

**SELECTBOARD MEETING  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2003  
7:00 PM – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A regular meeting of the St. Johnsbury Board of Selectmen was held Monday December 8, 2003. Chairman Gib Handy called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and led the attendants in the pledge of allegiance. Present were Mr. Handy, Dale Urie, Bryon Quatrini, Elwin Cross and Reginald Wakeham. Also present from the town were Town Manager Mike Welch, Police Chief Paul Devenger, Community Justice Center Coordinator Steve Watson and secretary Ida Rainville. Also present were Peter Silbermann, Steve Clark, Pam Smart, Don Welch, Greg MacDonald, Sam Silverman, Trevor Colby Bruce Corrette, and Principal Gessner of the Good Shepherd School.

Minutes from the November 25 tax auction and December 1 vicious dog hearing were approved as presented (Quatrini/Wakeham).

**VCDP Grant - NEKCA**

Don Welch distributed a cost estimate for renovations on the Cherry Street property for a proposed use of Parent/Child center, moving the center from its present Lincoln Street location. The original plan of transitional housing was dropped because of lack of continuous funding and some resistance felt by the community. The Parent/Child center is primarily for teen parents who need assistance in parenting skills, learning to be a good parent, and studying for a GED. It would be solely day programs, with no overnight accommodations. Proposed traffic is for 10 – 12 people, including staff, and will include only preschool children. NEKCA will still look for other sites to accommodate the transitional program. Gib Handy pointed out this still has to go through zoning and planning, and NEKCA people should talk to Joel Schwartz and Merike Petrich from NVDA to discuss how the grant should be administered before presenting the final plan to the Town.

**Community Justice Center Update**

Steve Watson discussed current programs being addressed by the Community Justice Center (CJC). The original program was one of two first established in the State, and managed by Dinah Yessne for the first two years. Steve is in the process of developing the original steering committee into an advisory board with broad areas of the community represented; adopt bylaws and develop memo of understanding with the Town so the CJC can respond to what the citizens expect and want from the Center. Steve has been working with neighborhood groups to address individual areas of town and their specific needs. The Depot Square area residents are working to clean up the area and take greater pride in their surroundings. The Main Street/Summer Street neighborhood is working to help the owners of the Hale Block on Main Street to clean up the area and close in the building until further renovations are possible. Parking issues are also being addressed by the Center in various areas of town. Steve is also working on an offender re-entry program as part of a larger federal grant to assist offenders coming out of jail in an effort to reduce recidivism. A public forum is to be held on January 27 on the subject of offender re-entry into the community.

**CSO Update – Peter Silbermann**

Mr. Silbermann reported that all designs have been completed and submitted to the State for approval, awaiting further approval from the Railroad. The design packet is ready to be distributed for bid. The engineering contract and grant applications have all been completed and submitted to the State and USDA, and easements are in place.

On the East St. Johnsbury project, the cost is coming in greater than anticipated because the legislature did not approve sufficient funds for project this year to cover the anticipated amount. The level of funding will be cut and the State and EPA need to know if the Town is willing to proceed with the possibility of a \$200,000 reduction in funding. That could mean an additional \$200,000 coming from the Town, but with the possibility of the State reimbursing the Town at a later date. The legislature may vote to fund these projects next year and the Town could recoup the extra expense. Also, the USDA has already put up \$300,000 with the idea that the State would provide \$400,000. USDA might be persuaded to make up the

shortfall. Also, if the Town decides to go forward with the project and other towns decided to postpone their projects, more funds could be freed up for the E. St. J. project. Many variables in funding with the worst-case scenario of \$7,000 to be repaid annually over a 30-year 0% loan to make up the maximum shortfall. Mr. Silbermann indicated he thought there would be a good response to requests for bids at this time because firms are trying to line up their work for the summer now. On a motion by Bryon Quatrini, seconded by Reg Wakeham, the Board voted unanimously to respond to the State with an indication that the Town is willing to go forward with the E. St. Johnsbury project at this time.

#### **Town Ordinance – Towing**

In an opinion drafted by Town Attorney Ed Zuccaro, it was stated that the State authorizes the Town to tow vehicles parked in violation of Town ordinance. Chief Devenger said there was not a problem with the \$100 fee since he had consulted with local towing services and had checked with a Lyndonville garage where there was space to store towed vehicles. On a motion by Dale Urie, seconded by Bryon Quatrini, the Board voted unanimously to authorize enactment of the towing ordinance effective January 1, 2004.

#### **Depot Square Parking Agreement**

There are currently 12 spaces reserved in the lower Pearl Street lot (behind Bank North and McDonalds) for Depot Square tenants. They are a result of a 5-year agreement with Mr. Berezin, leased at \$20.00 per space per year. This agreement expired in June 2002 and has not been renewed. Joel Schwartz is in negotiations with Mr. Berezin for a new parking agreement and needs requirements from the Board.

The Lyndon State College students are paying \$35/month for combined day and night parking for their apartments on Railroad Street, for certain spaces on the westerly side of the pearl street lot. There is no fee for parking on the lower Pearl Street lot during the day, and discussion centered on treating all tenants fairly for overnight parking downtown. On a motion by Bryon Quatrini, seconded by Elwin Cross, the Board voted unanimously to charge designated parking spaces for the Depot Square Apartments \$20 per month for night time parking. Bryon specified that all vehicles must be registered, inspected, and operable.

#### **Manager's Report**

Mike mentioned the Passumpsic View open house.

#### **Other Business**

Bruce Corrette requested that the Board indicate they will or will not accept the piece of land near the Passumpsic and Sleepers Rivers as a designated park area for the town. The land will be donated to the Town upon their acceptance, for the use of a park area only, but does not have to be developed as such now. On a motion by Dale Urie, seconded by Elwin Cross, the Board voted unanimously to authorize the Town Manager to accept the land on behalf of the Town for a park area, providing the Town is under no obligation to develop the land within any set period of time.

#### **Executive Session**

At 8:15, on a motion by Elwin Cross, seconded by Dale Urie, the Board voted unanimously to go into executive session to discuss a professional services contract, and invited Joel Schwartz to attend the meeting.

The Board adjourned with no further business transacted.

Respectfully,

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Ida W. Rainville, Recording Secretary