

**Town of St. Albans
Selectboard Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 21st, 2023
6:30 p.m.**

On Wednesday, June 21st, 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, Interim Director of Operations Al Voegele, Fire Chief and Public Safety Administrator Bob Cross, Town Clerk Anna Bourdon, and incoming Town Manager Sean Adkins.

Staff Participation via Zoom: Executive Assistant Jenn Gray.

Public in Attendance: David Bray, Stan Dukas, Paul and Sarah Lerner, and Anne Pomeroy.

Public Participation via Zoom: St. Albans Messenger Reporter Josh Ellerbrock and Northwest Access TV.

Chair B. DesLauriers called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Payroll

MOTION: J. Sanders made a motion to approve the payroll warrant dated June 9th, 2023 in the amount of \$24,476.69 and payroll warrant dated June 16th, 2023 in the amount of \$33,933.84. Seconded by J. Brigham. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

General Warrant

J. Giroux explained that \$4,000 for Leonine Public Affairs for stormwater was removed from the general warrant and placed on the Stormwater Utility warrant.

MOTION: J. Giroux made a motion to approve the amended general warrant dated June 21st, 2023 in the amount of \$50,670.56. 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 June 21st, 2023 in the amount of \$1,249.63. Seconded by J. Giroux. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Stormwater Utility Warrant

MOTION: B. Deso made a motion to approve the Stone House warrant dated June 21st, 2023 in the amount of \$20,504.76. Seconded by J. Giroux. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Stone House Warrant

MOTION: B. Deso made a motion to approve the Stone House warrant dated June 21st, 2023 in the amount of \$4,950.00. 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, June 5th, 2023 as presented. Seconded by J. Sanders. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Warrants & Minutes = 6 mins.

Public Comment

None.

Town Manager Appointment – Sean Adkins

MOTION: J. Brigham made a motion to appoint Sean Adkins as the Town Manager for the Town of St. Albans effective July 1st, 2023. Seconded by J. Giroux. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

TM Appt. =1 min.

Town Manager's Report

Fire Department Apparatus – Fire Chief Bob Cross

B. Cross came before the Board to discuss the proposed fire department apparatus purchase. The initial cost was \$1,000,070. Since March, some items had been added, but with discounts, we can purchase the truck for \$907,000. There was a price increase this week. However, E-One (vendor) put that increase on hold for a couple of weeks. B. Cross stated that E-One's service is second to none on and all vehicles currently at the fire station are from with them. He went on to say that if he had received other bids and they were less expensive, he would still go with E-One because of their reputation for great service.

B. Cross explained that with the purchase of this vehicle, we'll be at the point where we'll have two working pumpers and we can use our tankers as water haulers. Once ordered, this truck will take three years to receive.

B. Cross explained that we could put \$500,000 down now and get a 3% discount. However, after a previous discussion with Town Clerk Anna Bourdon, the best option is to put the \$500,000 in a 9 month CD at 4% instead. The Board was in consensus for B. Cross to order the truck.

FD Apparatus = 14 mins.

Finance Discussion – Town Clerk Anna Bourdon

B. DesLauriers explained on June 8th, he and A. Bourdon met with People's Trust Bank. He went on to explain the Town uses 12 different accounts that are FDIC protected. As of April, 2023, the Town had \$6.5 million with People's Trust. The Town has been a client since the 1970's. The Bank has tailor made a program for all Town accounts. B. DesLauriers went on to explain the different tier fund accounts and how they operate.

B. DesLauriers explained three changes regarding our accounts:

1. People's Trust has agreed to eliminate our core amount from \$32,000 to \$0. We will no longer be earning any interest and will no longer be a tier one account.
2. Move more funds into CD's.
3. 50% of all our money to be put into CD's.

A. Bourdon provided a packet of information on the accounts to the Selectboard and went through it with them. She had also provided the Board with a copy of the Investment Policy.

B. Deso suggested putting all interest earned into a separate account.

MOTION: J. Brigham made a motion to invest the ARPA, Emergency Reserve, Reappraisal Account and \$500,000 of the Fire Department Equipment account balances into 9 month CDs with People's Trust Bank. Seconded by J. Sanders. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

J. Giroux asked why we hadn't done this sooner. A. Bourdon explained that CD rates are just recently rising as they have been flat for a number of years. The Town has had a number of CDs in the past, the rates have been steadily rising and that is why the Town, under advisement from the Treasurer should take advantage of the rising CD rates at this time.

