

**Town of St. Albans
Selectboard Meeting Minutes
Monday, July 19th, 2021
6:30 p.m.**

On Monday, July 19th, 2021 at 6:30 p.m., the Town of St. Albans Selectboard met at Town Hall.

Officials and Staff: Chair Brendan Deso, Vice Chair Jessica Frost, Erin Creley, Jonathan Giroux, Bryan DesLauriers, Director of Public Works Alan Mashtare, Director of Operations Corey Parent, Town Manager Carrie Johnson, and Town Clerk Anna Bourdon.

Public in attendance: Franklin County Sheriff Roger Langevin.

Staff participating via Zoom: Recording Secretary Jenn Gray.

Public Participation via Zoom: None.

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

General Warrant

MOTION: J. Giroux made a motion to approve the general warrant dated July 19th, 2021 in the amount of \$633,502.35. Seconded by E. Creley. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Payroll

MOTION: E. Creley made a motion to approve the payroll warrants dated July 16th, 2021 in the amount of \$24,544.73. Seconded by J. Giroux. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Infrastructure Development Warrant

MOTION: J. Giroux made a motion to approve the Infrastructure Development warrant dated July 19th, 2021 in the amount of \$15,838.27. Seconded by J. Frost. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Stone House Warrant

Reimbursement to the Fire Department for food vouchers during Bay Day.

MOTION: J. Giroux made a motion to approve the Stone House warrant dated July 19th, 2021 in the amount of \$885.00. Seconded by E. Creley. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Industrial Park Warrant

MOTION: J. Giroux made a motion to approve the Industrial Park warrant dated July 19th, 2021 in the amount of \$630.90. Seconded by E. Creley. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Minutes

MOTION: J. Frost made a motion to approve the Selectboard meeting minutes from Monday, July 12th, 2021 as presented. Seconded by B. DesLauriers. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Public Comment

None.

Town Manager's Report

Police Services

C. Johnson explained to the Board that Sheriff Langevin will be at Selectboard meetings once a month to update us on any trends or areas of concern that they are seeing. C. Johnson wanted to remind everyone about the public access portal as well as a separate portal for the Selectboard; the portal will be where monthly reports are found.

Sheriff Langevin came before the Board to provide an update on their first couple of weeks providing law enforcement services for the Town. Sheriff Langevin explained that they have been busy with a lot of motor vehicle calls. Those calls range from suspended licenses to impaired driving. This past Sunday, they responded to a DUI at 7am. Later in the day there was an impaired driver with drugs. Aside from that, things are going well. The Sheriff explained that there is a portal Selectboards have access to that is at a higher level than what the public can access that shows all the calls the Sheriff's Office has responded to and the nature of the calls.

Sheriff Langevin explained that with domestic or mental health calls, the Franklin County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) is making it a practice to follow up with these types of calls within 48 hours, to make

sure the people involved have access to the resources they need. This also helps with trying to prevent these behaviors from reoccurring.

E. Creley asked what does an “aggressive traffic stop” mean? Sheriff Langevin explained speed wise, making sure vehicles are approaching areas at a lesser speed where there is a lot of pedestrian traffic or other possible road hazards.

B. DesLauriers asked about the Residents Checklist. Sheriff Langevin explained that when people know they are going to be out of town, they can call the FCSO and get on a list to have us to do a patrol of the neighborhood.

B. Deso asked C. Parent what was going on with the Police Advisory Committee. C. Parent explained the committee meets monthly. The committee was charged by the Selectboard to provide public surveys twice a year to the community seeking their input on the police services. They are planning to have surveys in the fall and spring of every year.

B. Deso suggested reviewing all Town roads and speed limits this fall. Locate problem spots, where people are getting stopped by the police and reevaluate speed limits. C. Johnson pointed out that we would have to do some work with Northwest Regional Planning and maybe do some traffic studies. Before you can change a speed limit you do have to justify the revision and have some engineering done.

Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Policy and Schedule

C. Johnson explained that we are going to actively start building our budgets for the next fiscal year. B. Deso suggested that for every line item over \$10,000, the Board be provided the reason why we need to spend that much and be able to answer that question should we be asked. C. Johnson pointed out that the Town has a \$4.5 million budget and asked if it was a consensus of the Board that for every line over \$10,000 there be a budget justification? B. Deso said no, he didn't want a budget justification for each line. He just wanted to know that items are being purchased for a specific purpose, that the reason is defensible. B. Deso continued by saying as long as they understand why a number is being budgeted. A. Bourdon stated she can print a detail transaction reports for each line item, to see where money has been spent. C. Johnson agreed and asked for just one copy of those reports. She also asked if the amount needed to be \$10,000. B. Deso stated it could be any line at \$25,000 and higher.

E. Creley stated that the Board will need to consider any increases that need to be added to next year's budget because those items were left off for this year's budget due to keeping the budget level funded.

B. DesLauriers asked how much did someone's taxes increase on a \$250,000 house? A. Bourdon explained that with the Town's portion of the tax rate, the taxes on a \$250,000 house was \$43/year for a homesteaded property. B. Deso explained that the local rate went up 1.7 cents and the education tax rate went up 12 cents. The increase in the tax rate for education generates \$342.50/year for a \$250,000 home.

B. Deso requested that the Department of Public Works equipment replacement fund estimate be provided to the Selectboard at the 2nd meeting in August. He also requested reviewing the prior list as well.

Schedule

The next regular Selectboard meetings are Monday, August 2nd and Monday, August 16th at 6:30 p.m.

Chair's Report

B. Deso stated that the St. Albans Museum is celebrating their 50th anniversary.

Other Business

J. Giroux asked if more work was scheduled to be done on French Hill Road? A. Mashtare explained that this work has been put off until later this fall.

Executive Session

MOTION: J. Frost made a motion to go into executive session at 7:32 p.m. to discuss legal, contractual or personnel issues 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 legal, contractual or personnel issues under the provisions of Title 1, section 313(a)(1) of Vermont Statutes and to invite Town Manager Carrie Johnson. Seconded by J. Giroux. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

MOTION: J. Giroux made a motion to come out of executive session at 9:01 p.m. Seconded by E. Creley. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Adjournment

MOTION: E. Creley made a motion to adjourn the Selectboard meeting at 9:02 p.m. Seconded by B. DesLauriers. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Jenn Gray Recording Secretary