

**Minutes**  
**Town of St. Johnsbury**  
**Board of Selectmen**  
**Monday, July 22, 2002**

The Town of St. Johnsbury Board of Selectmen held a Selectmen's Meeting on Monday, July 22, 2002 beginning at 6:45p.m. in the Board Room of the Municipal Building.

***SelectBoard Members Present:*** Elwin Cross, Gib Handy, Bryon Quatrini, and Dale Urie.

***SelectBoard Members Absent/Excused:*** Chairperson Reginald Wakeham.

***Others Present:*** Steve Watson, Director Community Justice Center; Joel Schwartz, Director Community & Economic Development; Ed Stretch, Director Gilman Housing Trust; Kimberly Leonard, Caledonian Record; Louis LaCroix; Diane Matthew, and Town Manager Mike Welch.

***Site Visit*** – SelectBoard Members Dale Urie, Bryon Quatrini, and Elwin Cross conducted a Site Visit at the intersection of Summer Street and Central Street at approximately 6:45p.m.

- 1) ***Call to Order*** – it was moved by Gib Handy, seconded by Bryon Quatrini, and unanimously voted to elect Elwin Cross as Acting Chairperson. Chairperson Cross called the meeting to order. It was moved by Gib Handy seconded by Bryon Quatrini and unanimously voted to accept the Minutes from the June 10, 2002 meeting as presented.
- 2) ***Public Hearing Zoning By-Law Amendment*** – Acting Chairperson Cross called the public hearing to order. The Town manager reviews the intent of the By-Law Amendment. Louis LaCroix asked about the proposed By-Law amendment. Following discussion, it was moved by Gib Handy, seconded by Dale Urie, and unanimously voted to approve the proposed amendment to the Zoning By-Law relative to Commercial Accessory Use.
- 3) ***Gilman Housing Trust*** – VCDP Application – Ed Stretch was present to inform the members of the Board of Selectmen about a proposed VCDP Application for funding in the amount of \$350,000 to rehabilitate 48 apartment units known as Mountainview Apartments. Mr. Stretch reviewed the rehabilitation plans with the members of the Board. Following discussion, it was moved by Gib Handy, seconded by Dale Urie, and unanimously voted to sign Resolution authorizing Michael A. Welch to submit an application to VCDP in the amount of \$350,000 for the rehabilitation of Mountainview Apartments.

#### 4) **Traffic Control:**

***Summer/Central Street*** – Gib Handy suggested that the Manager contact VTRANS relative to the use of Stop signs on Summer Street. Gib said that at one time the State did not want the Town to have additional Stop signs at intersections along Summer Street. Bryon Quatrini suggested that Town intersection in general should be examined for appropriate traffic control measures.

***Downtown Intersection Improvements*** – The Manager informed the Board that Lameroux and Dickenson had completed their preliminary Alternatives for proposed improvements to three downtown intersections (Railroad Street/Eastern Avenue; Eastern Avenue/Main Street; and Railroad Street/Portland Street). The purpose of the design work – contracted by NVDA – was to look at alternatives to improve conditions at these intersections for pedestrians, without negatively impacting traffic flow. An Alternatives Presentation will be conducted on Wednesday, July 31<sup>st</sup>, beginning at 6:30p.m. in the Board Room of the Municipal Building.

***Pearl Street and Parking Lot*** – The Town Manager reviewed initial recommendations relative to the Pearl Street Parking Lot. The Manager also discussed with members of the Board the concept of two-way traffic at the north end of Pearl Street. Following discussion, there was general consensus among the members of the Board that we should maintain one-way traffic on Pearl Street – and continue to allow parking (with meters) on the north end of Pearl Street. The Board will revisit this matter if it is determined that another entrance to the Parking Lot off from Maple Street would be useful.

