

Minutes
St. Johnsbury SelectBoard
Monday, September 8, 2008

The St. Johnsbury SelectBoard held their regular meeting on Monday, September 8, 2008 beginning at 7p.m. in the Board Room of the Municipal Building.

SelectBoard Members Present: Chairperson Bryon Quatrini, Daniel Kimbell, Gary Reis, Jim Rust, and Jean Hall Wheeler.

Others Present: Jon and Diane Beck, Sandy Grenier, LSCTV, KATV, Joe Fox, Lew Apgar, Pat Mayhew, Jim Baker, Joel Schwartz, Taylor Reed, and Mike Welch.

Chairperson Quatrini called the meeting to order, with the Pledge, at approximately 7:00p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT – No Comment

MINUTES - It was moved by Daniel Kimbell, seconded by Gary Reis, and voted (5-0) to approve the Minutes from the August 11, 2008 meeting as written.

SKATEBOARD PARK PROPOSAL – Recreation Director Joe Fox and property-owner Lew Apgar reviewed a proposal to construct a SkateBoard Park in the parking area behind Kingdom Outdoors on Railroad Street. Joe said that fundraising has begun, and a pledge of \$25,000 has been received from a donor. Joe introduced two students who will be working on the project Pat Mayhew and Jim Baker. Joe said that he has already met with the loss control specialist from the VLCT to discuss any issues from an insurance standpoint. Lew Apgar said that one of the important components in order to control access to the park is a fenced-in area. The Manager said that this location was initially identified by former Recreation Director Mike Johnson due to proximity to the downtown, easy access, visibility, and ability for the Police and Recreation Department staff to monitor. The Town had leased the land from the previous property-owner. Joe said that he would like to have the SelectBoard consider support for the Park and the location before more work is done. Following discussion, it was moved by Gary Reis, seconded by Daniel Kimbell and voted (5-0) to authorize the Town Manager to move forward with a lease arrangement for the Skateboard Park.

COMMUNITY CENTER ASSESSMENT - The Board reviewed the EH Danson proposal for the assessment of the community center. The bid is not to exceed \$18,440 plus incidental expenses. Daniel Kimbell asked if this study would look at the entire building. The Manager stated that it would. Following discussion, it was moved by Gary Reis, seconded by Jim Rust, and voted (4-0-1 Jean Hall Wheeler abstained) to approve a

contract for the Community Center Assessment with EH Danson in an amount not to exceed \$18,440 plus incidental expenses.

WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS – OVERCLIFF TANK CONTRACT – The Board reviewed the bid information for the Overcliff Tank. The Manager said that Dufresne Associates has performed their due diligence and has recommended that the SelectBoard award a contract to Statewide Aquastore, Inc., East Syracuse, NY, for the base bid amount of \$ 1,169,024. The Manager stated that at this time Dufresne Associates is not recommending that the Town award the cleaning and lining contract. The Manager said that Dan Scott, Dan Gray, and he will be meeting with Robert Dufresne this week to discuss revised budget estimates, bids received, and construction that can be completed within budgeted funds. Daniel Kimbell said that it is important that we be able to keep the voters informed about what will and will not be done within the water system improvement project of \$5,600,000 as the bond issued was based on completing certain projects. The Manager informed the board that the Town did not receive additional funding through the USDA national pool and the application will be resubmitted. Following discussion, it was moved by Daniel Kimbell, seconded by Gary Reis, and voted (5-0) to approve the issuance of a contract (2008-01) for the construction of the Overcliff Storage Tanks to Statewide Aquastore, Inc. for the base bid amount of \$1,169,024.

VLCT TOWN FAIR – DELEGATE APPOINTMENT – The VLCT Town Fair will be held on Thursday, October 2, 2008. The Manager said that unless a member of the Board is interested in attending the Town Fair, then he would recommend that Sandy P. Grenier be designated as the Board’s voting delegate for the Town Fair. Following discussion, it was moved by Jim Rust, seconded by Jean Hall Wheeler, and voted (5-0) to designate Sandy P. Grenier as the VLCT Town Fair Voting Delegate.

