

MINUTES
REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING
JUNE 28, 2010 – 6:00 PM
MUNICIPAL BOARD ROOM

ATTENDANCE: Chairman Jim Rust, Daniel Kimbell, Rodney Lamotte, Bryon Quatrini, Bernard Timson, and interim Town Manager James Fitzgerald.

Other in attendance: Larry Sharer, Brian Christman, Gary Lunderville, Sean Jewell, Dan Scott, Diane Beck, Jon Beck, Al Dunn, Martha Hanson, Nancy Cohen, Priscilla Messier, Ida Rainville, Peter Whitney, Laurie Stillwell, Jim Wurtele, Tim Persons, Mike Fortier, Steve Dolgin, Bob South, Jay Wood, Taylor Reed of the Caledonian Record, and the Channel 7 news team.

The following warrants were signed:

General Fund	Check #64534 – 64576	\$ 301,215.84
	Check #64577 – 64613	197,727.56
	Check #64614 – 64670	412,520.14
Grant Fund	Check #2263	\$1098.98
	Check #2264	\$ 250.00

The Meeting was called to order by Chairman Rust at 6:00 p.m.

Chairman Rust pointed out that, according to proper procedure, the Rules and Procedures as adopted by the Selectboard was posted at the meeting.

Public Comment – Prior to the meeting, Jim Rust read a letter from the USDA complimenting Linda Bunnell on the exceptional work she has done with USDA and surrounding towns to develop the record-keeping on the ARRA funds grants. There was no further public comment.

Minutes – Daniel Kimbell corrected a portion of the minutes of June 7, 2010, where they stated that he had presented a check “in excess of \$1,000” to Recreation Department, Mr. Kimbell said the actual check was for exactly \$1,000 from the Rib Run proceeds. On a motion by Rod Lamotte, seconded by Bernie Timson, the Board unanimously approved the minutes as revised.

Priscilla Messier pointed out that in the minutes of May 24, 2010, under public comment and other business, she felt it was important to include that the Board did not take action regarding the mass discontinuance of highways pursuant to 19VSA Sec 305(h). The Board had not warned this matter for a Public Hearing or made a decision on the mass discontinuance; therefore the unidentified corridors will be discontinued by state statute on July 1, 2015. On a motion by Daniel Kimbell, seconded by Bryon Quatrini, the Board

voted unanimously to approve the change to the minutes of May 24.

Street Signs – Priscilla Messier made note of the fact that two new signs indicating “no parking” have been erected – at Lafayette Street and the corner of Central and Main Streets. The Town Charter indicates prohibited parking areas are listed in the Town Clerk’s office, so any streets added to that list only need to be approved by the Selectboard, not change the charter. On a motion by Bryon Quatrini, seconded by Bernie Timson, the Board voted unanimously to accept the list of new postings.

Boiler Bids – Postponed until the Executive Session.

Veteran’s Exemption - Mr. Lertola was not present to present his request to increase the Veteran’s Exemption. However, the Board voted on a motion by Daniel Kimbell, seconded by Bryon Quatrini, to put the question to the voters at the November elections, as to whether or not the Town will raise the exemption from \$20,000 to \$40,000. Bob South indicated that the House Subcommittee had passed the State Bill onto the floor, but there was not enough time left in the legislature to take action.

EPA – Brownfield Grant – Laurie Stillwell - Laurie Stillwell from NVDA reviewed the Brownfield Grant that was approved for the Town of St. Johnsbury in the amount of \$200,000. Laurie indicated how the grant may be used to assist property owners in developing land that may have environmental issues. Laurie showed a chart of regional summary of grants that have been issued through NVDA for surrounding towns. St. Johnsbury is the first town in Vermont to have a grant issued independently. On a motion by Bryon Quatrini, seconded by Daniel Kimbell, the Board voted unanimously to approve the plan.

Salvage Yard - On a motion by Bryon Quatrini, seconded by Bernie Timson, the Board voted unanimously to approve a 3-year renewal of the Salvage Yard Permit for Vermont Salvage.

