

**MINUTES  
ST. JOHNSBURY SLECTBOARD  
MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2009**

The St. Johnsbury SelectBoard held their Regular SelectBoard meeting on Monday, January 12, 2009 beginning at 7:00p.m. in the Board Room of the Municipal Building.

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

***Others Present:*** Priscilla Messier, Sandy Grenier, Stan Wilkins, Jon Beck, Diane Beck, Dinah Yessne, Greg MacDonald, Albert Dunn, Gary Lunderville, Bernie Timson, Taylor Reed, KATV-7, and Town Manager Mike Welch.

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – Chairperson Quatrini asked for public comment on any item that does not appear on the agenda. There were no public comments.

**MINUTES – JANUARY 5, 2009** - It was moved by Daniel Kimbell, seconded by Jim Rust, and voted (5-0) to approve the Minutes from the SelectBoard meeting held on January 5, 2009 as printed.

**COMMUNITY JUSTICE CENTER BUDGET REVIEW** – Dinah Yessne and Greg MacDonald were present to discuss the Community Justice Center Budget with the SelectBoard. Greg stated that since 2001 the Town had been participating in the CJC Budget by contributing \$4,000 toward staff expenses, in addition to providing office space. Dinah stated that in 2008 that \$4,000 commitment from the Town was taken out of the budget. Greg and Dinah said that for the current year 2009 they will be able to get through without the additional local commitment from the Town – however, they wanted the SelectBoard to know that this local contribution is an important part of their funding plan, and they hoped that the \$4,000 local commitment could be restored in 2010. Daniel Kimbell asked if the Center was seeing different types of cases. Greg and Dinah said the Justice Center is focusing more attention on St. Johnsbury issues. Dinah invited members of the SelectBoard to attend the Lincoln Street area neighborhood meeting on January 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00p.m. in the Lincoln Center (former Lincoln Street School).

**ANCIENT ROADS** - Priscilla Messier, Zoning Administrator, reviewed the status of the Ancient Road process with the SelectBoard. Priscilla said that a committee, chaired by Jim Rust, spent time reviewing ancient roads in the Community. Priscilla said that Peter Whitney has been a tremendous help with the process in terms of printing maps and providing information. Priscilla said that there are three areas of specific action:

Easterly end of Prospect Street – Maintain Town Ownership

Old Class IV Road across land of Frank Lawrence off from Crow Hill Road –  
Discontinue

Old Bradley Road – portion of unconstructed roadway in vicinity of Alan Langmaid –  
Discontinue

Priscilla said that the committee investigated many other potential ancient roads – and has not identified other specific areas for action. Priscilla said that the SelectBoard should schedule a public hearing to consider action on a mass discontinuance of ancient roads that are not specifically identified for retention. Priscilla recommended that the Board schedule a public hearing on this matter for February 16, 2009.

Following discussion it was moved by Gary Reis, seconded by Jean Hall Wheeler, and voted (5-0) to schedule a public hearing for Monday, February 16, 2009 to consider mass discontinuance of ancient roads not specifically maintained for a public purpose.

**WELCOME CENTER AGREEMENT** – The Manager stated that the Welcome Center Advisory Board has revised the draft Welcome Center Agreement to include those items addressed by the SelectBoard. The Manager said that he met with Nat Tripp, Chair of Advisory Committee, and Town Attorney Edward Zuccaro to review the draft. Ed Zuccaro is preparing some comments. The Manager said that a facility use policy is also being modeled on the VLCT draft facility rental policy. It was moved by Gary Reis, seconded by Jim Rust, and voted (5-0) to table action on this item until comments are received from the Town Attorney.

**2009 MUNICIPAL BUDGET** – The Manager provided updated summaries of the Municipal General Fund, Highway Fund, Special Service Fund, Parking Fund, and Recreation Fund budgets. The Manager stated that he had increased the County Tax estimate to \$59,200 from \$57,000 following confirmation of the amount from Associate Justice Roy Vance. Expenditure Budgets and Property Tax requirements are as follows:

	<u>Expense Budget</u> <u>Approved 2008</u>	<u>Expense Budget</u> <u>Proposed 2009</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>%</u>
General Fund	\$2,333,598	\$2,387,220	\$53,622	2.2%
Highway Fund	\$1,997,565	\$2,084,545	\$86,980	4.35%
Special Services	\$1,054,600	\$1,076,480	\$21,880	2.07%

The estimated Property Taxes required to fully fund these proposed budgets are:

