Corey Parent and Executive Assistant Jenn Gray.

Public Participation via Zoom: St. Albans Messenger Reporter Josh Ellerbrock, Mike Hoeflich, and Al Voegelé.

B. Deso called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. The purpose of the special meeting was to conduct a budget work session the fiscal year 2023 budget.

Budget Work Session – Continued Work on the Fiscal year 2023 Draft Budget

C. Johnson explained that there haven't been many changes between drafts 5 and 6 of the general fund expense budget.

Town Clerk, Assessor, Planning & Zoning, and Director of Operations had no changes between.

Selectboard

A "Miscellaneous" line item was added to the Selectboard budget for \$5,000. The Board agreed to move the \$5,000 to the Town Manager "Engineering" line and zero out the "Miscellaneous" line in the Selectboard budget.

Town Manager

C. Johnson explained that she received a more accurate amount from VLCT for dues in the amount of \$9,201. The "Engineering" line item will be increased the \$5,000 from the Selectboard "Miscellaneous" line.

Solid Waste

This expense is based on a per capita charge and the Town's 2020 Census population resulted in a large increase. The budgeted expense increased from \$6,500 to \$7,700.

Enforcement & Fire Department

No change.

Law Enforcement

One change was to add a line to account for the Police Advisory Committee (PAS) stipends in the amount of \$2,100. C. Parent requested to add a line for public outreach for \$3,000 for surveys. He explained that the first survey of the year would be mailed with the town ballots and another survey would be posted later in the year. The Board agreed to add a line to the Law Enforcement department for a total of \$5,100 for "Police Advisory Committee".

Ambulance

No change.

Stormwater Utility

The Stormwater Utility has its own budget.

Parks and Recreation

Regarding "Recreational Reimbursement", the Board agreed to add \$15,000 to the "Recreational Reimbursement" line for a total of \$75,000 with the understanding that this would be for only one year and then be revisited after reviewing usage reports after the actual pool usage is understood. B. Deso to reach out to City Manager Dominic Cloud.

Local/Regional/State Organizations

No changes.

Department of Public Works

After some discussion, it was decided to decrease the "Culvert" line from \$30,000 to \$15,000. The Stormwater Utility will do some culvert replacements as well.

St. Albans Museum (SAM) Allocation

Al Voegele explained the museum building was built before the Civil War and the building has not been maintained. Repairing the slate roof and the mortar on the exterior walls need to be addressed. The roof only will cost \$50,000. A Town citizen has offered \$10,000 to match the City and the Town's \$10,000 allocations. He urged the Board to add \$10,000 to the current \$15,000 for the museum. J. frost asked if the museum had considered relocating. A. Voegele explained that we have not looked to move to a different location. We have the museum free and clear of debt. However, there is the cost for maintenance. Humidity control needs to be installed on the upper floors. A long term goal of the SAM Board is to upgrade the museum. A. Voegele stated that they didn't know of any building available in the size they would need and that they'd be able to afford that would house everything in the museum currently. He also stated that SAM has the Bliss Room that we use to generate revenue.

B. DesLauriers explained that because the \$15,000 was originally an article, he feels that the additional \$10,000 should be an article on the ballot as well. The voters should be asked.

A. Bourdon explained to the Board that the current \$15,000 allocation for the Museum will expire next year. It was voted on for a 5 year term starting in 2019.

The Board agreed to add \$10,000 to the \$15,000 that is currently in the budget for the museum for a total of \$25,000. The museum article will need to be considered next fall.

Ballot Article Questions

C. Johnson went through the articles for Town Meeting Day. There was a lengthy discussion on Article 4, establishing a replacement fund for the Department of Public Works. C. Parent had provided the Board with an equipment replacement list. The Board was in consensus to keep Article 4 on the ballot and to decide in the next few days as to the exact amount.

The Board discussed Article 5, legalizing cannabis retail sales. C. Parent explained that the State doesn't allow municipalities to collect sales tax on cannabis. The word "sale" will be added after the word "retail" to the article. The Board was in consensus to keep Article 5 on the ballot.

The Board was in consensus to remove Article 6, a revolving loan fund in the amount of \$250,000 for resident infrastructure needs from the ballot.

Other Business

None.

Adjournment

MOTION: J. Giroux made a motion to adjourn the Selectboard meeting at 7:26 p.m. Seconded by E. Creley. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Jenn Gray Executive Assistant