Public Works Dept. – Public Work Director Dan Scott reviewed on-going projects in the Town and indicated most summer activity is up to date or ahead of schedule. The Hastings Hill project is ahead of schedule and going well. His main question of the night was for direction on the consolidation of the Department, which has been put on the back burner for the time being.

Audit – Jim Rust reviewed some of the information on the Jay Lyn Fund and indicated the ultimate responsibility for the fund rests with the Town of St. Johnsbury, and the Board is committed to push for collections on outstanding loans.

Town Manager Job Description – Jim Rust reviewed the job description as proposed by Interim Town Manager Jim Fitzgerald. Mr. Rust indicated the Board may want to change some wording here and there, but basically the job description was nearly complete. Discussion centered around developing a search committee and who would be serving on

that committee. On a motion by Rod Lamotte, amended by Daniel Kimbell, and seconded by Bryon Quatrini, the Board voted to hire VLCT to assist with the search, asking the League to do everything but advertising. The Board felt that the advertising could be done at \$1,500, and the League would charge \$5,000 for the remainder of the work they do. General feeling was to employ some tax payers, someone from the Selectboard, and possibly an employee, to serve on the Search Committee. Bryon Quatrini made the motion to have one employee, one selectman, and five tax payers chosen purely at random from anyone who expresses a wish to serve on the committee. Mr. Quatrini later withdrew the motion. General consensus was that a 5-member committee would be preferred, the make up of which will be determined at a later date.

Town Manager's Report – Jim Fitzgerald reported that the underground tanks had been removed from the property at 1249 Main Street, former Armory building. The total bill from Calkins Construction was \$8,780.

Portland Street Bridge – Mr. Fitzgerald reported that an inspection of the Portland Street Bridge had indicated more work needed to be done to make the bridge safe; fortunately there are extra funds in the grant because the bid came in low.

Discontinuance of Highways – Priscilla Messier presented copies of maps for the official laying out of Webster Street, and for the south end of Spring Street and Autumn Street, off the south side of Central Street. Priscilla said the plan is to discontinue the spur off Central Street to Cliff, because part of Cliff Street is to be widened with a retaining wall. Priscilla said the project will require 90 easements in the south portion, and 126 easements on the north portion. Priscilla requested an extension of her full time hours until the end of July. Dan Scott suggested the funds to supplement the Zoning budget could come from the CSO project funding. Jim Rust said that should be discussed in executive session.

Downtown Designation – Jim Rust reported that he and Katrina Meigs would attend a meeting on the Downtown Designation plan July 26, and requested the Board to approve the application for renewal. In order to be submitted on time to be considered for the July 26 meeting, the application has to be in the mail by Thursday, July 1. On a motion by Daniel Kimbell and seconded by Bryon Quatrini, the Board voted unanimously to approve and sign the application.

Meals on Wheels – Diane Colburn, director of the St. Johnsbury Nutrition, Meals on Wheels program, made a special request to waive the petition requirements for the Meals on Wheels program, to be added back onto the ballot at the town meeting in 2011. General consensus was that the reason the appropriation was not approved in 2010 was because many people did not understand that the question was for Meals on Wheels from its description on the ballot. General feeling was to allow the waiver.

A letter from Tom Lovett in support of the gymnastics business proposed by Donna Reed led to a discussion on the full time use of the Community Center and confirmation that

there has not been a clear proposal presented from Ms. Reed. Other uses have been suggested, including the use by the Historical Society.

At approximately 8:08p.m.the Board voted to go into executive session to discuss personnel matters and the boiler bids. The Board elected to not grant a request by Zoning Administrator Priscilla Messier to extend her full 40-hour week status through August 1. Rather her assigned hours, not to exceed twenty four per week will start on July 5, 2010 as previously discussed, and will be restricted for the time being to conducting chores related to obtaining easements for the CSO project and work necessary for zoning and development review service, and all other duties must cease on July 5, 2010.

The Board came out of executive session at 8:38 and voted unanimously to award the boiler replacement in the municipal building to Fred's Plumbing and Heating.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ida Rainville
Executive Secretary