

**Town of St. Albans
Selectboard Meeting Minutes
Monday, August 17th, 2020
6:30 p.m.
Via Zoom Teleconferencing**

On Monday, August 17th, 2020 at 6:30 p.m., the Town of St. Albans Selectboard met.

Officials and staff in attendance: Chair Brendan Deso, Vice Chair Jessica Frost, Stan Dukas, Jonathan Giroux, Town Manager Carrie Johnson, Director of Administration Ned Connell, Director of Public Works Alan Mashtare, Town Clerk Anna Bourdon, and Recording Secretary Jenn Gray. Absent was Erin Creley.

Public Participation via Zoom Teleconferencing: Jackie Brown, Al Voegele, Mike Hoeflich, and Amanda Ludlow with Stantec.

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

MOTION: J. Giroux made a motion to add an emergency wastewater allocation request to the agenda. Seconded by J. Frost. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Wastewater Allocation Request – Valerie Chagnon – 162 & 194 Sheldon Road

B. Deso suggested that the Town Manager have the authority to approve any and all water and wastewater allocation requests. There was consensus to approve the request and change the procedure going forward to allow the Town Manager to approve these requests.

General Warrant

MOTION: S. Dukas made a motion to approve the general warrant dated August 17th, 2020 in the amount of \$277,785.02. Seconded by J. Giroux. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Payroll

MOTION: J. Frost made a motion to approve the payroll warrant for August 14th, 2020 in the amount of \$21,952.50 and August 7th, 2020 in the amount of \$23,198.84. Seconded by J. Giroux. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Infrastructure Account Warrant

MOTION: J. Giroux made a motion to approve the Infrastructure Account Warrant dated August 17th, 2020 in the amount of \$21,526.40. Seconded by J. Frost. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Industrial Park Warrant

MOTION: J. Giroux made a motion to approve the Industrial Park Warrant dated August 17th, 2020 in the amount of \$901.17. Seconded by S. Dukas. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Minutes

MOTION: J. Frost made a motion to approve the Selectboard meeting minutes from Monday, August 3rd, 2020 as presented. Seconded by J. Giroux. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Public Comment

J. Frost announced that on the back of Aldis Hill, near Hard'Ack they are building a disc golf course that is expected to be completed within a month.

Public Safety Advisory Committee

B. Deso provided the Board with draft #2 of the reorganizational guidelines for the Police Advisory Committee. J. Frost would like to include people who normally don't show up to be on our committees and pointed out that we really need to get prospective from all sorts of community members. C. Johnson suggested possibly lessen the number of members for this committee. B. Deso suggested 7 members. J. Giroux stated we need to start somewhere. Let's see who we can get for this committee and go from there. S. Dukas suggested someone who works for the drug rehab facilities. J. Frost suggested she reach out to the Abenaki Tribal Council and Migrant Justice to see if they would be interested in being a part of this committee.

B. Deso suggested looking over the reorganizational document again. He stated that while J. Frost reaches out to the Abenaki Tribal Council and Migrant Justice, he could reach out to the

Howard Center and Restorative Justice. There was consensus to put this on the September 9th meeting agenda.

Al Voegelé suggested changing the word “race” to “people of color”.

Mike Hoeflich stated that he thought 9 people is a lot for a committee. He was thinking 5 – 7 people. He explained that both Vergennes and the City of St. Albans are getting very formal with their advisory committees to the point where they are not getting any work done. Let’s get the board formed, see who you’ll be working with, and then set goals.

Resolution – Village Center Designation

B. Deso stated this is a resolution for support of achieving a Village Center Designation.

MOTINO: J. Giroux made a motion to approve and sign the Village Center Designation Resolution. Seconded by S. Dukas. All in favor, none opposed, motion approved.

B. Deso pointed out that this isn’t to prioritize the bay over any other area in the Town. This is a tool help us make this area as good as it can be. It will open up grant money opportunities for the Town.

Town Manager’s Report

Draft Stormwater Utility – Stantec, Amanda Ludlow, Consultant

C. Johnson explained that Amanda Ludlow with Stantec is the consultant who worked with the Town to create a draft Stormwater Utility Ordinance. N. Connell explained that a Stormwater Ordinance will allow the Town to pay for MS4 obligations for the flow restoration for both Stevens and Rugg Brook which is around \$5 million.

Ms. Ludlow went over the ordinance. She explained that they reviewed other towns who have stormwater ordinances currently to assist them when drafting the one for the Town. This ordinance will give the Selectboard the ability to update the billing rates and the number of parcels to include and allow for the creation of a stormwater reserve fund.

Ms. Ludlow explained that some of the communities that currently have Stormwater Ordinances are South Burlington, Williston, Burlington, and Colchester. Shelburne hasn’t yet, but they are expected to adopt a Stormwater Ordinance by the end of the summer.

