

ST. JOHNSBURY BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, AUGUST 12, 2013

The St. Johnsbury Selectboard met in the Pomerleau Building, 1st floor on Monday, August 12, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. for the Regular Meeting of the Selectboard. Present were: Chairman Kevin Oddy, Vice Chairman Alan Ruggles, Jim Rust, Jeff Moore, Tom Moore, Town Manager John Hall, Finance Officer David Ormiston, Town Clerk/Treasurer Stacy Jewell.

PUBLIC ATTENDANCE – see attached

PRESS

Present were: Taylor Reed from the Caledonian-Record, and KATV.

The meeting was called to order at 7PM.

The minutes of the July 22 meeting were accepted with one word change of fiancé to finance, on a motion by Rust and Ruggles seconded.

On a motion by Rust seconded by Moore to approve Warrants, motion carried.

There were no liquor licenses.
Chair Oddy read the following statement.

The Selectboard has learned that the Superior Court has issued its decision on the pending motions in the Ralph Nelson lawsuit. The court's decision is still being reviewed by counsel but it appears that Judge Teachout has ruled in favor of the Town and the Selectboard on the vast majority of the contested issues. The Town and the Selectboard anticipate defending against Nelson's few remaining claims at a trial which I anticipate will occur later this fall.

Stacy presented the proposed tax rates for 2013. There was discussion of increasing it slightly because there are 7 appeals to the BCA which could lower our property taxes slightly. The SB decided to set it based on the grand list amount of 08/12/2013 which was \$5,569,673.90.

On a motion by Ruggles and second by J. Moore the rates were set at;

General Fund .3321
Highway Fund .3004
Local Agreement .0014
Special Service .4119
School Nonresidential 1.3473
School Homestead 1.1098

The SB reviewed four documents with Dufrense Group.

1) The Engineering Services Agreement for the CSO project was approved on a motion by Ruggles and a second by T. Moore on a vote of 3-1 with Rust voting no. Rust was

concerned the project itself would increase water and sewer rates too much and the documents were incomplete.

2) An amendment (3) to the engineering services agreement for the Westside South project, dated Dec.17, 2012, was moved by Ruggles and seconded by T .Moore and approved.

3) An amendment (4A) to the engineering services agreement for the Westside South project, dated Dec.18, 2012, was moved by Ruggles and seconded by T .Moore and approved.

4) An amendment (1A) to the engineering services agreement for the Westside North project, dated May.6, 2013, was moved by Ruggles and seconded by T .Moore. This amendment would have revised staff assignments and charge rates from the Feb. 25, 2011 contract. This was to reflect the delay in the construction start. Rust voiced concerns that the cause of the delay was due to the errors of a sub vendor of DG and that the town should not pay for any costs associated with those errors.

The SB decided to table the issue until more information could be gathered.

Rep South informed the SB of some funding mechanisms that were available for CSO projects. However even though the town has been approved for the funding of some projects the funding is in the form of low interest loans and would add to our indebtedness. He was asked to see what could be done to find sources of grants that would not increase our debt.

The board voted to approve a motion by J. Moore and seconded by Rust to sell the blighted property on 212 St Mary St. to Vermont Housing Financing Agency for \$1.00. The buyer will be required to demolish the old building and replace it with a single family home within three years of transaction.

Dave Ormiston presented the financial report using a format that the administration will be using for reporting and budget development. The budget format presented imports the latest 2013 numbers from the town's accounting system NEMRC while comparing those numbers to prior years' revenues and expenses (2011 and 2012)."

The manager's report included a request that the SB appoint a citizen to the Athenaeum Board of Trustees in order that they may meet requirements of being recognized as a public library by the Vermont Department of Libraries.

It also was reported \$80,000 in delinquent taxes had been received since the July 22 meeting.

8:43 P.M. On a motion my Tom Moore, seconded by Alan Ruggles to adjourn the meeting, motion carried.