

**Town of St. Albans
Selectboard Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 1st, 2021
6:30 p.m.
Via Zoom Teleconferencing**

On Monday, March 1st, 2021 at 6:30 p.m., the Town of St. Albans Selectboard met.

Officials and staff in attendance: Stan Dukas and Town Manager Carrie Johnson.

Officials and staff participating via Zoom Teleconferencing: Chair Brendan Deso, Vice Chair Jessica Frost, Erin Creley, Jonathan Giroux, Director of Operations Corey Parent, Director of Public Works Alan Mashtare, Parks/Facilities Manager John Montagne, Town Clerk Anna Bourdon, and Recording Secretary Jenn Gray.

Public Participation via Zoom Teleconferencing: Franklin County Sheriff Roger Langevin, Franklin County Sheriff Sargent Paul Morits, Bryan DesLauriers, Amanda Giroux, Nick Beal from UVM, and Jackie Brown.

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

Public Informational Hearing

A. Bourdon stated that as of 2:30 p.m. today, we had received 1,406 ballots, about 31% of the ballots mailed.

MOTION: S. Dukas made a motion to open the public informational hearing and read the official warning. Seconded by E. Creley. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

C. Johnson read the warning for the Town of St. Albans Annual Meeting for March 2nd, 2021. She then went through the officer positions on Article one and the budget on Article two. Before the Board took questions, S. Dukas reminded everyone of the rules of Public Comment on any topic.

C. Johnson read Article 3 which asked the voters to authorize the Selectboard to use up to \$250,000 of prior year general fund balance to reduce taxes for fiscal year 2022.

C. Johnson read Article 4. This article asked voters to authorize the construction of a new Town Hall to be located near 576 Georgia Shore Road in an amount not to exceed \$4,500,000 using Infrastructure Development funds (Local Option Tax Funds), impact fees and to be financed by a loan pursuant to 24 V.S.A. 1786a in an amount not to exceed \$2,500,000 for a term not to exceed 15 years.

There were no questions on any articles.

MOTION: E. Creley made a motion to adjourn the public informational hearing. Seconded by J. Frost. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

General Warrant

B. Deso took this opportunity to thank S. Dukas for the great job he has done when going over the general warrant during Selectboard meetings.

MOTION: S. Dukas made a motion to approve the general warrant dated March 1st, 2021 in the amount of \$38,513.20. Seconded by J. Giroux. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Payroll

MOTION: S. Dukas made a motion to approve the payroll warrant for February 19th, 2021 in the amount of \$18,033.24 and February 26th, 2021 in the amount of \$34,237.50. Seconded by J. Giroux. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Industrial Park Warrant

MOTION: S. Dukas made a motion to approve the Industrial Park warrant dated March 1st, 2021 in the amount of \$3,391.43. Seconded by E. Creley. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Infrastructure Development Warrant

MOTION: S. Dukas made a motion to approve the Infrastructure Development warrant dated March 1st, 2021 in the amount of \$19,875.47. Seconded by J. Giroux. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Stone House Account Warrant

MOTION: S. Dukas made a motion to approve the Stone House account warrant dated March 1st, 2021 in the amount of \$1,987.96. 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 Wednesday, February 17th, 2021 as presented. Seconded by E. Creley. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Public Comment

None.

Liquor Control Board

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

S. Dukas read the annual renewals list to the Board.

American Legion: First Class, Third Class, and outside consumption.

Mill River Brewing: First Class, Third Class, and outside consumption.

Bayside Pavilion: First Class, Third Class, and outside consumption.

MOTION: S. Dukas made a motion to approve the First Class, Third Class, and outdoor consumption liquor license renewals as presented. Seconded by J. Giroux. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

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

Town Manager's Report

Annual Board Appointments – Development Review Board (DRB) & Planning Commission

C. Johnson pointed out that we are down two DRB members and we need to begin looking to fill those seats. Anyone interested should send a letter of interest to Carrie Johnson. J. Frost stated that the Parks and Recreation Committee is open to new members as well and would like to have that added to the flyer the Board was provided listing all the volunteer opportunities.

Annual Financial Plan – Town Highway

C. Johnson explained the Annual Financial Plan is a document stating we certify spending at least \$300 a mile for winter road maintenance.

