

**MINUTES
ST. JOHNSBURY SELECTBOARD
MONDAY, MAY 11, 2009**

The Members of the St. Johnsbury SelectBoard held their regularly scheduled SelectBoard meeting on Monday, May 11, 2009 beginning at 7:00p.m. in the Board Room of the Municipal Building.

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

Others Present: Bernie Timson, Peter Murphy, Troy Ruggles, Robert Dufresne, Albert Dunn, Len Hychalk, Jon and Diane Beck, Dinah Yessne, KATV, and Mike Welch.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT – Breezy Hill Road – Len Hychalk told the SelectBoard that he did not understand the procedure for prioritizing roads for paving. The Manager stated that several items are taken into account including condition, funding sources, classification, and utility issues. Mr. Hychalk said that Breezy Hill Road is in worse condition than Old Center Road and that road was paved. Bryon Quatrini recommended that the Board schedule a site visit at Breezy Hill Road.

MINUTES – APRIL 27, 2009 – It was moved by Gary Reis, seconded by Jean Hall Wheeler, and unanimously voted (5-0) to approve the Minutes from the April 27, 2009 SelectBoard meeting as presented.

TOWER TRUCK UPDATE/DISCUSSION – Fire Chief Troy Ruggles was present to review the status of the Tower Truck. The Chief informed the Board that he has reviewed several options related to the Tower Truck including: Replacement of the Engine with a New Engine (not feasible due to age of truck and engine design); Install a remanufactured diesel engine. The Chief said that this option would include removal of the cab to access the engine. He indicated that other problems may be created when trying to install the remanufactured engine. Cost of remanufactured engine is estimated at \$29,944. The third option was to rebuild the existing engine on the truck – the engine would not need to be removed. The Tower Truck could be back in service in about 2 weeks for a cost of approximately \$16,818.

The Chief informed the Board that even if the Town agreed to replace the Tower with a new vehicle today it would take close to a year to get the vehicle. Chief Ruggles said that the Town needs to have a Tower Truck in service. Bryon Quatrini asked about sharing a vehicle like this between communities. Chief Ruggles stated that if the unit is not located in St. Johnsbury the response time is too long. The Chief said that the Tower Truck is not a vehicle that you use every day – but when you need the vehicle you need it quickly. It is used for aerial rescue, and aerial fire suppression. Chief Ruggles stated that the Aerial

Truck has performed a major role for the Town in terms of preventing the spread of fire in downtown fire situations. Chief Ruggles said that the Town needs to move forward with planning for the replacement of the Tower Truck – and not wait until the original planned replacement date of 2013.

Chief Ruggles informed the Board that the Tower Truck will be worth much more as a trade-in if it is in operable condition. The Chief informed the Board that he has applied for grant funds for the replacement of the Tower Truck and that he has received support from our Congressman and Senators. The Chief said that we should receive a response back regarding the grant as early as July or a late as October.

Chief Ruggles recommend that the Board move forward with rebuilding the existing engine. The Chief pointed out that once the vehicle is returned with a rebuilt engine, there is still the potential that some other major component on the vehicle may fail. The Chief said that rebuilding the engine gets the truck back in service and improves the trade value. The Department would continue to explore replacement of the Tower Truck.

Jean Hall Wheeler asked about the cost of a new Tower Truck. Chief Ruggles stated that it would be approximately \$750,000.

Following discussion, it was moved by Gary Reis, seconded by Jean Hall Wheeler and unanimously voted to authorize the rebuilding of the Tower Truck engine at a cost of approximately \$16,818.

COMMUNITY JUSTICE CENTER SPACE – The Manager stated that the Board wanted to move forward with trying to find space for the Community Justice Center, outside of the old Armory Building. Based on the grant agreement with the State, we receive a grant in the amount of \$85,000 subject to a local match of \$21,500 – for the operation of the Justice Center. The local match has historically been the provision of office space, accounting, payables, and auditing services.

