

**Town of St. Albans
Selectboard Meeting Minutes
Monday, August 16th, 2021
6:30 p.m.**

On Monday, August 16th, 2021 at 6:30 p.m., the Town of St. Albans Selectboard met at Town Hall.

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

Staff participating via Zoom: Facilities Manager John Montagne and Jenn Gray Recording Secretary.

Public in attendance: Franklin County Sheriff Roger Langevin.

Public Participation via Zoom: Amanda Giroux and St. Messenger Reporter Katelyn Barcellos.

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 August 16th, 2021 in the amount of \$106,840.29. Seconded by E. Creley. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Payroll

MOTION: E. Creley made a motion to approve the payroll warrants dated August 6th, 2021 in the amount of \$24,429.73 and August 13th, 2021 in the amount of \$25,132.32. 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 August 16th, 2021 in the amount of \$31,163.03. Seconded by E. Creley. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Industrial Park Warrant

MOTION: E. Creley made a motion to approve the Industrial Park warrant in the amount of \$602.84. Seconded by B. DesLauriers. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Stone House Warrant

MOTION: J. Giroux made a motion to approve the Stone House warrant dated August 16th, 2021 in the amount of \$6,650.00. Seconded by B. DesLauriers. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Minutes

MOTION: J. Giroux made a motion to approve the Selectboard meeting minutes from Monday, August 2nd, 2021 as presented. Seconded by E. Creley. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Public Comment

Amanda Giroux explained to the Board that there was a large tree hanging over her street that has been marked with orange paint. She was wondering if it was marked to come down and expressed her concern with school starting and the bus possibly hitting the tree on its way up the hill. A. Mashtare stated he has marked several trees in the community that need to be removed. Currently the tree removal companies are very busy and it's hard to get someone lined up.

Park & Recreation Committee

Committee Recommendation Regarding Master Planning

B. Deso thanked Jessica Frost for her great work as the Park and Recreation Committee Chair. Jessica is leaving the committee to focus on her new job at Northwest Medical Center.

B. Deso continued by saying at the last Park and Recreation Committee meeting on August 11th, the committee discussed a master plan for parks.

C. Parent explained he is looking into grants for the boat launch and potentially doing a stage at the Bay Park.

B. Deso stated that the Park and Recreation Committee will work on a recommendation for funding a master plan and bring their recommendation to the Selectboard. A. Mashtare and J. Montagne to work on this. B. Deso also said that the committee is recruiting members.

Town Manager's Report

Franklin County Sheriff Roger Langevin

Franklin County Sheriff Roger Langevin came before the Board to provide an update. He explained that there wasn't a lot to report, mainly traffic incidents, such as speeding. Sheriff Langevin mentioned that there hasn't been a rise in homelessness. He also mentioned a situation at TJ Maxx where a woman stole two shopping carts full of merchandise.

Honor Wall Committee Nomination

C. Johnson stated the Honor Wall Committee is scheduled to meet on September 13th. To date, she has received one nomination; Gould Susslin. The goal of this committee is to have a recommendation to the Selectboard by December.

Advance Notice 248a Application Filing

VELCO Statewide Radio Project (Valley Watch Road)

Informational only, no action required.

Town Hall Construction Update

C. Johnson said that today, August 16th, they began site work at the Town Hall construction site. C. Parent explained that there is a local gentleman who will take pictures of the progress of Town Hall several times a week. On October 4th, the same gentleman will take head shots of department heads and staff for us to put on the Town's website.

Schedule

The next regular Selectboard meetings are Wednesday, September 8th and Monday, September 20th at 6:30 p.m. Honor Wall Committee meeting scheduled for Monday, September 13th.

Chair's Report

ARPA Funds Investment Objectives

Swanton Village Infrastructure Discussion Update

B. Deso explained that he and C. Johnson met with the Trustees of Swanton Village and they were receptive to have us work with the Village Manager on potential ARPA funded projects.

Meeting with Georgia Town – August 23rd, 2021

B. Deso stated that they will discuss the similar topics with the Town of Georgia next Monday, August 23rd.

C. Parents continued that the ARPA money has to be spent on specific items such as water and sewer infrastructure as well as stormwater. The funds need to be expended by a certain time. We cannot use the funds for items such as sidewalks or to reduce municipal taxes.

Short & Long Term Unfunded Liabilities

B. Deso explained that we need to come up with funding mechanisms to fund larger items such as Black Bridge and the Bay Dock. We need to revise or build up the Capital Plan. Possibly ask the voters to use the Local Option Tax (LOT). A. Mashtare stated that a structural engineer reviewed Black Bridge and just recently submitted a report. Having an account with funds set aside to provide repairs to the bridge would be helpful.

E. Creley asked how we are going to approach this. Are we going to task the Planning Commission to work on this? B. Deso stated he brought it to the Selectboard tonight looking for guidance. Personally, he liked the idea of asking the Planning Commission, but with a number of the studies we already have, maybe we could come up with something from revisiting those studies. Possibly revisit the Town Plan. C. Johnson explained to the Board that a Town Plan was approved in the winter of 2020. If the Board would like to update that, we should send it back to the Planning Commission.

B. Deso stated he would like to go to the voters in March explain to them how we are going to move forward on certain projects. C. Johnson stated that we may not have enough time to be confident with numbers to provide to the voters. E. Creley would like to give ourselves a longer time line in order to provide the voters with more exact information. C. Parent explained that the Planning Commission is beginning their work on the bylaws rewrite and that won't be provided to the Selectboard until November or December. We should plan for at least a year for the type of work B. Deso suggestion.

E. Creley stated that after the funds from the LOT have been used for the Town Hall, we previously discussed sidewalks were going to be funded next. It also doesn't have to be our largest sidewalk project. She also suggested that C. Johnson speak to department heads prior to the budget work

about what they see coming up in the next 5 years for capital projects. There may be something the Selectboard is unaware of. C. Johnson will relay this request. The Planning Commission spends a bulk of its time on the Capital Plan, Impact fees, capital needs, and bylaw updates. Each takes a significant amount of time to complete well.

Bylaws Rewrite

Regarding the bylaws rewrite, B. Deso said we need to look at how we want to handle legal marijuana sales in the Town. Do we want to ask the voters? C. Parent explained that the legislative push has been that any towns that don't opt out will have legal marijuana sales. That will come in the next year or two. The Planning Commission is already discussing this, whether it would be a conditional use and they plan to address it in the current bylaw update.

Other Business

None.

Executive Session

MOTION: E. Creley made a motion to go into executive session at 7:51 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 in Town Manager Carrie Johnson. Seconded by J. Giroux. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

C. Johnson left executive session at 8:40 p.m.

MOTION: B. DesLauriers made a motion to come out of executive session at 9:25 p.m. Seconded by E. Creley. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Adjournment

MOTION: B. DesLauriers made a motion to adjourn the Selectboard meeting at 9:25 p.m. Seconded by E. Creley. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Jenn Gray Recording Secretary