	<u>Approved 2008</u>	<u>Estimated 2009</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>%</u>
General Fund	\$1,826,513	\$1,810,120	(\$ 16,393)	(0.9%)
Voted Appropriations				
Estimated	\$ 340,752	\$ 328,000	(\$ 12,752)	(3.745)
Highway Fund	\$1,749,420	\$1,850,545	\$101,125	5.6%
<b>Town Tax Est.</b>	<b>\$3,916,685</b>	<b>\$3,988,665</b>	<b>\$ 71,980</b>	<b>1.83%</b>
Special Services (SS)	\$ 991,532	\$1,022,280	\$ 30,748	3.1%
<b>Town &amp; SS Tax Est.</b>	<b>\$4,908,217</b>	<b>\$5,010,945</b>	<b>\$ 102,728</b>	<b>2.09%</b>

The Manager informed the Board that Sandra Grenier and Linda Bunnell had closed the books for 2008 on January 12, 2009 – and that subject to final audit approval – the Board could review recommendations on Fund Balances and Reserves at their next meeting scheduled for January 19<sup>th</sup>.

**WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT PROJECT** – The Manager informed the Board that he continues to work with Robert Dufresne, USDA, and Paul Giuliani to finalize wording and financial impacts for a proposed Water System Improvement Bond for consideration by the voters at Town Meeting and Town Meeting Australian Ballot voting. The Manager stated that he would be meeting with Robert Dufresne on Wed. 1/13 to coordinate financial projections. The Manager stated that he planned to have firm proposals for consideration by the SelectBoard at their meeting scheduled for Monday, January 19, 2009.

**MANAGER’S REPORT:**

***Community Advisory Board*** – The Manager reported that Alan Aiken from BAART stated that he would now be unable to attend a CAB meeting scheduled for Tuesday 1/13/09. The Manager said he planned to hold the meeting with the CAB to advise them of the BAART proposal. SelectBoard members were encouraged to attend the Development Review Board meeting scheduled for Tuesday, January 20<sup>th</sup> at 7p.m. if they have questions relative to the proposed BAART Treatment Facility on Portland Street.

***William Merrow*** – SelectBoard members reviewed, approved, and signed a letter of appreciation to William Merrow for his many years of service on the Planning Commission.

**Expenditure Warrants:** The following expenditure warrants were reviewed, approved and signed by the members of the SelectBoard:

General Fund	60869 – 60869	\$310.21
	60870 – 60933	\$379,037.11
	60978 – 61028	\$34,730.88
Grant Fund	2150 – 2151	\$2,241.06
	2153 – 2158	\$210,490.01

**Grand List Amendments:** Members of the Board reviewed, approved, and signed Grand List Amendments #08-26A, and #08-28.

**Interstate Weight Limits:** VLCT provided an updated list of the 45 Vermont Communities that have approved the Interstate Weight Limit Resolution. Chairperson Quatrini requested that the list of communities be forwarded to the members of the Interstate Weight Limit subcommittee.

**St. Johnsbury Center Sidewalk Plowing** – The Manager provided the board with an e-mail correspondence from the VTRANS District Office indicating that they would not be responsible for plowing sidewalks. SelectBoard Member Jim Rust stated that in the event that the Town does move forward with construction of a sidewalk in St. Johnsbury Center – then maintenance costs associated with plowing the sidewalk need to be considered.

**Town Report** – Sandy P. Grenier stated that the newsprint edition of the Town report will be inserted in the Caledonian-Record on February 21, 2009. Sandy Grenier said that the Town Office will be printing the remaining 100-200 Town Reports in-house to reduce printing costs.

### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

**Recreation Facility** – Albert Dunn said that he has been working with Bernier Mayo, who is willing to coordinate a fund-raising effort to raise \$3 million to construct a new Recreational Center. Al Dunn said that if the Town is still considering the Rossi site for a Fire Station – then that makes it impossible for a new Recreation Center to be constructed there. Daniel Kimbell recommended that if a fund-raising effort is successful for a new Recreational Center, then there is plenty of room on the Rossi site to accommodate multiple uses. Al Dunn said that there is also a need for recreational fields and these could be sited at the Rossi land as well. Al Dunn asked about money budgeted in the Capital Plan for the Community Center. The Manager, and members of the SelectBoard, stated that the Capital Plan is just a “plan” – and there is still a process that the SelectBoard and the residents of St. Johnsbury will need to go through before municipal funds are allocated for improvements to the Community Center.

**Next Meeting** – The Next Meeting of the St. Johnsbury SelectBoard is scheduled for Monday, January 19, 2009 beginning at 7:00p.m. in the Board Room of the Municipal Building.

Having no further business or requests, it was moved by Gary Reis, seconded by Jean Hall Wheeler, and voted (5-0) to adjourn at approximately 7:45p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael A. Welch  
Town Manager