

**Town of St. Albans
Selectboard Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 17th, 2023
6:30 p.m.**

On Monday, April 17th, 2023 at 6:30 p.m., the Town of St. Albans Selectboard met at Town Hall.

Officials and Staff: Chair Bryan DesLauriers, Vice Chair Jack Brigham, Jonathan Giroux, Brendan Deso, Jeff Sanders, Town Manager Carrie Johnson, Town Clerk Anna Bourdon, Interim Director of Operations Al Voegelé, and Administrative Assistant Kim Kissinger.

Staff Participation via Zoom: Executive Assistant Jenn Gray & Asst. Director of Public Works John Montagne.

Public in Attendance: Anne Pomeroy, Paul and Sally Larner, Brad and Liz Jackson from Gricebrook, St. Albans Messenger Reporter Josh Ellerbrock, David Bray, Northwest Correctional Facility Superintendent Greg Hale, Dawn Hale, and Mrs. Brown.

Public Participation via Zoom: None.

Chair B. DesLauriers called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Amendment to Agenda

MOTION: J. Giroux made a motion to amend the agenda to add the 2023 Certificate of Compliance for Town Road and Bridge Standards to the agenda under the Town Manager's report as item "E". Seconded by J. Brigham. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

General Warrant

MOTION: J. Giroux made a motion to approve the general warrant dated April 17th, 2023 in the amount of \$73,383.85. Seconded by J. Brigham. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Payroll

MOTION: J. Sanders made a motion to approve the payroll warrants dated April 7th, 2023 in the amount of \$54,476.03 and April 14th, 2023 in the amount of \$20,522.10. Seconded by J. Brigham. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Industrial Park Warrant

MOTION: B. Deso made a motion to approve the Infrastructure Development warrant dated April 17th, 2023 in the amount of \$697.52. Seconded by J. Giroux. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Stone House Warrant

MOTION: B. Deso made a motion to approve the Stormwater warrant dated April 17th, 2023 in the amount of \$5,000.00. Seconded by J. Giroux. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Minutes

MOTION: J. Giroux made a motion to approve the Selectboard special meeting minutes from Friday, April 7th, 2023 as presented. Seconded by J. Brigham. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

MOTION: J. Brigham made a motion to approve the Selectboard meeting minutes from Monday, April 3rd, 2023 as presented. Seconded by J. Sanders. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Warrants & Minutes = 4 mins.

Public Comment

Town resident Anne Pomeroy asked the Board if there was any way the Town could establish a noise ordinance regarding vehicles similar to what the City has? Vehicles speed up Lake Road from the Bay Store and it's very loud. B. Deso asked Sheriff Grismore if there were any existing statutes where someone could be cited doing this kind of activity. Sheriff Grismore stated absolutely. Any modifications that are done to exhaust systems making their vehicles out of compliance can be reported to the Department of Motor Vehicles by the Sheriff's Office. Sheriff

Grismore explained that any information that can be provided to his department regarding vehicles that are causing these noise issues, such as a vehicle's color, make, model should be reported to the Town Manager's office for his department to investigate. It will assist them in addressing these issues.

A. Pomeroy asked what the status was on the Town assuming ownership of Lake Road from the State. B. Deso explained funds are being added to the Transportation Bill in an authorization for VTrans to use that to negotiate with the Town. Not the full amount for the entire project, but just the amount to define the scope of what we would be able to exchange for taking Lake Road over as a Class one road. It's a lengthy process when working with the legislature.

Gricebrook resident Brad Jackson came before the Board to ask what the status was on the Town assuming ownership of Gricebrook Road and what were the next steps? B. DesLauriers stated that Al Voegelé has been working on this. A. Voegelé explained that he filed a complaint at the condition of the road access with Act 250 about the road and is waiting for a response.

Public Comment = 8 mins.

Liquor Control

MOTION: J. Brigham made a motion to recess the Selectboard meeting and convene as the Liquor Control Board. Seconded by J. Giroux. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Colonial Mart	Second Class License
Colonial Mart	Tobacco License
Colonial Mart	Tobacco Substitute License
VFW	First Class Club License
VFW	Third Class Club License
American Legion	First Class License
American Legion	Third Class License
American Legion	Outside Consumption Permit
New England Cannabis	Tobacco Substitute License
Burton Island	Second Class License
St Albans Diner	First Class License
Elks	First Class License
Elks	Third Class License
Elks	Outside Consumption Permit
Mill River Brewing	First Class License
Mill River Brewing	Third Class License
Mill River Brewing Taphouse	First Class License
Mill River Brewing Taphouse	Outside Consumption Permit

MOTION: J. Brigham made a motion to approve the liquor and tobacco licenses as presented. Seconded by J. Giroux. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

MOTION: J. Giroux made a motion to adjourn the Liquor Control Board and reconvene the Selectboard meeting. Seconded by J. Brigham. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Liquor = 3 mins.

Town Manager's Report

New Employee Introduction – Administrative Assistant Kimberly Kissinger

C. Johnson introduced the new Administrative Assistant Kim Kissinger to the Selectboard and audience.

New EE = 1 min.

