

**Town of St. Albans
Selectboard Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 27th, 2023
6:30 p.m.**

On Monday, February 27th, 2023 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, Brendan Deso, Jack Brigham, Town Manager Carrie Johnson, Director of Community Development Megan Sherlund, Interim Director of Operations Al Voegele, and Executive Assistant Jenn Gray. Absent was Jeff Sanders.

Staff Participation via Zoom: Town Clerk Anna Bourdon

Public in Attendance: Stan Dukas

Public Participation via Zoom: Dr. Jennifer Williamson

J. Giroux called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

General Warrant

MOTION: J. Brigham made a motion to approve the general warrant dated February 27th, 2023 in the amount of \$72,352.93. Seconded by B. DesLauriers. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Capital Projects Reserve

MOTION: B. Deso made a motion to approve the Capital Projects Reserve warrant dated February 27th, 2023 in the amount of \$1,937.10. Seconded by J. Brigham. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Stormwater Utility Warrant

MOTION: B. Deso made a motion to approve the Stormwater Utility warrant dated February 27th, 2023 in the amount of \$8,058.35. Seconded by J. Brigham. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Industrial Park Warrant

MOTION: B. Deso made a motion to approve the Industrial Park warrant dated February 27th, 2023 in the amount of \$789.69. Seconded by J. Brigham. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Payroll

MOTION: B. DesLauriers made a motion to approve the payroll warrants dated February 10th, 2023 in the amount of \$24,172.46, February 17th, 2023 in the amount of \$22,774.20, and February 24th, 2023 in the amount of \$40,084.77. Seconded by B. Deso. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Minutes

MOTION: J. Brigham made a motion to approve the Selectboard meeting minutes from Monday, February 6th, 2023, the special meeting from Monday, February 20th, 2023, and the special meeting on Thursday, February 23rd, 2023. Seconded by B. DesLauriers. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Warrants & Minutes = 4 mins.

Public Comment

Stan Dukas came before the Board to discuss some items from the budget, one being the Director of Operations position. At a previous Selectboard meeting, it was mentioned to add \$80,000 as a placeholder for that position with benefits, it could cost taxpayers as much as \$122,000. Mr. Dukas stated he found this unreasonable. Mr. Dukas went on to discuss the additional funds for the St. Albans Museum (SAM). He asked why the Board gave SAM another \$25,000 in year five of a previously voted article as opposed to the voted amount of \$15,000 that was voted on in 2019 for fiscal year 2020 for 5 years. Mr. Dukas went on to say that in 2022, we asked the voters to add \$10,000 to the previously approved allocation of \$15,000 for a total of a one-time allocation of \$25,000. B. Deso explained that SAM came to the Board in 2019 asking to add \$10,000 to the already voted \$15,000 article for SAM, totaling \$25,000. Many times, in the past the Selectboard has added articles to the general fund budget after it receives overwhelming voter support.

Dr. Jennifer Williamson strongly encouraged the Selectboard to join the IDEAL Vermont initiative and read a statement.

Public Comment = 14 mins.

Resolution – VTrans Agency of Commerce & Community Development – Better Connections Grant

This grant proposes to fund a study for the sidewalk project from Lake Street into the Bay village area. The Town's match would be \$7,500.

MOTION: B. Deso made a motion to approve and sign the Resolution for the Better Connections Grant. Seconded by B. DesLauriers. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Resolution = 1 min.

Town Manager's Report

Street Name Change Requested - Rainville

C. Johnson explained Gilles Rainville, a Town taxpayer/landowner came into her office asking to have his street named changed. The gentleman making the request owns all the property on the road and would like to rename it to "Rainville". C. Johnson recommends not changing it per the ordinance. B. Deso stated this should only be changed for safety reasons. B. DesLauriers read the section from the ordinance stating as much. The Board was in consensus to follow the ordinance which doesn't allow the name change.

Street = 4 mins.

Town Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Review

There were no questions. B. DesLauriers mentioned that explanations were provided on Front Porch Forum and the Selectboard candidate debate on local access TV.

Budget = 4 mins.

Personnel Policy Draft Review

C. Johnson explained that she made changes to the policy per the Board's request and asked them to review it. C. Johnson was looking for consensus to send it along to an attorney for review. Jill Muir at VLCT had also reviewed it. B. Deso suggested sourcing out a Human Resources consultant. C. Johnson explained that she would like to have a clear scope of work before doing this. This consultant

could provide services once a week, as needed. C. Johnson explained that we are in the process of hiring for three positions already. The Board agreed to send the draft policy for legal review.

Personnel Policy = 7 mins.

Town Hall Update – Sidewalk from Former Dept. Of Public Works Site Approved

C. Johnson explained she received the final plans for the Town Hall from DEW this evening at the open house. The gravel walkway from the former Dept. of Public Works site to the new Town Hall site plan has been approved. Wetlands wants us to remove some of the fill. We are allowed to leave the 10 foot wide path, but everything else will be removed including the historical fill near Wharf Street. We will also put new material down on the path.

Sidewalk = 2 mins.

Volunteer Dinner

This dinner was started in the spring of 2012 to show Town volunteers our appreciation. We had to put a hold on this dinner because of COVID. The Board was in consensus to continue the dinner.

Dinner = 4 mins.

Schedule

The next regular Selectboard meetings are Monday, March 6th and Monday March 20th at 6:30 p.m. The public informational hearing on the FY 2024 budget and ballot questions will be held on Monday, March 6th, at 6:30 p.m.

Schedule = 1 min.

Other Business - None.

Adjournment

MOTION: B. Deso made a motion to adjourn the Selectboard meeting at 7:13 p.m. Seconded by J. Brigham. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Jenn Gray Executive Assistant