

**MINUTES
ST. JOHNSBURY SELECTBOARD
SPECIAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2009**

The St. Johnsbury SelectBoard held a Special SelectBoard Meeting on Wednesday, April 1, 2009 beginning at 5:30p.m. in the Board Room of the Municipal Building.

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

SelectBoard Member Excused: Gary Reis

Others Present: Albert Dunn, Kevin Oddy, Anne Cosgrove, Taylor Reed, Gary Lunderville, Stuart Gladding, Kurt Borgstrom, Joel Schwartz, and Mike Welch.

The Meeting was called to Order with the Pledge by Chairperson Daniel Kimbell at approximately 5:30p.m.

DISCUSSION – PROPOSED CLOSING OF THE NE REGIONAL CORRECTIONAL FACILITY - The Manager provided the Board with some information relative to the proposed closing of the NE Regional Correctional Facility. Board members discussed the impact on the community in terms of law enforcement, and loss of employment. Following discussion, it was moved by Bryon Quatrini, seconded by Jean Hall Wheeler, and voted (4-0) to adopt the following Resolution:

**RESOLUTION RELATED TO THE PROPOSED CLOSING OF THE
NORTHEAST REGIONAL CORRECTIONAL FACILITY
ST. JOHNSBURY, VERMONT**

Whereas, the St. Johnsbury SelectBoard and the residents of the Town of St. Johnsbury supported the construction of the Northeast Regional Correctional Facility in the Town of St. Johnsbury, and;

Whereas, the primary community benefits resulting from the construction of the Northeast Regional Correctional Facility has been good paying jobs, with benefits, for many people in the Northeast Kingdom, and;

Whereas, the people of St. Johnsbury are experiencing severe hardship as a result of the dramatic downturn in the local, state, and national economy, and;

Whereas, a major employer in St. Johnsbury, Lydall, Inc. is in the process of conducting a mass layoff and eventual plant closing that will mean the layoff of 207 Lydall employees in St. Johnsbury, and;

Whereas, in recent months there have been numerous small businesses in St. Johnsbury that have been forced to layoff employees, reduce operations, relocate, or go completely out of business, and;

Whereas, the proposed closing of the Northeast Regional Correctional Facility will put at least 80 more employees out of work. These people are our friends and our neighbors. They will each be faced with loss of income, minimal opportunity for comparable employment, financial hardship, and all of the emotional impacts of unemployment, and;

Whereas, the proposed closing of the Northeast Kingdom Regional Correctional Facility will result in additional costs for law enforcement transportation; will remove police officers from their assigned patrol areas to transport detainees; and will result in a ripple effect of negative impacts that will extend throughout the entire community, and the Northeast Kingdom.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That, we, the undersigned members of the St. Johnsbury SelectBoard do hereby affirm that we are strongly opposed to the announced closing of the Northeast Regional Correctional Facility. We call upon Governor James Douglas, Secretary Robert Hoffman, the members of our State Legislative Delegation, and all of the members of the Vermont State Legislature to develop a State Budget Plan that will maintain the operation of the Northeast Regional Correctional Facility.

LABOR RELATIONS AGREEMENTS WITH EMPLOYEES: Chairperson Daniel Kimbell and Town Manager Welch reviewed the proposed terms of Two Year Labor Agreements with the Public Works and Police Bargaining Units of AFSCME. The proposed terms of the agreements are as follows:

HEALTH INSURANCE – Effective 1/1/09 Year 1 – Employee pays 12%
Effective 1/1/10 Year 2 – Employee pays 14%

WAGES – Effective 1/1/09 – 2.5%
Effective 1/1/10 – 2.5%

PENSION SIDE LETTER – Agree to investigate VMERS. Agree that employees will have to contribute to VMERS Plan. No individual contribution to current Pension Plan.

ELIMINATE SUNSET FOR AGENCY FEE.

DPW VACATION CORRECTION & VACATION CALCULATION AT ANNIVERSARY DATE.

HEALTH CHANGE IN PLAN – Agreed on process for change in Health Care Plan.

DPW – Footwear allowance from \$100 to \$150 per year

POLICE – Add Class B – Shirts and Pants for Summer

VMERS – All employees hired after 1/1/2010 will be enrolled in VMERS Plan B (DPW) and Plan C (Police) at statutory recommended contribution levels.

HEALTH INSURANCE – All employees hired after 1/1/2010 will participate in Vermont Freedom Plan health insurance with a \$500 deductible, and 20% Employee contribution.

TERM - 2 Year Contract – Expires 12/31/2010

Following discussion, it was moved by Bryon Quatrini, seconded by Jim Rust, and voted (4-0) to approve the proposed Labor Relations Agreements for two years with Public Works and AFSCME Bargaining Units, subject to final ratification by the Public Works Bargaining Unit.

OTHER BUSINESS:

POLICE GRANT – The Manager informed the Board that the St. Johnsbury Police Department will be submitting an application for funding for equipment related to drug enforcement. This will include the upgrading of video equipment in the police cruisers. The Grant is a set aside for the Town of St. Johnsbury subject to submission of an application outlining how the funds will be expended. The total amount set aside is approximately \$27,000. Following discussion, it was moved by Jim Rust, seconded by Jean Hall Wheeler, and voted (4-0) to authorize submission of the application for police equipment subject to a final list of actual equipment request being submitted to the SelectBoard.

ACTING TOWN MANAGER – Daniel Kimbell requested that due to the absence of Town Manager Mike Welch for the period of April 3rd – April 20th – that Joel Schwartz be appointed as Acting Town Manager during the Manager's absence. It was moved by Bryon Quatrini, seconded by Jean Hall Wheeler, and voted (4-0) to appoint Joel Schwartz as the acting Town Manager during the Manager's absence.

It was moved by Jean Hall Wheeler, seconded by Bryon Quatrini, and voted to adjourn at approximately 6:00p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael A. Welch
Town Manager