MUNICIPAL POLICY REVIEW – The Members of the Board reviewed the VLCT draft Municipal Policy. Following adoption at the Town Fair, the VLCT uses the Municipal Policy Document as a guide for taking positions on legislative proposals on behalf of Vermont Municipalities. Bryon Quatrini asked about the Overweight Truck proposal – the Manager said that is a part of the VLCT policy. Jim Rust asked about the deadline for returning comments to the VLCT. Sandy Grenier stated that comments supposed to be received at the League by Friday, September 19, 2008.

COMMUNITY SURVEY – NOVEMBER ELECTION - The Board reviewed the Community Survey that was prepared for the November 2004 election. The Manager said that the Planning Commission is going to prepare a draft of a new survey for November 2008. The Manager asked members of the Board to consider specific information they would like included in the survey. Members of the Board agreed to review the survey and offer any suggestions for survey questions.

COMMUNITY SAFETY & SEXUAL VIOLENCE FORUM - The Manager provided the Board with information relative to the Forum that is scheduled for Wednesday, September 17, 2008 beginning at 7p.m. in the St. Johnsbury School

Auditorium. The Manager said that members of the Planning Commission will be attending to hear any concerns of residents relative to current policies regarding the placement of sexual offenders in the community. Panelists will include: State Attorney's Office, Corrections Department, White Ribbon Campaign, Umbrella, and the Town Planning Commission. The Manager said that the Commission is trying to get more information regarding residency ordinances – like the ordinance recently passed in Barre City. Jim Rust asked for a copy of the Rutland City ordinance.

INTERSTATE WEIGHT LIMIT UPDATE – Chairperson Bryon Quatrini updated the Board relative to the Interstate Weight Limit group. Bryon said that members of the group met with local representatives from Senator Leahy's Office, Senator Sander's Office, and Representative Welch's Office in Montpelier. Bryon said that there was not a lot of support from the legislative delegation for a waiver in the federal weight restrictions. Bryon said that the VLCT will be sending a resolution around to all communities to ask them to consider taking action. Jim Rust recommended that the Town request that St. Johnsbury Academy update the capstone information that was prepared several years ago – so that folks can have a good visual presentation on the issues associated with these overweight vehicles on Western Avenue and Main Street. Bryon said that the group would continue to work on this issue.

WINTER PARKING BAN – The Manager provided information on the Winter Parking Ban. The Manager said last year members of the Board considered allowing some on-street parking during the winter. The current policy is that there is no on-street parking overnight in the winter, and there is no parking in municipal parking lots overnight – except along the wall on the North section of Pearl Street, and in the area designated for Depot Square in the Parking lot in back of Banknorth. The Manager said that currently individuals need to make winter arrangements with other property owners, park on lawns, or make arrangements with a church, bank, or other commercial establishment. Bryon Quatrini suggested that the Town may want to consider this for a small area of Town as a pilot to see how it would work. Joel Schwartz suggested that some areas use an odd/even system for parking on one side of the road or the other. The Manager said that when he contacted other communities about this issue several years ago – he did not get a positive response from any of the responding communities relative to allowing parking on-street in the winter. The Manager provided members of the Board with a quote from David Hawkins for solar-power lights. With installation, the solar-powered lights would cost over \$2,000 each. Bryon suggested that members of the Board consider this issue and we will have on the next agenda for further discussion.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

Jeanette Farmer – 457 Plan – The Manager advised that Board that retired employee Jeanette Farmer has requested the Town allow her to rollover her 457 plan into another approved plan. It was moved by Gary Reis, seconded by Daniel Kimbell, and voted (5-0) to approve Jeanette Farmer's request to transfer her 457 funds to another approved plan.

Umbrella Community Development Block Grant – The Manager requested that the SelectBoard authorize the Town Manager to sign a Program Management Agreement and an Administrative Agreement with Gilman Housing, Inc. relative to the Vermont Community Development Block Grant approved for the purchase of the 1867 building on Railroad Street.

