

**MINUTES**  
St. Johnsbury Board of Selectmen  
Monday, April 9, 2012  
Municipal Board Room, 7:00 P.M.

The St. Johnsbury Selectboard met in the Municipal Board Room on Monday, April 9, 2012 at 7:00pm for its Regular Meeting of the Select Board. Present were: Chairman Jim Rust, Vice-Chairman Alan Ruggles, Rodney Lamotte, Bernard Timson, and Kevin Oddy.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00p.

**PUBLIC ATTENDANCE**

Also present: Special Assistant to Town Manager Dawn McPhee, Executive Assistant Jessi Hudson, Town Clerk/Treasurer, Stacy Jewell, Representative Bob South, Diane Beck, Jon Beck, Al Dunn, Frank Landry, Nancy Cohen, Mike Fortier, Tim Persons, Gary Lunderville, Susan Cherry, Bruce Corrette, Jeff Moore, Janet Quatrini, Brian Christman, Ralph Laine

**PRESS ATTENDANCE**

Taylor Reed of Caledonian-Record and Matt Wocjic of KATV

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Prior to public comment, Chairman Rust read the press release regarding the termination of the Town Manager as well as Vermont statute with respect to the removal of manager. The Board is able to listen to any comments made on the termination; however it cannot respond.

Brian Christman inquired into the status of his request to meet with the Board in executive session. Rust reserves the right to review his request and respond to Christman at a later date. Christman would also like the Board to address and investigate the alleged mismanagement of public funds in DPW and would like to address this issue with Board during the executive session. He provided paperwork to Board.

Frank Landry inquired into Pomerleau Committee member of which Rust confirmed there have been no new appointments.

**MINUTES**

On a motion by Oddy, seconded by Timson, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the March 26<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. Alan Ruggles abstained from the vote.

On a motion by Ruggles, seconded by Lamotte, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the April 3<sup>rd</sup> Special Board meeting.

On a motion by Ruggles, seconded by Oddy, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the April 4<sup>th</sup> Special Board meeting.

On a motion by Oddy, seconded by Timson, the Board moved to table the minutes of the April 5<sup>th</sup> Special Board Meeting.

**WARRANTS**

On a motion by Timson, seconded by Oddy, the Board unanimously approved the following warrants:

|                                       |            |
|---------------------------------------|------------|
| Check 68814 – 68883                   | 115,109.24 |
| Check 68884 – 68906 and e-checks 1-35 | 30,841.37  |

## **LIQUOR AND CATERING LICENSES**

On a motion, by Ruggles, seconded by Oddy, the following liquor license renewals were unanimously approved by the Board:

Loyal Order of Moose Lodge #1779, Cantina di Gerardo, and American Legion Post 58

On a motion, by Ruggles, seconded by Timson, the Board unanimously approved the catering license request by Sodexo.

## **TOWN TECHNOLOGY**

Rust reported on the goals of new technology and phone upgrade as the Town moves to the Pomerleau Building and plans for future growth of Town as well as personnel. Bruce Corrette mentioned that St. Johnsbury School has updated its hardware/software and we should ask for their advice on improvements. Both Frank Landry and Mike Fortier expressed concern about maintenance. Rust confirmed that the Town has outside resources to keep us current on software and other updates that may be best for the Town.

The Board expressed no objections on moving forward with estimates and getting final budget from various vendors with respect to technology.

## **BUDGET UPDATE**

Rust presented the first quarter budget and expenditure analysis. Nancy Cohen requested copy for residents.

## **TOWN MANAGER'S OFFICE**

Former firefighter Barron Gilding requested a distribution from the Town's 457 Plan. On a motion by Timson, seconded by Lamotte, the Board unanimously approved the request.

On a motion by Lamotte, seconded by Timson, the Board unanimously approved the receipt of Bridge Report on Bridge #104, #105, #129. The Board will discuss with VTrans representative to discuss any next possible steps for future improvements to bridges.

Rust provided the Board with a letter from Mike Sullivan on the alleged mishandling of his dogs by Jo Guertin. Rust informed the Board that these issues are long standing and this letter is for informational purposes only. He reserves the right to return this as an agenda item for future deliberation.

The Board was informed of the Town Agent's discussion regarding Fairpoint easements for the North Side and property easements. Board showed no objection with Mr. Zuccaro moving forward on these projects.

Rust provided the February 17 letter from Zuccaro regarding Triangle Park title issue. This section is not deeded to the Town; therefore, this issue needs to be addressed prior to any improvements to Depot Square Park. On a motion by Lamotte, seconded by Oddy, the Board unanimously approved Town Agent obtaining Title.

For information only, Pomerleau roof bids will go out on wed with responses due by April 27<sup>th</sup>. This will be a blind open bid process so public will be able to attend.

The Board was informed of the estimates on recirculating water at Arnold Park. Dufresne gave estimate of 556k gallons of water annually to run 14 hours for 184 days of the year. Based on 2010 water/sewer rates, this would cost the Town approximately 42k in a water bill. Tim Persons inquired into bacterial issues which may not be an issue as pool basin most likely not considered. The filter will clear and clean out most water issues; however, a sign to not drink water would be put up.

The Board was informed that a kennel permit was not issued by the Town. The Town Clerk had a resident come into Town offices to license his 19 dogs. Vermont may provide a discount for multiple dogs should they be in a kennel; however, the Town Clerk needs to review this issue as according to Town ordinances, kennel permits not addressed.

Board will have nominations at its next regular meeting for the open vacancies on the Planning Commission and DRB.

The Board will conduct work sessions April 12 at 530pm. This date will be confirmed and agenda will be provided to the public.

Nancy Cohen confirmed capital plan being instituted in order to maintain town assets.

Bruce Corrette commented on pavilion being used as dump. The Board will have someone review this issue.

Rust requested signature signor for overweight permits and suggested Jessi Hudson. On a motion by Timson, seconded by Lamotte, the Board unanimously approved Jessi Hudson as signor. Bob South commented that most trucks are out of state trucks going through town and logging trucks seem to be heavy in number. Nancy Cohen suggested educational pamphlets to truckers perhaps at point of entry into Vermont so that they are in compliance.

On a motion by Oddy, seconded by Timson, the Board unanimously approved Jessi Hudson to sign all simple zoning permits. Sue Cherry offered her assistance in answering any questions around zoning. While most are simple permits, complicated issues will go in front of DRB.

On a motion by Oddy, seconded by Timson, the Board unanimously reaffirmed that all personnel will operate under the current purchasing policy instituted in November of 2011.

Rust confirmed that all legal issues will be handled via the Board and Dawn McPhee. All contracts or leases will be brought before entire Board for review and approval.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Mike Fortier commented on termination of Town Manager. Inquired into a plan for potential replacement. Rust confirmed that the legal process will have to be concluded; therefore, currently the Board is not recruiting. While the chair of the manager is vacant, the daily business is continuing and the Board as well as the Town staff is taking care of daily operations.

Nancy Cohen requested the Town to revisit the issue of Highway 9 & 27 as well as the 911 issue at both Old Center Road and Fenton Road. Also requested a sign at the top of Hospital Drive as there has not been one since 1999. Rust will coordinate meeting between Town and State in order to settle this issue.

Rep South also brought up the lack of speed limit sign on Deer Cree Lane. No speed limit signs and no signage for 911 purposes.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 823pm, on a motion by Oddy, seconded by Lamotte, the Board unanimously voted to move into executive session and requested Dawn McPhee to attend.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

At 905pm on a motion by Oddy, seconded by Timson, the Board unanimously approved to come out of executive session as well as adjourn the special meeting.