

**SELECTBOARD MEETING  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2003  
7:00 PM – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A regular meeting of the St. Johnsbury Selectboard was held Monday, February 10, 2003, at 7:00 PM in the boardroom of the municipal building. Present were Chairman Reg Wakeham, Elwin Cross, Bryon Quatrini, and Dale Urie. Present from the Town were Town Manager, Mike Welch, and Recording Secretary Ida Rainville. New Student Representative, Kim Allen was introduced. Gib Handy was excused from the meeting. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Wakeham, who led the assembly in the pledge of allegiance.

Also present were David Brown, Marlene Rock, Lieutenant Richard Leighton, Paula Hemmett and Hannah Smith, Paul Tomasi, Steven (Chauncy) Konieczny, Kim Achilles, and the news team from Channel 7.

Liquor Licenses approved and signed:

R. H. Hudson Sr., Inc., d/b/a/ The Dawg House Tavern (for the year 2002-2003)  
St. Johnsbury Community Food Co-op, d/b/a/ Kingdom County Market (for the year 2003-2004)

The minutes of the meetings of January 20 and January 27, 2003, were unanimously approved, on a motion by Bryon Quatrini, seconded by Elwin Cross.

**Recycling St. J. – Paula Hemmett**

Paula Hemmett and Hannah Smith represented the School Ecology Club and discussed the program they have started in the schools. The Ecology Club has reached an agreement with WSI of Vermont to have free recycling of material gathered at the school. Chauncy Konieczny pointed out that this also extends to St. Johnsbury Academy. The Ecology Club has been working to encourage recycling throughout the town, and had a box full of materials to question if they could be recycled. A new flyer will be published with corrections on recyclable materials.

**Health Report – NEP**

Mike Welch reported on the letter received from Vermont Cares on the Needle Exchange Program. A previous letter from the Vermont Dept. of Health, Dr. Jan Carney, had indicated the State Department of Health supported all the provisions requested by the Selectboard, including a one-for-one exchange program. The letter from VT Cares suggested they need clarification on some points, and that they intended to re-open the clinic to new patients. On a motion by Bryon Quatrini, seconded by Dale Urie, the Board voted unanimously to authorize Town Manager Mike Welch to write a letter to the Vermont Department of Health and VT Cares, specifying the Board does not feel the program should be opened up to new patients until all points have been clarified between the Department of Health, VT Cares, and the Selectboard.

**Public Comment – Charter Amendment**

Mike Welch explained the proposed charter amendment as it will appear on the ballot. If voted in favor, it will effectively eliminate all voting at Monday night's town meeting, putting all questions on the Australian ballot voting, effective 2004.

David Brown commented extensively on keeping the financial votes as is, at town meeting. Mr. Brown had looked into previous years' voting records, showing an average 4500 voters on the checklist for the last 10 years, with approximately 10% of those voters attending town meeting. During the same period an average of 25% voted Australian Ballot. But the point made by Mr. Brown was that, with Australian ballot, there is no way to adjust or amend any part of the vote. With a yes/no vote the budget would be approved or not, just as it stands. Historically, a high percentage of special appropriations were passed, when a reduced amount may have been preferred. Plus, tradition has always been for decisions to be made at town meeting.

The general opinion of the Board was that the Town should stay with town meeting for voting the town and school budgets. Each of the board members spoke individually against the charter amendment. Chairman

Wakeham also pointed out the added expense if budgets were defeated, causing more votes to approve said budget.

It was also noted that the wording of the article may be confusing. The wording and positioning of the article on the ballot will be reviewed at the next Selectboard meeting, with an enlarged example to be shown on TV. Mike Welch said he would also invite local legislatures to the next Selectboard meeting.

**Summary of Goals**

Mr. Welch had distributed the current summary of goals for 2002, and asked that the Selectboard add their points of view to be prepared to discuss at the next two Selectboard meetings.

**Manager's Report**

Mr. Welch distributed a draft of the design review workbook that will be discussed at the February 19 public hearing. There will also be a separate property owners informational meeting on February 12. Mr. Welch reported that the School will not be asking the voters to vote on the use of funds derived from the sale of the schools. He also outlined the school mentoring program for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders, sponsored by the NEK Youth Services, Susan Ohlidal director. Kim Allen asked if this mentoring program could involve high school students. This particular program asks for adult mentors, but there could be other opportunities for students to get involved. Also, reminder to the Selectboard of open house on February 21 at Maple Grove, with the Board invited.

After asking if there was any further business, the board voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:45 (Quatrini/Urie).

Respectfully submitted \_\_\_\_\_, Ida W. Rainville, Executive Secretary