Joel Schwartz had provided the Board with some cost estimates for the renovation work remaining on the second floor of the Welcome Center. Based on the unit pricing that has already been bid on the Welcome Center – Joel estimated that if all the work was done by a private contractor the total cost would be approximately \$40,111. Joel's estimate if construction was performed by the Work Camp would be \$26,676. If the Board decided to close the old Armory, funds saved from utilities and repairs could be reallocated for renovation at the Welcome Center. It was recommended that the Town look into energy efficient modifications. The Manager stated that some of the grant funds accepted for the building require that the Town comply with standards for historic preservation. Following discussion, it was moved by Gary Reis, seconded by Bryon Quatrini, and voted 5-0 to price out all of the options for mothballing the old Armory, and look into renovating the remainder of the second floor of the Welcome Center for occupancy by the Community Justice Center.

TRAILS PROCESS – The Board has warned discontinuance hearings for Monday, June 8, 2009 beginning at 7:00p.m. in the Board Room. Chairperson Daniel Kimbell stated that he had asked for information on the process of preserving these old roads as trails. Edward Zuccaro, Town Attorney, provided the Board with the Vermont Statute citation that references the authority of the SelectBoard to designate roads proposed to be discontinued as trails. Gary Reis said that if private property owners have been taxed for these roads they should be reimbursed. Gary Reis asked about the Town liability if these roads are allowed to remain as trails. Peter Murphy said that he felt that the Town should not give up any rights that they may have on public ways. Bryon Quatrini asked about having to survey these roads if they remain as trails. The Manager stated that he would get some additional information from the Town Attorney.

LOAN RESOLUTION – The Manager explained that the Town is renewing a Grant Anticipation Note in the amount of \$343,173.15 at Community National Bank at a rate of 1.9%. The loan covers the cost of construction at the Welcome Center. The loan will be repaid by federal grants that have not been received. It was moved by Gary Reis, seconded by Jean Hall Wheeler, and voted (5-0) to approve and sign the Grant Anticipation Note and Resolution.

SET DATE TOWN MANAGER ANNUAL REVIEW – The Board agreed to schedule the Manager’s Annual review for Monday, June 8th at 5:00p.m. in the 2nd Floor Conference Room at Passumpsic Savings Bank, Main Street. The Board agreed to move the Regular Selectboard meeting to 6:00p.m. in the Board Room of the Municipal Building, to take care of any business before the Public Hearing for Discontinuance warned for 7:00p.m.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – Representative Gary Reis provided the Board with a legislative update. Gary Reis said that there will probably be 4 or 5 vetos by the Governor. Gary Reis stated that numerous taxes and fees were raised. Gary Reis said that stimulus funds were used to fund budget gaps. Gary Reis said that it is projected that the gap between revenues and expenses will be even greater going forward. Gary said that a bill was passed that requires Vermont Yankee to fully fund the decommissioning fund. Gary said that it is his projection that the Legislature will be back in session very soon.

MANAGER’S REPORT:

Stark District Road Pole Permit - Members of the Board reviewed, approved and signed a Pole Permit for Fairpoint for Stark District Road. Additional work to widen the road in this location may not be completed if a property owner does not sign off on the Fairpoint Pole Permits. Bryon Quatrini suggested that another meeting should be scheduled with neighbors to review this project.

Board of Civil Authority Training – Scheduled for 6:00p.m. on Tuesday, May 12th, with Paul Gillies and Charlie Merriman.

Schedule of Events – Enclosed in the Packet.

Citizen of the Year - Members of the SelectBoard expressed their congratulations to Richard Boera for his selection as the NEK Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year.

OTHER BUSINESS: Community Center Roof – Albert Dunn said that there is a leak in the roof at the Community Center, and he wanted to know what the Board was going to do about it.

EXPENDITURE WARRANTS - The members of the Board reviewed, approved, and signed expenditure warrants as follows:

General Fund	61735 – 61753	\$10,016.79
	61754 – 61754	\$ 100.00
	61755 – 61811	\$58,150.84
Grant Fund	2193 – 2195	\$11,128.50
Jay-Lyn Fun	103 – 103	\$ 62.50

EXECUTIVE SESSION – It was moved by Gary Reis, seconded by Bryon Quatrini, and voted (5-0) to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Real Estate Purchase Options, and Evaluation of a Public Officer or Employee. Consulting Engineer Robert Dufresne was included in the Executive Session. The Board entered Executive Session at approximately 8:05p.m.

It was moved by Gary Reis, seconded by Jean Hall Wheeler, and voted (5-0) to return to regular session at approximately 8:45p.m.

It was moved by Gary Reis, seconded by Bryon Quatrini, and voted to adjourn at approximately 8:45p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael A. Welch
Town Manager