

**Town of St. Albans  
Selectboard Meeting Minutes  
Monday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
6:30 p.m.**

On Monday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 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, and Interim Director of Operations Al Voegele. Absent was Jeff Sanders.

**Staff Participation via Zoom:** Town Clerk Anna Bourdon and Executive Assistant Jenn Gray

**Public in Attendance:** Linda Stark, Virgil Stark, David Bray, David McWilliams, Anthony Sorrentino (Motha Plant), Dave Szabo, and Alexander McWilliams Jr.

**Public Participation via Zoom:** Amanda Giroux

J. Giroux called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Public Informational Hearing**

**MOTION: B. DesLauriers made a motion to open the public informational hearing at 6:30 p.m. Seconded by J. Brigham. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.**

B. DesLauriers read the official Town Meeting Day warning:

The legal voters of the Town of St. Albans are hereby warned and notified to meet in the Port Washington Room at the St. Albans Town Hall, located at 398 Georgia Shore Road, St. Albans, VT., on Monday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 6:30pm to conduct an informational meeting on the fiscal year 2024 budget and articles to be voted by Australian ballot. Remote participation is available via Zoom.

Voting will take place on Tuesday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at the **Collins Perley Sports Complex** located at 890 Fairfax Road from 7am to 7pm.

**Town Fiscal Year 2024 Budget and Articles Review**

J. Giroux read through articles 1 thru 4. C. Johnson went over the Budget Justification and explained some of the increases in the fiscal year 2024 budget including salaries, the Sheriff's Office, and janitorial services for the new Town Hall.

Town resident and Selectboard candidate David Bray asked several questions about employee benefits and the costs. D. Bray stated he found health insurance costs went up 25%. B. Deso corrected D. Bray stated the increase was 13% for health insurance.

D. Bray asked the Board about revenue predictions and grants; he continued with questions about new hire positions. The Stormwater position has been under spent since Ms. Cherington left in September, 2022. B. Deso stated that other positions have been vacant since the Director of Operations left in 2022, which allows the Town Manager some wiggle room.

Town resident and Selectboard candidate David McWilliams asked how the Town was going to deal with the increasing costs for developments' stormwater runoff. B. Deso stated that's what the stormwater utility is for, to do stormwater projects to help alleviate those types of issues.

D. McWilliams stated that the residents at Gricebrook are unhappy that the Selectboard was not doing more with the road situation there. Interim Director of Operations A. Voegele explained that he submitted an Act 250 violation to the State and is waiting to hear back from them.

D. McWilliams explained that the Animal Control Officer is supposed to do a dog census per state statute. He stated the Town is in violation of that statute. C. Johnson explained that we did have a vacancy in this position for a long time with no one to perform this duty. She went on to say that she will review the state statute and also pointed out that the Town purposely didn't do a dog census during COVID.

D. McWilliams asked that with a \$900,000 increase in the budget, how do you tell a senior citizen to suck it up and pay the increase in taxes? C. Johnson stated that wasn't totally

accurate. B. Deso stated there are some increases that are out of our control. J. Brigham gave an example and explained that the costs of paving have gone up a lot. That's something we have no control over. B. Deso explained that there is an article on the ballot asking taxpayers to authorize the Selectboard to use \$100,000 in general fund surplus to be used to reduce taxes in fiscal year 2024. B. DesLauriers stated that the increase in the Town's budget is pretty much in line with other communities.

After a lengthy discussion, the hearing was brought to a close.

**MOTION: B. Deso made a motion to close the public information hearing. Second J. Brigham. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.**

**Budget & Articles: 1 hour 12 mins.**

#### General Warrant

**MOTION: J. Brigham made a motion to approve the general warrant dated March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023 in the amount of \$77,475.72. Seconded by B. Deso. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.**

#### Infrastructure Development Warrant

**MOTION: B. Deso made a motion to approve the Infrastructure Development warrant dated March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023 in the amount of \$34,089.35. Seconded by B. DesLauriers. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.**

#### Payroll

**MOTION: B. DesLauriers made a motion to approve the payroll warrants dated March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 in the amount of \$22,712.52. Seconded by J. Brigham. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.**

#### Minutes

**MOTION: J. Brigham made a motion to approve the Selectboard meeting minutes from Monday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023 as presented. Seconded by B. DesLauriers. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.**

**Warrants & Minutes = 3 mins.**

#### Public Comment

Alex "Buddy" McWilliams asked the Board about the repaving Button Road. The last time the road was paved, it was ground down so thin that pieces are breaking off and the road is nearly down to dirt in places. The Board agreed to notify Director of Public Works Dave Allerton.

**Public Comment = 2 mins.**

#### Town Manager's Report

##### SATEC Day Camp Waiver

C. Johnson explained would like to hold their summer camp in the Bay Park again this year in July and asked for a waiver of some of the fees.

**MOTIN: B. Deso made a motion to waive the \$1,200 fee for SATEC for the summer camp in the Bay Park. Seconded by B. DesLauriers. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.**

**SATEC = 4 mins.**

#### Act 250 – Beta Technologies

For informational purposes only. No action required.

**Act 250 = 1 mins.**

#### Schedule

The next regular Selectboard meetings are Monday, March 20<sup>th</sup> and Monday April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

**Schedule = 1 min.**

#### Other Business – Cannabis Control Board

C. Johnson provided the Selectboard with a couple of handouts regarding the Local Cannabis Control Board (CCB). Anthony Sorrentino with Motha Plant came before the Board to discuss

his license application. He explained that the CCB was not formed when he applied. The Board agreed to warn a special meeting for 8am on Thursday, March 9<sup>th</sup> to consider approving this application.

#### **Letter of Support**

J. Brigham explained he was contacted by two individuals applying for a Community Recovery and Revitalization grant and they have requested letters of support from the Selectboard, Northwest Regional Planning Commission, and Franklin County Industrial Development Corporation (FCIDC). The Board decided to place this on the agenda for March 20<sup>th</sup> and in the meantime get in touch with Tim Smith about his letter of support.

**Other = 10 mins.**

#### **Executive Session**

**MOTION: B. Deso made a motion to go into executive session at 8:10 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 and Interim Director of Operations Al Voegele. Seconded by B. DesLauriers. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.**

**MOTION: B. DesLauriers made a motion to come out of executive session at 9:00 p.m. Seconded by J. Brigham. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.**

There were no motions made coming out of executive session.

#### **Adjournment**

**MOTION: B. Deso made a motion to adjourn the Selectboard meeting at 9:01 p.m. Seconded by B. DesLauriers. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Jenn Gray Executive Assistant