B. Deso pointed out that forming a utility because we do not have the capacity to equitably bill or service our stormwater systems that are already in place, to start sending a bill of \$65/year to taxpayers on top of a tax bill and raise the cost of living and having a business, we are going to have to ask our current staff, which is already spread thin, to pick up the slack on all of this. With that said, he stated he didn’t know if he could get behind the stormwater ordinance.

C. Johnson explained that we did asked Town Attorney Dan O’Rourke to review the ordinance and he did get back to us today. He was reviewing the ordinance for enforceability and compliance. Mr. O’Rourke added 24 V.S.A. Chapter 59 reference under Section 1, and to change this throughout the document. A large percentage of this ordinance is similar to Colchester’s and they’ve been using this.

B. Deso asked if we are going to start billing people \$65 a year on year one, do we need the personnel and resources that the budget is based on for year one?

C. Johnson explained that she was feeling uncomfortable that we may not have the funds to pay the required currently budgeted and contracted stormwater obligations annually. Our budget was drastically cut for fiscal year 2021.

B. Deso stated that he has a hard time sending people a bill to talk about water flow and sediment control. Our main pollutant for our two watersheds is volume of water and not actual pollutants. He went on to say how displeased he was with the State mandating us to control our stormwater when they haven’t done a thing to help us with the water quality in the Bay.

Director of Public Works Alan Mashtare stated that this utility is important for the Town. The State has required all towns to change out their culverts as a part of stormwater requirements. Those requirements are 15 Culverts a year to stay on track with the 20 year plan. The Department of Public Works (DPW) crew currently does this work and would continue to do so until the Town establishes some funds. Once that is done, then we could consider staffing.

J. Giroux stated he doesn't want to pay an annual fee to clean up a waterway that is getting dirty from sewage spills from the City. J. Frost stated we have to do something and this is our part of doing it equitably.

Water & Wastewater Allocation Request – R.L. Vallee, Inc. – Milk & Maple, 555 Fairfax Road

Stating the new procedure, B. Deso authorized C. Johnson to approve the allocation and sign the approval letter.

Town Hall Relocation Update – Future Public Forums – In Person and Virtual

C. Johnson explained that the Town Hall Relocation Committee currently is meeting weekly. S. Dukas, J. Giroux, A. Bourdon, and Matt Young are a part of this committee. Freeman French Freeman have provided a space needs floorplan and they will be meeting with employees to discuss required needs as the floorplan is more developed. C. Johnson explained that we are on schedule at this point. Mr. Young will provide us a professional cost estimate the middle of September.

Public Outreach – Town Hall Project

By the second Selectboard meeting in September, we should have a cost and conceptual design. J. Giroux thinks it's too close to the November vote. We've got a lot of stuff to do during COVID-19. He thought it should wait until March. J. Frost stated that people know more about this than they did the proposed pool. There are a lot of steps that need to be done before November.

S. Dukas stated that it's exciting to see how the project is coming together. He also said that we should at least get the voter's approval to purchase the land in November. C. Johnson stated there is a lot to get done in four weeks, but we are on schedule to do it

There was consensus by the Board to discuss this at the September 9th meeting.

Salt Shed Update

Connor Contracting was awarded the bid. The appeal from another bidder was resolved. Should the construction have any overages, we plan to use Reserve and Capital funds as well as Impact fees.

COVID-19

C. Johnson explained we did receive free shipment of cloth masks from the State last week. We are going to set up Monday evenings for a few hours a distribution point for people to come in and pickup masks. It'll likely be at the Fire Department. Notice of distribution times will be posted on Facebook and the Town's website.

C. Johnson explained that the unemployment insurance pool at VLCT will be reimbursed up to 50% with new federal dollars, so we shouldn't see a large increase in our unemployment rates. Town Hall is still open to the public by appointment only.

Schedule

The first meeting in September falls on Labor Day. That meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 9th. The next regular meeting is Monday, September 21st.

Chair's Report

B. Deso explained that the VLCT Town Fair will be virtual this year.

B. Deso explained that he and John Montagne have discussed creating an online store of Town of St. Albans items and to work with Main Street Graphics. This could raise money to be use for the parks.

Other Business - None.

Executive Session

MOTION: J. Frost made a motion to go into executive session at 8:33 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 is further moved to enter into executive session to discuss legal, contractual, or personnel issued 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: S. Dukas made a motion to come out of executive session at 9:30 p.m.
Seconded by J. Frost. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.**

Adjournment

**MOTION: S. Dukas made a motion to adjourn the Selectboard meeting at 9:30 p.m.
Seconded by J. Frost. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,
Jenn Gray, Recording Secretary