

**REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING  
MONDAY, APRIL 22, 2002  
7:00 - MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen for the Town of St. Johnsbury was held Monday, April 22, 2002, at the municipal building. Prior to the meeting, the following liquor and tobacco licenses were signed:

VFW Outside Permit (L)  
Brit da Bran (L)

Pizza Hut (L)  
Lincoln Inn (L)

Present at the meeting were Chairman Reg Wakeham, members Gib Handy, Elwin Cross, Dale Urie, and Bryon Quatrini. Also present were Town Manager Mike Welch, Economic Development Director Joel Schwartz, Town Clerk Sandra Grenier, Zoning Administrator Priscilla Messier, and Secretary Ida Rainville. also Andy Fisher, Louis and Brenda LaCroix, Greg MacDonald, Marlene Rock, Russ Hutchins, Bruce Burk, Richard Leighton, Joe Newell, Bruce Corret and Mitch Gordon, and the news crew from Channel 7.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman Wakeham, who led the assembly in the pledge of allegiance. The minutes of the April 8 meeting were unanimously approved (Handy/Quatrini).

**Town Clerk's Business**

Town Clerk Sandra Grenier requested the Board set a due date for taxes. On a motion by Bryon Quatrini, seconded by Gabriel Handy, the Board voted unanimously to set the due date for the 2002 property taxes at November 22, 2002.

Town Clerk Grenier had received the proxy vote for the Union (Citizens) Bank stock owned by the Town and the Water/Sewer Department. On a motion by Elwin Cross, seconded by Bryon Quatrini, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Town Clerk Sandra Grenier to vote the proxy.

**Public Hearing Zoning By-law**

For house-keeping purposes, some additional wording changes were approved in the zoning by-laws, concerning open storage, dumpsters, and burned and destroyed buildings. These changes had previously been approved, and on a motion by Gabriel Handy, seconded by Elwin Cross, the Board voted unanimously to accept the amendments as presented.

**Farmers' Market - Joe Newell**

Joe Newell, representing the area Farmers' Market, requested permission to use the Pearl Street parking lot for the Farmers' Market, as last year, and extended thanks to Mike Welch and Larry Gadapee for keeping the lot clean and open for set up each Saturday. The season is projected to start May 25 and run through October 26. If expansion seems possible, Mr. Newell suggested they may move part of the market towards Eastern Avenue in the parking lot next to the Star Theatre. On a motion by Bryon Quatrini and seconded by Gabriel Handy, the Board voted unanimously to authorize the use of the Pearl Street parking lot for the Farmers' Market for the summer of 2002.

### **Community of Concern - St. J. Academy - Bruce Burk**

Mr. Bruce Burk presented a letter from Headmaster Tom Lovett of the Academy, introducing their "Community of Concern" program, which plans to develop communication between schools, public, parents, and the community, to help fight drug abuse among young people. The first meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 6 at 7:00 PM. The answer to why this particular program is being initiated at this time, studies indicate there is higher drug and alcohol abuse by younger people, including a high percentage of binge drinking by high school seniors, and that 13-year-olds are more susceptible to becoming alcoholics because of early age drinking. On a motion by Gabriel Handy, seconded by Bryon Quatrini, the Board voted unanimously to support the program and have at least two members attend the meetings.

### **NEKCA Community Action Report - Mitch Gordon**

Mitch Gordon, director of NEKCA, reported on the state of the program and plans for the next few years. Kingdom Cars has over 250 vehicles donated with storage at Bourbeau's Auto Shop. Overall goal of the program is to help people help themselves, by offering positive reinforcement and assistance to those who are trying to better their lives, beginning with the Head Start program, and including a micro-business program, and the virtual incubation program (e-commerce business study through Springfield College). Gabriel Handy expressed appreciation on behalf of the Board for all the work and assistance offered by the NEKCA program.

### **Zoning By-Laws review - Priscilla Messier**

Zoning Administrator Priscilla Messier, reviewed several items under the zoning by-law review, including zoning maps and review, adult entertainment, convenient store/mini mart issues, home occupation, furlough apartment regulations, and design control district. All matters are currently under advisement, either by committee or the Board at large. The Zoning Board will bring the matters back to the Selectboard in May before making final recommendations. Gabriel Handy suggested an open zoning/selectboard hearing workshop.

### **Water/Sewer Rates**

A budget committee consisting of Selectmen Bryon Quatrini and Reg Wakeham, and Bruce Corret and Russ Hutchins, have been reviewing the water/sewer budget and recommended an increase of 5% across the board. Discussion centered around how much the CSO project would affect rates and the rate for sewer usage being subsidized by water-only users. Mr. Welch assured the Board that the expense for storm drains and road repair would be absorbed by the Highway department; therefore no all of the expense would be passed on to the water users. On a motion by Gabriel Handy and seconded by Elwin Cross, the Board unanimously voted to increase the water/sewer rates across the board by 5%, effective July 1, 2002.

### **Planning Commission Appointment**

A vacancy on the Planning Commission due to the resignation of Theresa Pope, received the interest of two applicants - Mark Desrochers and Richard Lyon. On a motion by Gabriel Handy, seconded by Dale Urie, the Board unanimously voted to appoint Richard Lyon to the Planning Commission.

### **Corrections Committee - Greg MacDonald**

Discussion centered around developing a new ad hoc committee to act as liaison between the Town

and the Corrections Department, Probation and Parole. Suggestions were made to have a committee comprised of two or three selectboard members, Fire Chief, Police Chief, Town Manager, and two or three others, along with Mr. MacDonald. On a motion by Gabriel Handy, seconded by Bryon Quatrini, the Board voted unanimously to establish the committee and set the date of the first meeting as May 2 at 3:00 PM.

**Public Hearing Schedule - Corrections and changing language on Furloughees**

Mr. Welch reported that a public hearing will be held in St. Johnsbury on May 7 from 5 - 7 pm concerning the changing of terms referring to Corrections Department furloughees and parolees.

**Municipal Needs - Contract Proposal**

Bryon Quatrini suggested they review the previous plans done by E.H. Danson Associates on the possible renovations to the present municipal building. Priscilla Messier suggested the Department Heads should also get together to discuss possible renovations. Grant money is available to study the RR depot and a preliminary needs assessment. Schedules should be available for the May 27 meeting.

**Manager's Report**

Louis and Brenda LaCroix approached the Board on their plan to purchase the Cherry Street property from Mr. Guppy. The Board stated that the Selectmen are not authorized to abate taxes, but may forgive the demolition costs on the property. Tax abatement must be requested by the current owners through the abatement process.

Scheduling - Chief Ruggles has requested the use of the board room on May 13 and June 10 for training; therefore the Selectboard will need to schedule their meetings elsewhere.

Green up day is May 4, with Dennis and Donna Goodhue organizing.

The Downtown re-designation application is due in May 13.

Gabriel Handy discussed House 477 which would raise the maximum weight for town roads from 24,000 to 60,000 lbs. His opinion was that this could burden the towns with more construction costs and urged the Board to oppose the bill.

Chairman Wakeham asked if there was any further business to come before the Board. Hearing none, at 8:45 PM a motion was made by Gib Handy and seconded by Elwin Cross to go into executive session to discuss contract negotiations. Joel Schwartz was invited to join the Board in executive session.

Elwin Cross moved, Gib Handy seconded to go back into regular session. No further business was transacted. On a motion by Gib Handy, seconded by Dale Urie, the meeting adjourned at 9:35 PM.

respectfully, \_\_\_\_\_, Ida W. Rainville, Executive Secretary