

Subject to Selectboard Approval

Town of St. Albans Selectboard Meeting Minutes Monday, November 21st, 2022 6:30 p.m.

On Monday, November 21st, 2022 at 6:30 p.m., the Town of St. Albans Selectboard met at Town Hall.

Officials and Staff: Chair Jonathan Giroux, Vice Chair Bryan DesLauriers, Jack Brigham, Jeff Sanders, Town Manager Carrie Johnson, and Interim Director of Operations Al Voegelé. Absent was Brendan Deso.

Public in Attendance: Corey Parent with Forty-Four Seven Strategies, Franklin County Sheriff Roger Langevin, Bob Fairbanks, Pat Vincent, Kevin Lawler, Hannah & Chris Langevin, Derick (last name illegible), Pam Fiaschetti, Jennifer Blake, Messenger Reporter Josh Ellerbrock, Paul and Sally Larner, Anne Pomeroy, Peter Hartfield, and Joe Luneau.

Public Participation via Zoom: Amanda Giroux, Shaun Robinson, and Nathaniel Jamison-Root with Peterson Consulting.

Staff Participation via Zoom: Town Clerk Anna Bourdon and Jenn Gray.

Chair J. Giroux called the meeting to order at 6:34pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Public Meeting – Comments Requested

J. Giroux explained that we are looking for suggestions from the public on ideas on how to use the nearly \$2 million received from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

Donna DesLauriers suggested helping residents out with their medical bills that occurred because of the pandemic.

Paul Larner suggested improving the intersection at the Bay Dock and the Bay Store.

Amanda Giroux suggested doing something at the intersections of Church Road, Little County Road, and Patten Crosby Road to make it safer. It is a dangerous intersection. C. Johnson explained there is a plan for that area. The original plan was questioned and we needed to revisit it before making the changes. We are going to be putting in delineators, preventing people from cutting across three different roads without stopping. Our plan is to do this in the spring.

Anne Pomeroy asked if we've taken over 36 yet. C. Johnson stated not yet, but we are pursuing this. In the 2022 legislature, we received permission to begin negotiations with VTrans. VTrans suggested a 4-way stop to control the speed. A survey will need to be done as well. Chuck Lowe, owner of Bayside Pavilion agreed to make parking on the side of the restaurant into a green space.

ARPA = 9 mins.

Old Town Hall Public Meeting – Comments Requested

J. Giroux explained again that we are looking for comments and ideas from residents on what to do with the current Town Hall once vacated. C. Johnson explained she received a letter and a few phone calls from someone interested in putting a daycare in the building. Some people have asked to use it for office space, but there has been no further interest in this at this time.

P. Larner suggested that whatever the Town decides to do with the building, to please consider the neighborhood and what is being done in the bay as well as tax implications. This is primarily a residential neighborhood.

Pat Vincent explained that she will oppose a daycare in the building. She doesn't want the noise or kids running around in between the buildings. She suggested making the building a community center.

D. DesLauriers stated she would like to keep visiting this building and suggested that maybe the Museum could use it. She stated the Moose Club is still looking for a new place as well.

A. Pomeroy stated that the building is large enough to have several different uses.

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Kevin Lawler asked if the building were to be leased, would it continue to be tax exempt. C. Johnson stated that would be the case. K. Lawler stated that if it's sold, it'll generate tax revenue. He also suggested a community center, or a place for artist to show their work.

A resident asked about the heat in the building after moving. J. Giroux explained he was told to keep the heat on at least for the basement. The rest of the building would be OK if left unheated.

Old TH = 16 mins.

General Warrant

J. Giroux explained that the general warrant in the amount of \$93,141.21 reflects the purchase of a plow from Champlain Valley Equipment in the amount of \$16,730. This amount is not to be paid from the general fund, but from the Capital Equipment fund.

MOTION: J. Brigham made a motion to approve the general warrant dated November 21st, 2022 less the amount of \$16,730.00 to Champlain Valley amending the general warrant amount to \$76,411.21. Seconded by J. Sanders. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Payroll

MOTION: B. DesLauriers made a motion to approve the payroll warrants dated November 10th, 2022 in the amount of \$21,509.45 and November 18th, 2022 in the amount of \$20,917.36. Seconded by J. Brigham. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Infrastructure Development Warrant

MOTION: J. Brigham made a motion to approve the Infrastructure Development warrant dated November 21st, 2022 in the amount of \$2,610.00. Seconded by B. DesLauriers. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Stormwater Utility Warrant

MOTION: J. Brigham made a motion to approve the Stormwater Utility Warrant dated November 21st, 2022 in the amount of \$1,938.75. Seconded by J. Sanders. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Industrial Park Warrant

MOTION: B. DesLauriers made a motion to approve the Industrial Park warrant dated November 21st, 2022 in the amount of \$691.63. Seconded by J. Sanders. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Stone House Warrant

MOTION: J. Brigham made a motion to approve the Stone House warrant dated November 21st, 2022 in the amount of \$1,200.00. Seconded by J Sanders. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Minutes

MOTION: J. Sanders made a motion to approve the regular Selectboard meeting minutes of Monday, November 7th, 2022 as presented. Seconded by J. Brigham. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Warrants & Minutes = 6 mins.