- 5) **Appointment Downtown District Commission** – It was moved by Gib Handy, seconded by Bryon Quatrini and unanimously voted to appoint Carol Novick, to the Downtown District Improvement Commission to fill the unexpired term of Ann Hoffman. Carol Novick's term will expire in 2006.
- 6) **Corrections Committee Update** – the Town Manager stated that he wanted to brief the members of the Board relative to discussions held at the last Corrections Committee meeting regarding the consolidation of state-rented apartments in St. Johnsbury. The State of Vermont Department of Corrections currently rents a total of nine (9) apartments in St. Johnsbury that can house up to 18 individuals under-supervision, furlough. This represents approximately ½ of the people on furlough in St. Johnsbury. The original Corrections Advisory had recommended that these state apartments should be consolidated into a single location that could be better supervised by the State of Vermont. Bruce Ralston has informed members of the Corrections Committee that he would like to have his building on Bay Street considered for such a purpose. It was also suggested that a facility of this nature would include some of NEKCA's transitional services, the community high school administered by Department of Corrections, and some of the offices of the Community Correctional Service Center. Bryon Quatrini said that he is not convinced

that the Town needs to have another correctional facility. Gib Handy expressed concerns about the Bay Street location particularly given the Town's interest in developing the Riverfront, promoting the Bike Path, and encouraging additional access to the River. Dale Urie suggested that the Board really needs to obtain some independent information relative to the impact of corrections facilities in the community. Joel Schwartz said that it would be beneficial for the community to have some hard data regarding the socio-economic impacts pro-and-con that the correctional facilities have in the community. The concerns of the Board will be discussed at the next meeting of the Correctional Advisory Committee.

- 7) **Sewer Adjustments** – The Manager informed the Board that he had received requests from NVRH and from Maple Grove of Vermont relative to adjustments in their sewer bill due to the fact that circulating water and/or processing water does not enter the sewer system. Following discussion it was agreed to forward these requests to the Water/Sewer Budget Committee for a formal recommendation to the Board of Selectmen.

#### 8) **Manager's Report:**

**Steve Watson** – The Manager introduced Steve Watson, the new director of the Community Justice Center.

**NEKCA Appointment** – The Manager said that NEKCA has invited the Board to appoint a member to the NEKCA Board of Directors. Board members will consider for the next meeting.

**Voting Delegate** – It was moved by Gib Handy, seconded by Bryon Quatrini, and unanimously voted to appoint Dale Urie as the voting delegate for the VLCT Annual Town Fair.

**Group Insurance** – It was moved by Gib Handy, seconded by Bryon Quatrini, and unanimously voted to authorize the Town Manager to secure life insurance benefits for Call Firefighters and Reserve Police Officers.

**Seat Belt Policy** – It was moved by Gib Handy, seconded by Bryon Quatrini, and unanimously voted to approve the Seat Belt Policy for operators of municipal vehicles.

**GIS Releases** – The Board signed a release allow use of the Town's property tax base information.

**Calendar** – The Manager provided members of the Board with an updated version of the Community Calendar of Events.

**Red Cross Banner** – It was moved by Gib Handy seconded by Bryon Quatrini, and unanimously voted to approve the St. Johnsbury Rotary Club request to hang a banner.

- 9) **Other Business** – Louis LaCroix asked about any changes in the Town position on the Guppy Property. The manager stated it was scheduled to go to tax sale. Mr. LaCroix asked about the Status of the Tax Sale process. Mr. LaCroix asked about whether or not the Board of Civil Authority and the Board of Selectmen are clear about responsibilities in terms of abatements and agreements for taxes. Mr. LaCroix asked when the next meeting of the Board of Civil Authority was scheduled.

Diane Matthew was present to express concerns to the Board about the speed of cars on Higgins Hill. She said she has lost 2 pets in 2 months. The Manager stated that he had spoken with Ms. Matthew and advised her that the Town and State Police would be conducting some radar patrols in this areas. SelectBoard member Quatrini suggested that the Board should look into the possibility of hiring the Sheriff's Department to monitor speeding in this location.

Having no further business or requests, the Board of Selectmen unanimously voted to adjourn at approximately 8:05p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael A. Welch  
Town Manager