

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE ST. JOHNSBURY SELECTBOARD

Friday, December 28, 2012

The St. Johnsbury Selectboard met on the first floor of the Pomerleau building on Friday, December 28, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. for a special meeting. Present were Chairman Jim Rust, Vice Chairman Alan Ruggles, Bernie Timson, Kevin Oddy, Rodney Lamotte.

The meeting was opened with the pledge of allegiance at 10:00 am.

Attendance: Mike Fortier, Troy Ruggles, Bob South, Town Clerk/Treasurer Stacy Jewell, Town Attorney Kyle Sipples, Sharon Heidemann, Werner Heidemann, Ron Menard, Avery Rowell, Donna Rowell

Press Attendance: Todd Wellington of Caledonian Record, and Shawn Gaffney of KATV.

No public comment.

Update on fire on Railroad Street given: Fire chief Troy Ruggles said meeting today at 1:00 with engineers and state preservation engineer. Mr. Ruggles was in contact with owner Mr. Ravel yesterday to start working on next steps of moving forward with building. Engineers will be there today to decide the safety of the building and if tenants can move back into apartment on the backside of building. Firemen are all back to work today. Chief Ruggles was doing an inventory of equipment lost in the fire, and will be in touch with insurance company. Bob South volunteer for Red Cross and State Rep., has given all the names of tenants to NECKA, and process has started to get those tenants services and help needed. Mr. South wanted to thank the town for letting the Red Cross use the welcome center as a staging area during the fire. Vice chairman Alan Ruggles said there will be a meeting January 3, 2013 at 8:00 a.m. in the NCIC conference room with the chambers of commerce's, banks, and Mr. Ravel to assist with the reconstruction of the building. Kevin Oddy wanted to thank all departments for their assistance during the fire, and the great job. Chief Ruggles wanted to reiterate the fact that the water supply held up grate since the upgrades and was very thankful that he had no issues. Chairman Rust wanted to thank everyone who assisted during the fire for all of their help.

Executive Session

Chairman Rust requested an executive session for Personnel, Contract, and Legal: Ralph Nelson vs. Town of St. Johnsbury, Interim Town Manager/Asst. Town Manager/Special Asst. to Town Manager, Town Manager search, Town Attorney Kyle Sipples needed to meet about Fire Union Contracts. Werner Heidemann asked if there would be any public discussion on these items

after their executive session. Chairman Rust said they when they come out of executive session that they would either take action or not on the items. Mike Fortier asked how long they would be so the public didn't sit around and wait for them. Kevin Oddy commented that their work session is scheduled until 2:00 and an update could be given then. Chairman Rust remade his motion to include that the board would come out of executive session at 2:00 to give an update, and at which time may go back into executive session if needed. Mike Fortier asked if they could do an hourly update. Board members agreed that it would take up too much of their time to break every hour. A motion made by Oddy, seconded by Timson the request to move into executive session was granted, vote was unanimous.

A motion made by Timson, seconded by Ruggles to come out of executive session at 2:05, vote was unanimous.

A motion made by Ruggles, seconded by Lamotte, for the board to authorize town attorney to finalize the agreement between the town and the fire union for 2013 Health insurance contract, vote was unanimous.

No action taken on the Ralph Nelson vs. Town of St. Johnsbury.

A motion made by Timson, seconded by Oddy to contact MRI, and VLCT for an Interim Town Manager, vote was unanimous.

A motion made by Lamotte, seconded by Timson to not fill the position of Assistant Town manager at this time. Vote was tied 2 to 2, with Rust breaking the tie with a yes, for a 3-2 vote.

A motion made by Timson, seconded by Lamotte to eliminate the position of Special Assistant to the Town managers office as the new approved organization chart shows. Vote was tied 2 to 2, with Rust breaking the tie with a yes, for a 3-2 vote.

Mike Fortier asked what does this mean for Dawn McPhee. Rust said that her position has been eliminated and there was not a contract for the other positions, Dawn McPhee has been notified.

Ray Labounty commented that we have just opened ourselves up to more litigation.

2:10 a motion made by Timson, seconded by Lamotte to reenter executive session to work on the Town Manager search, vote was unanimous.

3:10 a motion made by Oddy, seconded by Timson to come out of executive session, vote was unanimous.

No further action to be taken today. A working session for Thursday January 6, 2013 at 6:00 pm has been scheduled.

Bob South let the board know that he has spoken with congress man Welch about the grant for the Ladder Truck, and getting it pushed forward.

A motion made by Lamotte, seconded by Ruggles to adjourn, vote was unanimous.