Public Comment

A. Pomeroy suggested decorating the poles in the Bay with Christmas themed flags or wreaths, the same poles we usually put flags on during the summer.

Public = 1 min.

Resolution – FY '23 Municipal Planning Grant

This grant would be used to look into the best use for the former Department of Public Works (DPW) property. This would consist of hiring a firm to conduct a feasibility study to determine best use.

MOTION: B. DesLauriers made a motion to approve the Resolution and the Municipal Planning grant application to the Department of Housing and Community Development and authorize Chair Jonathan Giroux to sign the resolution. Seconded by J. Sanders. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

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MPG Resolution = 10 mins.

Town Manager's Report

Certified Local Government Commission Grant

Joe Luneau came before the Board to discuss the Certified Local Government Commission status. The CLGC is for historical education grants administered by the State of Vermont. There is one historical architect in the State of Vermont. Currently, there are 14 communities that have the CLG status. This status makes communities eligible for historical educational grants. These grants have also been used to do district surveys. This is a request to submit a request to the State of Vermont to make the Town eligible for future historical education grants. National Parks Service distributes the funds.

MOTION: J. Brigham made a motion to approve the Certified Local Government status request submission and authorized the Chair Jonathan Giroux to sign the request. Seconded by B. DesLauriers. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

CLGC Grant = 11 mins.

Town Hall Manager's Report

Sheriff's Monthly Update

Sheriff Roger Langevin explained that the holidays are a busy time for the department. Staffing levels are good, but they are losing one deputy to Vermont Fish and Wildlife. There are two new cruisers on order and they are expected to arrive in May. The new Sheriff takes over on February 1st.

Sheriff = 4 mins.

Town Hall Budget Update

Nathaniel Jamison-Root came before the Board to review the new Town Hall budget. Work is complete and Certificate of Occupancy has been issued. There are some minor punch list items needing to be completed. The final big hurdle is the move itself, taking place next Monday and Tuesday with organization and unpacking Wednesday through Friday, December 2nd.

After payment application #13 was submitted, we are at 99.23% completion.

Mr. Jamison-Root explained that there are a couple of final owner supplied items to be completed; the Audio and Visual system and a monument/roadside sign.

TH Update = 5 mins.

Policy & Ordinance Lists

C. Johnson explained these lists were requested at the last meeting. The Personnel policy is going to take a little more work as VLCT has stopped the legal review mid-process. C. Johnson suggested that the next ordinance to be reviewed should be the motor vehicle ordinance. We need to review speed limits and add new roads. B. DesLauriers asked what the Social Media policy was for. C. Johnson explained it was put in place once the Town created a Facebook page. J. Giroux asked to have the social media policy to the next packet.

Policy & Ordinance = 6 mins.

Act 250 Notice

2 Franklin Park West, LLC

Informational only. No action required.

Act 250 = 1 min.

Schedule

The next Selectboard meetings will be Monday, December 5th and Monday, December 19th at 6:30 p.m. The next Budget Work Session will take place at 5pm on Monday, December 5th, prior to the regular Selectboard meeting. These meetings will be in the new Town Hall.

Schedule = 1 min.

Other Business

Town resident Pam Fiaschetti asked about the discussion on speed limits. C. Johnson explained the Traffic and Roadways ordinance is used by law enforcement to enforce and write tickets. Every road the Town owns lists a speed limit and where parking is allowed. We need to

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update the ordinance to reflect the roads we've taken over in the last few years. Speed adjustments on other roads require more professional analysis.

Other = 2 min.

Executive Session

MOTION: B. DesLauriers made a motion to go into executive session at 7:48 p.m. to discuss contractual and personnel matters 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 contractual and personnel matters under the provisions of Title 1, section 313(a)(1) of Vermont Statutes and to invite in Town Manager Carrie Johnson, Interim Director of Operations Al Voegele, and executive candidate search consultants Forty Four Seven Strategies. Seconded by J. Brigham. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

MOTION: B. DesLauriers made a motion to come out of executive session at 9:40 p.m. Seconded by J. Sanders. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Adjournment

MOTION: J. Brigham made a motion to adjourn the Selectboard meeting at 9:41 p.m. Seconded by J. Sanders. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Jenn Gray