Finance = 22 mins.

The Board requested that a discussion on the Investment Policy be on the next Selectboard meeting agenda.

Lending Library

C. Johnson explained at the last Selectboard meeting, B. DesLauriers discussed the possibility of a lending library in the Bay Park or some other location within Town. B. DesLauriers mentioned that a Town resident could volunteer to build one. J. Brigham suggested the Department of Public Works could build one.

Paul Lerner addressed the Board. He stated that people could put things in a lending library that could be offensive to some. He suggested that the Town allow individual property owners and not the Town, to install these lending libraries on their own property.

The Board agreed to table this topic for now.

Library = 7 mins.

Stormwater FY'24 Draft Budget

C. Johnson explained the Stormwater budget was discussed at the previous meeting. Since then, the budget has remained the same except for the revenues, which were reduced. Agricultural properties are exempt from paying the stormwater fees as well as properties that do not have impervious surfaces.

B. DesLauriers asked if the current ERU (Equivalent Residential Unit) needed to be increased with the reduction in revenues. C. Johnson stated that the ERU will remain \$50. We can use funds we already have in the Stormwater Utility account to cover expenses. The 2025 stormwater budget will need to be reviewed and a possible increase to the ERU may be possible.

C. Johnson explained that a stormwater specialist at the DEC would be willing to attend a Selectboard meeting to answer some more of the Board's questions.

J. Sanders stated that the whole thing is not equitable. Some people are not paying into the stormwater utility and the people who do pay in don't receive any of the benefits. The State is forcing the Town to go out and get funds for stormwater projects. B. DesLauriers stated that the Stormwater Utility pays for maintenance type projects. Not construction of stormwater systems. That's what grants would go towards.

B. Deso stated we need to have more transparent discussions on stormwater. We need to create more policies that are black and white. Be more up front with homeowners' associations (HOA). Maybe we need to come up with another funding mechanism. We didn't create all the stormwater issues out there, but we are all responsible for the costs to have them fixed.

Paul Lerner stated the Town of St. Albans should not put a nickel into the stormwater issues at Tanglewood. We were blocked from getting to the detention pond at Tanglewood years ago. It is the responsible of the Tanglewood HOA to fix their issues, not the Town's. C. Johnson stated that easements have been obtain to access the detention pond since.

Stan Dukas came before the Board. He went over some discrepancies within the Town Reports on what the Town put in the stormwater budget for revenues and expenses. He requested more clarity.

MOTION: B. Deso made a motion to approve the fiscal year 2024 stormwater utility budget as presented. Seconded by J. Brigham. Motion carried with a 3-2 vote with J. Sanders and J. Giroux voting opposed.

C. Johnson suggested a special meeting in early July to have a stormwater specialist from the State to come in and address the Board's questions and concerns.

J. Sanders would like for the Town to look into a revolving fund for residents to use to address their stormwater issues.

Stormwater = 53 mins.

Schedule

The next regular Selectboard meetings are Monday, July 3rd and Monday, July 17th at 6:30 p.m. Bay Day and the Great Race will be held on Sunday, July 2nd.

Schedule = 1 min.

Chair's Report

B. DesLauriers asked how the "Touch A Truck" event went. C. Johnson stated that it was well attended.

B. DesLauriers stated that both Megan Sherlund and Carrie Johnson finished and submitted the VTrans grant for the Route 7 project.

B. DesLauriers to this opportunity to thank Carrie Johnson for her 11 years of service as Town Manager.

Chair = 3 mins.

Other Business

Anne Pomeroy asked if there was an update on the sale of the former Town Hall. B. DesLauriers stated that the process is still moving along and we should have an update soon.

Executive Session

MOTION: J. Sanders made a motion to go into executive session at 8:22 p.m. to discuss a contractual and personal 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 and personal matter under the provisions of Title 1, section 313(a)(1) of Vermont Statutes and to invite in Sean Adkins, Carrie Johnson, and Al Voegelé. Seconded by B. Deso. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

MOTION: J. Brigham made a motion to come out of executive session at 9:52 p.m. Seconded by J. Sanders. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

No motions came out of executive session.

Adjournment

MOTION: J. Giroux made a motion to adjourn the Selectboard meeting at 9:53 p.m. Seconded by B. Deso. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Jenn Gray Executive Assistant