

**MINUTES  
ST. JOHNSBURY SELECTBOARD  
SPECIAL MEETING  
THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 2011  
6:00 PM – MUNICIPAL BOARD ROOM**

The St. Johnsbury SelectBoard held a special Budget Selectboard Meeting on Wednesday, January 19, 2011 beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the Board Room in the Municipal Building.

**SelectBoard Members Present:** Chairperson Jim Rust, Bernard Timson, Daniel Kimbell, and Rod Lamotte. Excused absence for Bryon Quatrini.

Also present: Town Manager Ralph Nelson, secretary Ida Rainville, Public Works Director Dan Scott, Town Clerk/Treasurer Sandy Grenier, Andy Fisher, Clara Fisher, Jennifer Howland, Alan Ruggles, Peter Whitney, Bruce Corrette, Klari Emmons, Linwood Smith, Russ Hutchins, Diane Beck, Nancy Cohen, Brian Christman, Gary Lunderville, Al Dunn, Stacy Perkins, Mike Fortier, Lisa Carrera, Tim Persons, Joanne Brown, Taylor Reed from the Caledonian Record, and Newscenter 7 crew,

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chairman Rust at approximately 6:00 p.m. with the Pledge.

Ralph Nelson presented a proposed budget that included financials, highway, the adjusted General Fund, and Special Services. He reviewed the list of directives given by the Selectboard and reported that currently \$316,330 has been reduced from the 2010 approved budget, with Personal Leave Days and Vacation Days allocated separately from regular salaries. Legal expenses have been broken down to each department, \$45,000 over all departments. The budget also reflects \$1,800 to be used to re-state the 457 plan and bring it up to date, a division of the Town Clerk/Treasurer's office in the budget, \$25,000 dedicated to Economic Development, sufficient funds in the Highway fund to cover the completion of the Transportation Path and other projects currently in the works, and funds from the reserve fund to work on the Welcome Center.

Mr. Nelson requested adding an assistant to the Town Manager's budget to work on zoning and economic development issues, as well as keeping the files on some of the grant funds. He also reviewed the request of 6% raise for Dan Scott, since he took over both departments as director of public works.

Dan Scott addressed the Board and asked why there was such a hurry to get the water department out of their current location, taking all equipment and tools out of the garage in the middle of winter, when there is no suitable place to store them at the highway garage. Dan was concerned about keeping certain equipment warm and dry. Jim Rust said this was a directive from the Selectboard that was agreed upon and the decision was made. The long range goal is to reduce equipment, eliminating duplication, so that everything will fit in the storage available.

Several people commented that trucks could stay outside without ill effects – Dan was concerned about repair parts to water system, meters, and vehicles. Daniel Kimbell said he thought the Board was rushing it to get the water department out of their building at this time of year. He continued to say that the previous year when the project was discussed, there was no money available to make the move. Jim Rust replied it was the same old argument. When Daniel Kimbell was chairman it did not get done – but Jim Rust stated that, as chairman, he intended to complete the project.

Dan Scott said there was no need cost involved, just a matter of timing, since the town already owns both buildings.

Ralph Nelson asked if there was further direction from the Board. The garage mechanic and water filter plant operator will stay at the same rate, and the expense allocation for winter/summer maintenance in the highway department will remain at 55/45%.

Nancy Cohen asked if there was a possibility of developing enterprise accounts in the town, in other words accounts that could sustain themselves. Jim Rust said there was a possibility of change in the town's economic outlook with Ralph Nelson's guidance.

Nancy Cohen asked what the re-instatement of the 457 fund is, and is it a 457b fund? Dan Kimbell said this is not a re-instatement, but a re-statement, which is required by the IRS to be performed every six years.

Diane Beck asked why the Caledonian Record stated that Ralph Nelson was now doing the duties of the Town Treasurer since the assistant treasurer had left her position. Ralph stated this was an error on the part of the newspaper – the duties of the Town Treasurer were being ably handled by Sandra Grenier and Larry Sharer. He is only concerned with the grant compliance, since the Town Manager is responsible for the financial controls.

Lisa Carrere pointed out the lack of modern equipment in the town offices that could make the record keeping more efficient.

The Town Manager stated he felt confident the two positions to be eliminated in the public works department would be done through attrition – two men who had indicated a desire to retire.

On a motion by Rod Lamotte, seconded by Bernie Timson, the meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ida W. Rainville  
Executive Secretary