

**MINUTES
REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING
SEPTEMBER 13, 2010 – 7:00 P.M.
MUNICIPAL BOARD ROOM**

ATTENDANCE: Chairman Jim Rust, Daniel Kimbell, Rodney Lamotte, and Bernard Timson. Bryon Quatrini was excused,

Also present: Interim Town Manager Ralph Nelson, Secretary Ida Rainville, Mike Fortier, Wally Fortier, David Carmichael (News 7) Sanford Boyle, Kathy Taylor, Terry Taylor, Allyn Briggs, Betty Briggs, Peg Coutermarsh, Dinah Yessne, Jon Beck, Diane Beck, Al Dunn, Jen McGarvin, Danny Scott, Lisa Nelson, Susan Sopp, Gwendolyn Huneck, Helen Reed, Bonnie Johnson, Al Johnson, Bob South, Nancy Cohen, David Montague, Cathy Gumere, Rocky Bunnell, Taylor Reed from the Caledonian Record, and the Channel 7 News team.

Public Comment – Diane Beck asked the status of several on-going projects, including the new boiler for the municipal building, investigating the Jay-Lyn Fund, the energy audit and the roof repair for the Welcome Center. Jim Rust said that hind-site is 20/20, if mistakes were made then it's time to move forward and each project was being addressed. The boiler has been installed, and Bernie Timson said there is some final work to be completed; the Jay Lyn Fund will be addressed after appointment of a new Town Manager; the boiler was not addressed at the time of the energy audit because it was not broken at that time; the roof at the Welcome Center has been repaired for now. Diane stated she would like to see more accountability from the elected and appointed town officials.

Peg Coutermarsh spoke on behalf of the Trucking industry and asked the Board to support the ability of the big trucks to use the interstate road system in Vermont. Peg Coutermarsh and Rocky Bunnell pointed out that St. Johnsbury spearheaded the previous efforts to get the big trucks off from local roads, and they asked that the Town again work with surrounding towns to notify their legislators of support. Jim Rust said the Board will look at the situation and would formulate letters to legislators again and encourage others to do the same.

Nancy Cohen agreed with the trucking issue. She also said, speaking of public accountability, the Town should hire a professional clerk of the works for renovation projects.

Al Dunn asked about combining the Recreation Department with the St. Johnsbury Academy, and Jim Rust said it is moving forward.

Warrants signed –

General Fund Check #65098 - 65130	\$ 43,482.31
General Fund Check #65131 - 65167	119,505.98
Grant Fund Check #2269 - 2270	\$ 1,204.00

Liquor Licenses – Allyn Briggs was present to discuss his changing the name on his application from Allyn Briggs, to A&B Enterprises LLC. After some discussion, the Board said they could approve the license for A&B Enterprises LLC, but that he must adhere to the same conditions Mr. Briggs had agreed to previously at the August 9, 2010 Selectboard meeting, and originally laid out at the April 26, 2010 Board meeting (see page 345 of Book 12).

On a motion by Rod Lamotte and seconded by Bernie Timson, the Board voted unanimously to approve and sign liquor license applications from the Elks for outside consumption, Sweet Basil for

a catering permit, and A&B Enterprises LLC.

Spaulding Road Speed Limit – Several people were present to request a reduction in speed limit on the Spaulding Road. Town Manager Ralph Nelson started the discussion by identifying himself and his wife, Lisa, as residents of the Spaulding Road, as well as Public Works Director Danny Scott, and Police Officer Jennifer McGarvin. Lisa Nelson spoke to the speed and safety issues of the Spaulding Road, pointing out that it's not safe for children to play near the road, or for bicycling, walking, riding horseback or any other activity that would take people alongside of the road. Jen McGarvin said she and the neighbors had hoped that traffic would slow down with a police cruiser parked at their home, but it has not helped. She said she supports the reduced speed limit and will help enforce it. Mrs. Helen Reed said her disabled husband cannot safely travel the road in his motorized wheel chair, and 9-year-old David George agreed he is afraid to play near his house or ride his bike on the road. Nancy Cohen pointed out that the Old Center Road is posted for 30 mph but many people still do not slow down for it.

On a motion by Daniel Kimbell, seconded by Rod Lamotte, the Board voted unanimously to ask the Sheriff's Department for a speed study on Spaulding Road to determine the proper speed there.

Community Justice Center Offender Reentry Grant – Dinah Yessne presented information surrounding her application for the Offender Reentry Grant through the State of Vermont. The State is moving up dates of parole for some, and trying to avoid incarceration for others who are convicted, in order to cut down on the over-crowding in the penal system and cut down on costs. The State is funding \$52,000 grants for host towns to support Probation and Parole, and assist offender re-entry. The Grant is intended to fund two part time employees to work in partnership with Corrections, and to expand office space for the Community Justice Center. The State projects approximately 20 – 40 people in St. Johnsbury may be served by this grant. On a motion by Bernie Timson, seconded by Daniel Kimbell, the Board voted unanimously to accept the Offender Reentry Grant.

West Side Project – Ralph Nelson reported that 91 of the 93 easements have been received and recorded, with the last two approved and expected in the office. Ready to go forward with the contract for the project. Jim Rust extended thanks to Nancy Cohen and Russ Hutchins for their assistance in getting the easements done.

Town Manager's Report – Ralph Nelson reported that all easements are in on the Bike Path; the energy grant is going forward and the RFP has been sent to Ed Zuccaro for approval and will be put out for bid. Five insurance providers – three brokers, Blue Cross Blue Shield, and VLCT – are providing bids for the employees' health insurance, life and disability. Mr. Nelson indicated this will be a crucial step to have in place to go forward with union negotiations. Also, the Town Manager received 6 bids for fuel oil for the Town, and signed a contract with CN Brown for \$2.4957 per gallon through June, 2011.

On a motion by Rod Lamotte, seconded by Bernie Timson, the Board voted to go into executive session at 8:00 P.M. to discuss legal, personnel, and contract matters.

At approximately 8:20 P.M. the board came out of executive session and adjourned with no further business to transact.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ida W. Rainville
Executive Secretary