Minutes –DRAFT
Meeting of the St Johnsbury Select board
January 11, 2016 at 6:00PM-Pomerleau Building

Present- SB: Kevin Oddy, Tom Moore, Tim Angell

Staff- Chad Whitehead, Holly English, Stacy Jewell

Press- KATV, Taylor Reed (Caledonian Record)

Meeting opened at 6:00PM

Minutes:

- On a motion by Tom Moore and a second by Tim Angell the board approved the minutes from December 28, 2016- Jeff Moore abstained.

Warrants:

- On a motion by Jeff Moore and a second by Tom Moore, the Warrants were approved.

Liquor Licenses:

- N/A

Maple Fest, Vendor Permits: Scott Beck requested the Select Board waive the vendor fees for the 2016 Maple Fest scheduled for April 30, 2016. On a motion by Tim Angell and second by Jeff Moore the board approved waiving the vendor permits for Maple Fest on April 30, 2016.

Draft Town Budget Public Input:

Scott Beck expressed concern with increase in tax rates that outstrip the grownt in the grand list. He urged the board and Town Offices to develop a budget that was flat to the previous budget, realizing that the there would need to be some difficult decisions to be made to reduce services.

Dave Timson of St Johnsbury asked if the town employees incomes would be published in the Town Report. Chad Whitehead responded that Town Employees income information was public record, was available at the Town office and he has a copy of the information available with him at the meeting. He offered to make a copy available to anyone requesting the info after the meeting, but to keep the cost of printing of the Town report down the Town did not currently intend to print this information in the report.

Kevin Oddy acknowledged Scot Beck's concerns, but indicated that a "level funded" budget did not represent level of service consistent with the current levels and what would represent a loss in service to the tax payers. the proposed budget

Jeff Moore indicated that since there has not been much public participation the board will do a poll to reach out to voters to gain information regarding tax payer's expectations from the Town.

Joe Braman of St Johnsbury stated if the Town were to go to a volunteer fire department there could be a negative impact on homeowner's insurances. She also suggested that there should be questions on the pole regarding mutual aid vs a regional fire department.

The board requested the Town Manager to warn a special meeting for January 19 at 5:00 PM to vote on the adoption of the 2016/2017 budget.

Financial Update: Lesley Russ provided the financial update for December. Tim Angell asked about operations fees and Lesley stated that in previous years there was some inconsistencies in how the fees were itemized within line items, but they were still accounted for out of the correct accounts.

Grand List Adjustments: On a motion by Tim Angell and second by Jeff Moore the board approved Grand List adjustment GLA#20 and GLA#21.

Strong Communities Better Connections Sue Cherry reviewed a potential grant opportunity to explore development of a bicycle connection from the Designated Downtown to the LVRT/Three River's Bicycle Trail utilizing the Bay Street corridor. On a motion by Tim Angell and second by Jeff Moore the board adopted a resolution to support the SCBC grant application with a total project cost of $35,000.

Armory Roof: On a motion by Jeff Moore and second by Tom Moore the Select Board authorized the Town Manager's office to negotiate a contract to complete some temporary repairs to the Armory Roof at a cost for up to $8,000 to be paid for out of the Special Services Reserve fund.

Other Business:

Al Dunn of St Johnsbury asked if the Town budgets for these grant matches. Kevin indicated that we do in the construction reserves.

Susan Cherry stated that the Planning Commission and Development Review Board are still looking or members. The next meeting is on January 19th at 7:00 PM and there was a Town Plan Land Use meeting scheduled for February 5.

Stacy Jewell asked fi there should be a BCA meeting scheduled to discuss the potential polls for Town Meeting Day and Kevin Oddy indicated a meeting should be scheduled.

The board discussed a non binding ballot item regarding the desire of the Town to go with a Town Wide Police Department and the board decided it should be something added to a ballot for the November election.

On a motion by Tom Moore and second by Jeff Moore the meeting was adjourned.