Catamount Arts Grand Opening – The SelectBoard received a copy of the invitation to Catamount Arts Grand Opening on Saturday, October 4th from 6p.m. – 9p.m.

Elk's Club Reimbursement Request – The Manager provided the Board with a copy of a request from the Elk's Club to reimburse them for \$5,357.94 in work that they did on their Western Avenue property that they believe this is the Town's responsibility. The Manager said he had discussed this with Water Superintendent Dan Scott and Dan did not believe that this was the Town's responsibility. The Board agreed to refer this matter to the Water Grievance Committee and to invite Dan Scott and representative from the Elks to participate.

Parking Meters & Revenue – The Manager advised the Board that revenue and expenses for the Parking Meter fund were included in their packet. Meter Revenue and Parking Fines are in line with collection in 2007.

Household Hazardous Waste Day – Scheduled for Saturday, September 20th in the Main Street Municipal Parking Lot between 9a.m. and 1p.m.

Dual Poles – Per direction from the Board the Manager stated that Fairpoint Communication has confirmed that they have removed 154 dual poles in St. Johnsbury.

Fountain Repair – Linda Garey is starting a fund-raising initiative to repair the Fountain in Arnold Park. The estimate from DeAngelis Ironworks to repair the fountain is over \$50,000. Jim Rust stated that the Town should look into the proper maintenance of these Town Treasures to make sure that proper care is taken to preserve them.

Front Row Sports and Dawg House – The Manager stated that he had requested an update from the Police Department relative to any concerns or issues at the Dawg House or Front Row Sports Tavern over the past quarter. Police Chief Leighton reported that there were no concerns this period.

September 22nd SelectBoard Meeting – The next Regular SelectBoard meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 22, 2008.

Joint Meeting with DRB & Planning Commission – Was rescheduled for Wednesday, October 15th at 6:00p.m.

Expenditure Warrants: A majority of the members of the SelectBoard reviewed, approved, and signed expenditure warrants as follows:

General Fund	58554 – 58620	\$ 107,375.54
	58621 – 58685	\$ 440,081.06
	58686 – 58686	45.00
	58687 – 58763	\$ 151,996.46

NOTE: The Town of St. Johnsbury has started a new checking account for the General Fund Checking Account with Passumpsic Savings Bank, for all Checks beginning September 1, 2008. The last checked used through the Merchants Bank was check # 58763 – all remaining unused Checks from that Bank Account to be shredded. The beginning new Check Number for the Passumpsic Savings Bank is Check # 60000.

	60000 – 60027	\$ 40,477.70
	60028 – 60028	\$ 513.80
Grant Fund	2110 – 2118	\$ 71,020.12
	2119 – 2119	\$ 1,871.27
	2120 – 2123	\$ 682.32
	2124 – 2124	\$ 3,135.94

OTHER BUSINESS:

Primary Election – Town Clerk & Treasurer Sandy Grenier reminded everyone that the Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, September 9th. Polls will be open at the Lively Center from 10a.m. – 7p.m.

Fire Station Committee – Daniel Kimbell asked about scheduling another meeting of the Fire Station Committee. Following discussion, it was agreed to schedule a meeting for Thursday, September 25th beginning at 7a.m. in the Board Room.

Tax Bill – Sandy Grenier reminded everyone that Tax Bills will be going out this week. The due date for property taxes is November 21, 2008.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - It was moved by Gary Reis, seconded by Daniel Kimbell, and voted (5-0) to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a contract where premature general public knowledge would put the municipality at a substantial disadvantage. Joel Schwartz and Michael Welch were included in the Executive Session. The Board entered Executive Session at approximately 8:00p.m.

It was moved by Jean Hall Wheeler, seconded by Daniel Kimbell, and voted (5-0) to return to Regular Session at approximately 8:15p.m.

It was moved by Gary Reis, seconded by Daniel Kimbell, and voted (5-0) to adjourn at approximately 8:15p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael A. Welch, Town Manager