Law Enforcement Update – Franklin County Sheriff John Grismore

Franklin County Sheriff John Grismore came before the Board to provide an update. Sheriff Grismore explained with the increase of nice weather, more people and motorcycles are on the roads. To address concerns, they are vamping up patrols, increasing their presences on the roads. The Governor's Highway Safety money is allowing the FCSO to do more focus details and focus controls in problem areas. We rely on the community to let us know where the hot spots are. FCSO has received complaints on Kellogg Road by Pike Drive. Most complaints are speed related. B. DesLauriers confirmed with Sheriff Grismore that the best way to get complaints to the FCSO is for people to contact Town Manager Carrie Johnson and she will forward the complaints to Sheriff Grismore.

Town resident David Bray asked if the FCSO had anything to do with how the narcotics settlement would be spent. B. Deso asked how much we had received in the settlement. Town Clerk Anna Bourdon stated the Town had received \$14,757.61. C. Johnson stated it does need to be used towards opioid enforcement. A second round of funds have been applied for, but we don't know how much that is at this point. The Board would like to discuss recommendations soon at a Selectboard meeting. C. Johnson stated it'll take some time while she works with the Sheriff. Maybe have some recommendations at the Selectboard meeting at their meeting in mid-May.

FCS = 9 mins.

Northwest State Correctional Facility – Greg Hale, Superintendent

Greg Hale, Superintendent of the Northwest State Correctional Facility (NSCF) came before the Board to provide them with an update. The facility has 247 beds and they average a little under 200 inmates. A 25-bed treatment unit was closed for staffing purposes. There was a much less intake during the pandemic. The facility is at a 50% detention and 50% sentence ratio. Half of the inmates are pre-trial and the other half are post-trial. They are transitioning somewhere; they're either going into programming, getting ready to release, or they're new in the system and they're coming to the facility before being shipped off elsewhere.

Superintendent Hale explained that NSCF is a Federal holding station for Vermont. NSCF holds a majority of the US Marshall inmates, house in average 50-55 federal inmates. He went on to state that NSCF also holds ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) inmates who were caught crossing the border. On average, we hold about 20-30 a month, but with immigration policies changing, that number has jumped to 150.

Superintendent Hale stated that he is currently 25 correctional officers short, but are operating fine and not cutting corners on safety. Officers work 12 hour shifts, 5 shifts a week. NSCF has been putting a lot of time and money into recruitment. Should have 100 officers.

J. Brigham asked about the proposed juvenile detention facility. Superintendent Hale explained that his issues were where they are going to put it and not have it effect the adult population. At this time, he doesn't know what the solution should be.

NWCF = 16 mins.

Creating Habitat for Pollinators – Bee The Change

C. Johnson explained that she spoke with Mike Kieran of Bee The Change. He is a doctor at Porter Hospital and attended a Rotary meeting explaining the Bee The Change project. Mr. Kieran has begun asking municipalities to consider converting smaller pieces of land to make pollinator habitats by planting wild flowers. There is little or no costs to the Town. C. Johnson stated she was looking for support from the Board to move forward on this from. The Board was in consensus to move forward.

Pollinators = 6 mins.

2023 Certificate of Compliance for Town Road and Bridge Standards

C. Johnson explained that this is done annually.

MOTION: B. Deso made a motion to approve the 2023 Certificate of Compliance for Town Road and Bridge Standards. Seconded by J. Giroux. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Standards = 1 min.

Schedule

The next regular Selectboard meetings are Monday, May 1st and Monday, May 15th at 6:30 p.m.

Schedule = 1 min.

Other Business

B. DesLauriers announced that a new Town Manager has been hired. His name is Sean Adkins and will be starting with the Town around June 5th. His skill set and background should help the Town with economic progress. Mr. Adkins has signed a 3 year contract with the Town.

B. DesLauriers explained that Director of Community Development Megan Sherlund has revamped and submitted a new quarterly newsletter. If you would like to be added or removed to the mailing list, please contact her or Executive Assistant Jennifer Gray.

B. DesLauriers explained that he has discussed a model investment policy with Town Clerk Anna Bourdon. They have received a model investment policy from VLCT. B. DesLauriers plans to attend a meeting with A. Bourdon and People's Trust Bank in the near future.

B. DesLauriers explained that the Selectboard had received a draft sidewalk update and schedule that was created by Director of Public Works Dave Allerton and M. Sherlund. A copy was forwarded to Town resident Paul Lerner at the meeting.

Other = 11 mins.

Executive Session

MOTION: J. Giroux made a motion to go into executive session at 7:33 p.m. to discuss a contractual matter 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 a contractual matter 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 Voegelé. Seconded by J. Sanders. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

MOTION: B. Deso made a motion to come out of executive session at 8:36 p.m. Seconded by J. Giroux. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

There were no motions made coming out of executive session.

Adjournment

MOTION: J. Brigham made a motion to adjourn the Selectboard meeting at 8:37 p.m. Seconded by J. Sanders. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Jenn Gray Executive Assistant