

Minutes
Town of St. Johnsbury
Board of Selectmen Meeting
Monday, January 6, 2003

The Town of St. Johnsbury Board of Selectmen scheduled a SelectBoard Meeting for Monday, January 6, 2003 beginning at 7:00p.m. in the Board Room of the Municipal Building.

SelectBoard Members Present: Chairperson Reginald Wakeham, Elwin Cross, Bryon Quatrini, Dale Urie, and Student Representative Shawna Wakeham.

SelectBoard Members Absent/Excused: Gib Handy

Others Present: Economic Development Director Joel Schwartz, Fire Chief Troy Ruggles, Michelle Authier, Chad Hickey, Kim Achilles (Caledonian Record), and Town Manager Mike Welch.

- 1) **Minutes** – The Manager stated that he has not completed Minutes from previous meetings, and he would prepare them for consideration by the Board at the next meeting.
- 2) **Springfield College Survey Results** – Michelle Authier made a presentation to the Board of Selectmen on the results of a survey conducted by one of her Springfield College classes. The survey focused on how St. Johnsbury residents feel about offenders living in the community. Michelle stated that a random sampling of 100 residents was selected from the Town Voter registration list. The survey was developed by students – with input from St. Johnsbury Academy. Michelle said that the students conducted the telephone survey on a Saturday – and were very surprised that almost everyone contacted was willing to participate in the survey. Very few people refused. Michelle said that the students compiled the survey results into a formal report, and she presented the report to members of the Board. In addition students made several recommendations to the Town Corrections Advisory Committee (recommendations are included as a part of these Minutes). Copies of the survey results are available in the office of the Town Clerk. Michelle Authier stated that next semester she is going to have her class focus on another corrections issue in St. Johnsbury – and this survey may include discussions with offenders.
- 3) **GIS Presentation** – Joel Schwartz, Director of Economic Development, made a powerpoint presentation to the Board of Selectmen on the current status of the GIS program in St. Johnsbury. Joel said that he would also like to coordinate another fly-over of the Route 5 corridor and Main Street area of St. Johnsbury in order to pick up the number of building changes that have taken place in St. Johnsbury since the current aerial photographs were prepared. Joel said he is working with other institutions that may be interested in participating in the cost of an updated fly-over.

Joel demonstrated to the Board how the Town is using GIS technology on a daily basis. He informed the Board that a recent GIS Day held in the Board Room had about 100 people reviewing the technology and receiving a print of their property. Joel praised the work that Peter Whitney has done in terms of making use of the GIS technology, accessing and maintaining data bases, and assisting others in the use of the software.

Joel informed the Board how he is now able to prepare a CD that will provide anyone interested in St. Johnsbury with detailed information on building sites, available buildings, permitting information, water/sewer, utility, property values, contact information, community economic data, and even samples of how a site plan could be developed for specific lots. This tool allows Joel to provide an interested developer with everything they could want to know about St. Johnsbury on a CD.

Website – Joel also reviewed the Town’s Website with the Board. Joel pointed out that Peter has done an exceptional job maintaining the Website. The Town’s Website – located at www.town.st-johnsbury.vt.us, has information on current events, property, zoning by-laws, the annual report, the town charter, municipal offices, and links to others areas of interest and information in St. Johnsbury. Joel encouraged members of the Board to continue to support the GIS technology and the support personnel required to keep the information up-to-date.

- 4) **2003 Municipal Budget Presentation** – Joel Schwartz reviewed the proposed Economic Development Budget for 2003 with the members of the Board. Joel stated that \$10,000 has been committed from his budget to provide the matching funds required for the Downtown Director. Joel said part-time personnel costs for Peter have been included in his budget – but this service is actually used by most of Town government. Joel reviewed some of the projects that he is currently working on with members of the Board.
- 5) **Manager’s Report** – The Manager stated that the Town has been awarded Vermont Community Development Grants for the Downtown Director position, and also for Accessibility Construction at the Athenaeum. The Manager informed the Board that the Design Review Board is recommending that the Design Review District be extended to include Railroad Street (from Federal Street to Concord Avenue) Sand Hill to Main Street, and Maple Street. Bryon Quatrini stated that before the Design Control District is extended he would like to hear from property owners that will be effected within the proposed District. The Manager reviewed the schedule of Budget Hearings for the benefit of the Board and the public. The Manager stated that there are two public hearings scheduled to discuss the petitioned amendment to the Town Charter relative to Australian Ballot voting for budget and public questions. These hearings will be held on Saturday, February 1st at 10:00a.m., and Tuesday, February 4th, at 7:00p.m. in the Board Room of the Municipal Building. The Manager pointed out correspondence received relative to Act 60, and the proposed overhanging signs. It was suggested that we schedule a meeting with our legislative delegation to discuss

legislative issues. The Manager informed the Board that Joel has scheduled a public hearing on a VCDP Application for Wednesday, January 22, 2003 beginning at 4:00p.m. in the Board Room of the Municipal Building. The Manager reminded the Board that the Annual Town Caucus will be held on Wednesday, January 8, 2003 beginning at 7:00p.m. in the former Adams School (Lively Center).

Moose River Drive – the Manager confirmed that the New Beginnings Church has no objection to the name of Moose River Drive (for former Townhouse Terrace). It was moved by Bryon Quatrini, seconded by Elwin Cross, and unanimously voted to approve the change in street name from Townhouse Terrace to Moose River Drive.

Executive Session – It was moved by Bryon Quatrini, seconded by Dale Urie and unanimously voted to enter into Executive Session to discuss contracts where premature general public knowledge could place the municipality at a substantial disadvantage. The Board entered Executive Session at approximately 8:30p.m.

It was moved by Bryon Quatrini, seconded by Elwin Cross, and voted to return to regular session at approximately 8:57p.m.

It was moved by Elwin Cross seconded by Dale Urie, and unanimously voted to adjourn at approximately 8:59p.m.

Respectfully submitted;

Michael A. Welch
Town Manager