

MINUTES
REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 25, 2011
7:00 PM – Municipal Boardroom

The Selectboard met for a regular meeting on April 25, 2011, at 7:00 pm in the Municipal Building boardroom. Present were: Chairman Bryon Quatrini, Alan Ruggles, Jim Rust, Rod Lamotte and Bill Merrow, and Town Manager Ralph Nelson.

Also present were Town Clerk Sandy Grenier, Bernie Timson, Brian Christman, Clem Houde, Al Dunn, Nancy Cohen, Joanne Brown, Mike Fortier, Bill Rodd, Lisa Carrere, Bob South, Len Hychauk, Bruce Corrette, Taylor Reed from the Caledonian Record, and the News 7 reporter.

The meeting was called to order with the Pledge at 7:00.

Public Comment –Joanne Brown reported there is still a silverfish infestation at the Colonial Apartments, which she had reported previously. Bryon Quatrini asked Ralph Nelson to contact the Health Officer, Tim Angell to look into the situation and to bring a copy of the previous report to the next meeting.

Len Hychauk reacted to the previous meeting’s discussion of paving Breezy Hill. He stated that he felt there were other roads that needed paving more than Breezy Hill, including Hospital Hill and Pleasant Street. Mr. Quatrini asked Mr. Nelson to get together with Danny Scott to review the matter. Mr. Nelson said that the Town has requested money from the state for more projects but no funds have been found to be available to date.

Al “Scoop” Dunn asked what the status of the Recreation Board was. Ralph Nelson told him that, in light of the Academy assuming responsibility for the Rec. Department, the Board had been eliminated. However, there is a citizen advisory committee written into the agreement with the Academy, and Mr. Nelson intends to send a letter to all former members of the Recreation Committee informing them of this committee.

Bob South responded to the question on the Lamoille Valley Trail from the previous Board meeting. According to Representative South, there is \$7 Million in the budget in both the House and Senate, earmarked for the trail. Mr. South’s opinion was that the trail is on schedule.

Minutes – On a motion by Jim Rust, seconded by Bill Merrow, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of April 11.

Warrants – On a motion by Jim Rust, seconded by Alan Ruggles, the Board approved and signed the following warrants:

MBI Account – Health Insurance 4/15 Expense	\$895.35
4/18 Expense	\$357.00
General Fund Check #66599 – 66604	\$ 75,331.98
Check #66605 – 66645	\$ 21,021.25

Tax Anticipation Note – On a motion by Alan Ruggles, seconded by Jim Rust, the Board voted unanimously to ratify and sign the tax anticipation note with the Passumpsic Bank at, \$1 Million at 1.64% interest.

AOT Financial Plan – Mr. Nelson reviewed the Annual Financial Plan that had been submitted to the State. On a motion by Jim Rust, seconded by Rod Lamotte, the Board voted unanimously to approve and sign the Financial Plan and return it to the State.

HAVA Grant – Town Clerk/Treasurer Sandy Grenier reported on the funding the Town will receive for repairs and upgrading of areas surrounding the Board Room and parking lot to meet ADA specifications in case of voting in the Municipal Office. Tina Wood conducted a study and named several things that should be addressed for safety and communication. The original grant was up to \$5,000, but because of the in-depth study, the Secretary of State's office approved \$7,000 for the Town of St. Johnsbury to upgrade all areas specified. Jim Rust questioned whether the ramp should be put in differently if the building is to be used by the Police Department or Fire Department after the municipal offices are moved to the Pomerleau Building. Sandy and Ralph agreed the ramp could be made to accommodate disabled traffic, as well as leave room for vehicular traffic, in case the back of the building is converted to a sally port or other use. Mike Fortier also questioned the renovations at this time in light of the future move. Sandy Grenier said that the work needed to be done, especially the ramp, and this funding would allow the Town to move forward with the project.

Update – Welcome Center Agreement – Mr. Nelson read a statement concerning the on-going negotiations of the Welcome Center agreement (see copy attached). Several people in the audience spoke their opinions on the meetings and negotiations for the Pomerleau Building/Welcome Center. Mr. Nelson reiterated that he believes the Center will be the first step in the revitalization of the Downtown, and can eventually be the hub of the Town. No decision was made at this time.

Manager's Report – Brown Fields – The Planning Commission will be taking applications for the analysis of Brown Fields. Mr. Nelson stated that the study will be for the analysis of the lands, not the fixing of the lands. Many areas in the Town have been suggested and it is getting close to commencing.

West Side Project – Mr. Nelson reported that the West Side Project would commence on Monday, May 2, and indicated a web site where residents could access information on the project. It is projected to continue approximately 2 years, and the website will be constantly updated with information on traffic restrictions and water availability. The Northern portion is still gathering easements.

Bike Path Project – All permits and easements are in and RFP's have been issued. Project could be completed by the end of 2011, with landscaping continuing into 2012.

Safe Route to School – Will be completed this summer.

Parking Meters – Ralph has heard from several parking meter companies and will meet with some to get input. Recommends the Board address the issue.

Police Cruiser – Mr. Nelson reported that, after talking with Deputy Chief Clem Houde, it might be prudent to replace a cruiser rather than continue to put repair money into the vehicles that have excess wear on them now. Ralph said there is currently nearly \$40,000 in the equipment fund for the replacement of cruisers. Ralph also reported that, by the end of the West Side Project the Police Department should see approximately \$26,000 in revenue that had not been budgeted, from having local police officers work the construction sites in their off time. This could continue for the next three years.

Other Business – Rod Lamotte read a statement concerning the condition of the roads, and particularly the dirt roads, in the Town of St. Johnsbury (see copy attached). After reading the statement, Mr. Lamotte made the motion to ask the Town Manager look into using outside contracted service instead of the Public Works Department for maintaining the roads. Brian Christman stated that he had been stalking one of the Public Works vehicles. Mr. Lamotte’s motion was not accepted because it was not warned business.

Executive Session – The Board voted to go into executive session at 8:40 p.m. to discuss legal, contract, and personnel issues. On a motion by Jim Rust, seconded by Alan Ruggles, the Board voted to come out of Executive Session. With no further business to transact, the board voted unanimously to adjourn (Rust/Merrow).

Respectfully submitted,

Ida W. Rainville
Executive Secretary