MOTION: J. Giroux made a motion to approve the Annual Financial Plan as presented. Seconded by E. Creley. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Parks Ordinance Update

C. Johnson would like to postpone this discussion until the next meeting to discuss more details and asked the Board if they had any questions on the information that was provided to them. She explained that VLCT provided some general information on a policy versus an ordinance is handled. We haven't ever cited anyone for parks violations, unless it was an animal control issue and that has its own Ordinance. C. Johnson stated that she is leaning toward making this a policy.

E. Creley asked if there would be a way, whether it be an ordinance or policy that we make a summary available to the public? Maybe create a list of bullet points for people to read before visiting the parks? C. Parent stated that all of our ordinances and policies will be on the new website as a PDF. E. Creley asked if these documents will be readable for folks who have vision impairments? C. Parent stated that the new website will be ADA compliant, so there should be a tool in there to read the content to a person with visual impairments. C. Johnson asked if there is any feedback on the changes already provided to the Board, she asked that they let her know of suggestions by March 11th, 2021.

B. Deso stated that certain things should live in a policy for the parks and certain things should remain in an ordinance. He believed that they could co-exist and wonder if that was possible and if other towns did that. B. Deso went on to say that he would like the authority to fine people and an ordinance seems to be the only vehicle to allow us to do that. However, he would also like the flexibility of a policy, to be able to make changes easily as we grow. C. Johnson stated that if the Board wants both, she needs suggestions by next Friday, March 12th or earlier for a discussion at the March 15th meeting.

J. Montagne explained there have been some issues of public urination and drunkenness. He didn't know how the Board wanted to handle those issues other than to call the police. There have been other instances where people interject themselves into other peoples' space when they are trying to have a good time. J. Montagne would like to have the authority to ask those people to leave. R.

Langevin stated you can ticket someone for public urination already. C. Johnson stated that in most cases we don't issue a ticket. She asked both Sheriff Langevin and Sargent Paul Morits if we could issue a ticket for public urination in our parks? Sheriff Langevin stated if you have a municipal violation like public urination, he believed it could be a state violation. Sargent Morits stated that you may have to have it as a town ordinance for the Sheriff's Office to issue a ticket.

B. Deso suggested that we go through and see what we have the ability to ticket for now and then he will run that by Sheriff Langevin and Sargent Morits to see if it needs to live in an ordinance.

E. Creley suggested if there are certain things that are prohibited in our parks, maybe giving our staff and law enforcement some teeth behind it, whether it's a legal statute or a municipal one.

Honor Wall Committee Update

C. Johnson explained this committee needs a representative from the Selectboard. This committee could start meeting in April. B. Deso volunteered to be the Selectboard representation. Fire Chief Bob Cross is working on a member of the fire department. The committee needs two members of the public as well.

COVID-19 Update

C. Johnson explained Town Hall continues to be open by appointment only. There is great information on the Department of Health website. E. Creley explained that Collins Perley is being used to administer vaccinations, but due to Town Meeting Day on Tuesday, the vaccinations will be administered at SATEC. E. Creley went on to say that Missisquoi Valley Rescue is offering evening COVID-19 testing from 4pm to 9pm. No appointment necessary.

Application for Certificate of Public Good – BCAF GLC Solar, LLC (Green Lantern Solar)

Informational only, no action required.

Town Hall Update

C. Johnson explained that the Town closed on a parcel of land February 26th, 2021, land purchased from Jackie Brown that we hope to build a new town hall on this summer in the Bay. C. Johnson went on to say that the last of the geotechnical testing was completed today. The land was classified as Class D where previously it was classified as Class E.

Schedule

The next regular Selectboard meetings are Monday, March 15th and Monday, April 5th at 6:30 p.m. Town Meeting Day is Tuesday, March 2nd. Polls open from 7am to 7pm.

Chair's Report

B. Deso thanked S. Dukas for everything he's done for the Town. He has been a Board member for 6 years. B. Deso went on to say that he is grateful that S. Dukas will be on the Town Hall Building Committee. A. Bourdon stated that the Governor appointed S. Dukas as a Justice of the Peace. B. Deso asked if S. Dukas would be the Town Agent as well and S. Dukas agreed.

Other Business

None.

Executive Session

MOTION: E. Creley made a motion to go into executive session at 7:16 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 the Town Manager, the Director of Operations, and incoming Selectboard member Bryan DesLauriers. Seconded by J. Frost. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

MOTION: J. Giroux made a motion to come out of executive session at 8:35 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 8:36 p.m. Seconded by J. Giroux. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Jenn Gray, Recording Secretary