

MINUTES
REGULARSELECTBOARD MEETING
OCTOBER 11, 2010 – 7:00 PM
MUNICIPAL BOARD ROOM

ATTENDANCE: Chairman Jim Rust, Rodney Lamotte, Bryon Quatrini, Bernard Timson, and Town Manager Ralph Nelson. Excused absence – Daniel Kimbell.

Also present: Secretary Ida Rainville, Tim Persons, Jon Beck, Diane Beck, Garth Ely, Janice Ely, Roy Vance, Bill Douglas, Jim Brimblecombe, Justin Hoyt, Al Dunn, Sean Jewell, Kathy Taylor, Terry Taylor, Troy Darby, Taylor Reed and the News 7 crew.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge at 7:00 pm.

Public Comment – Jon Beck asked for an update on the St. J. Academy takeover of the Recreation Department. Ralph Nelson reiterated that nothing has changed since the last meeting. The original draft of the agreement from the Academy was received on September 7 and responded to on September 16. Since that time Mr. Nelson has emailed the Headmaster three times with no further response. Mr. Nelson also confirmed that due to a conflict of interest, the Town Agent Ed Zuccaro is not representing the Town in this matter. The Town engaged another attorney for approximately 2 hours of work. Mr. Nelson also confirmed to Garth Ely that the bottom part of Hastings Street will be paved before winter.

Approval of Minutes – Chairman Jim Rust pointed out in the minutes of September 27, concerning the grant for upgrading the Dispatch area, the grant has not been approved yet, and it is not an NVDA grant, rather a grant that NVDA is assisting the Town with. On a motion by Rod Lamotte, seconded by Bernard Timson, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of September 27 as corrected.

Warrants – On a motion by Bernard Timson, seconded by Bryon Quatrini, the Board unanimously approved and signed the following warrants:

Accounts Payable	Check #65260 – 65302	\$114,838.19
	Check #65303 – 65340	\$ 35,057.96
Grant Fund	Check #2273	\$ 928.64

Liquor License – On a motion by Rod Lamotte, seconded by Bernard Timson, the Board unanimously approved the following catering permits: Sodexo for the Democratic Party; Wildflower Inn for the LSC Foundation; and ratified the license previously signed by the Board for the Eastern and Main store on Main Street.

Spaulding Road Speed Limit – Ralph Nelson reported that the Sheriff’s department had conducted a speed survey with unmarked cars on two separate days, and with a marked car on another day. Sheriff Bergeron said he felt that “. . . 40 mph may in fact be too fast” on Spaulding Road. The average speed with the unmarked car varied at different spots on Spaulding road: 34 mph, 37 mph, and 35, and a high average of 40 mph near Mayhew Drive, and 38 mph near Breezy Hill. When monitored by the marked cruiser, the average speed was 28 and 31 mph. When questioned why the speed limit couldn’t be set at 35 mph, Mr. Nelson pointed out that the police do not stop speeders until they are 10 mph over the speed limit, giving a 30 mph limit possible speeds of 40, whereas if the speed limit was set at 35 mph, the possible speeds would be up to 45.

On a motion by Rod Lamotte, seconded by Bernard Timson, the Board voted unanimously to approve the 30 mph speed limit for all of Spaulding Road.

County Budget – Assistant Judge Roy Vance presented the proposed Caledonia County Budget for 2011/2012. Judge Vance reported that, because of changes made by the legislature, some employees will now be paid by the State rather than County, being partly offset by the fact that some fees will also be collected by the State rather than County. Overall the proposed budget for 2011-2012 is reduced from the 2010 budget by \$85,771. The Sheriff's budget has also decreased for the following year due to some job consolidation. There will be a pre-annual meeting on November 27, with the regular annual meeting on January 8, 2011.

East St. Johnsbury Gravel Pit – Town Manager Ralph Nelson presented information to the Board concerning .85 acres of land adjacent to property of Janice Ely in East St. Johnsbury. According to public records in the 1950's the Town purchased the land from the Ely family for the use of the gravel contained therein. After reviewing the remaining land and property boundaries it was found that the Town had over-stepped the boundaries of the property, excavating some gravel from the Ely property. The .85 acre parcel is not usable as it stands, being a deep, excavated pit. Mrs. Ely requested to have the parcel returned to the family. On a motion by Bryon Quatrini, seconded by Rod Lamotte, the Board voted unanimously to instruct the Town Manager to proceed with the process of deeding the property back to the Ely family.

Police Department K-9 Unit – Ralph Nelson reported that he wanted to look at the K-9 unit now because of approaching budget and union contract considerations. Justin Hoyt has been in contact with a breeder that is willing to donate a puppy to the St. Johnsbury Police Department, expecting the litter around Thanksgiving time, which would make delivery to the department in 15 to 17 weeks. This would make the dog ready for training by September 2011 – 12 weeks patrol training and 6 weeks drug training. Justin Hoyt has been in contact with local business owners and received promises of financial support from at least 40 businesses. Several points were discussed including future training requirements, and the fact that there is no guarantee that a dog, once chosen, will be trainable, but will be picked from the litter by experts in the field. On a motion by Bernard Timson, seconded by Rod Lamotte, the Board voted unanimously to authorize Town Manager Ralph Nelson to proceed with gathering information on the proposal.

Wastewater Treatment Facility Contract – Jim Brimblecombe from United Water and Bill Douglas from Utility Partners were present to answer questions about the contract comparisons. Mr. Douglas is a former employee of United Water and quoted a 3 – 5 year contract for the Town of St. Johnsbury which would save the Town over \$100,000 in a 3-year period, maintaining the same personnel that currently operate the Wastewater Treatment Facility. Bill Douglas confirmed that he had the facility inspected and found it to be in surprisingly good condition, with work needed at the pumping stations, and that will be addressed. Rod Lamotte asked if fees and operating costs were less than predicted would the Town benefit? Mr. Douglas agreed that it would. On a motion by Bryon Quatrini, seconded by Bernard Timson, the Board voted unanimously to authorize Ralph Nelson to pursue contract negotiations with Utility Partners.

Manager's Report – Ralph Nelson reviewed his labor negotiations philosophy gained from experience in negotiating contracts and from negotiations classes at Harvard University. Mr.

Nelson felt the negotiating language is important to have established and he intends to have his first draft in place within the week. One objective will be to maintain consistency among the three contracts. He expects to exchange an initial draft with the Fire Department later in the week, with the first negotiation scheduled for October 27.

Ralph reported on the progress of the Bike Path – still on schedule for bid in early 2011, with work to (possibly) commence the spring of 2011. The Portland Street Bridge has the approval to go ahead with the extra work necessary and hope to have it completed by the end of the winter. Weidmann Industries plan has a 12-month extension.

A discussion with Paul Bengtson of NVRH and Chief Troy Ruggles concerning the helicopter landings at the hospital – as long as the Fire Department is not needed at each landing, Chief Ruggles said they will not need to respond for every landing, and if they are called in, the Town will be compensated.

Diane Beck is conducting an in depth study of the Jay Lyn Fund background information, and discovered UCC Filings that will expire soon, or already have expired. Mr. Nelson suggested a re-draft of the language and accounting policies to make contact with delinquent loans.

Mr. Nelson also confirmed that the medical insurance information will be finalized soon for 2011, so a decision can be made on medical coverage to go forward with union contract negotiations.

On a motion by Bernard Timson, seconded by Rod Lamotte, the Board voted unanimously to go into executive session at 8:10 PM to discuss personnel, contracts, and legal issues.

At 8:35 the Board came out of executive session and adjourned with no further business transacted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ida W. Rainville
Executive Secretary