

**REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2002
7:00 PM -- MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A regular meeting of the St. Johnsbury Selectboard was held Monday, September 23 at the Municipal Building at 7:00 PM. Present were Chairman Reg Wakeham, members Elwin Cross, Bryon Quatrini, and Dale Urie. Gabriel Handy was excused. Also present were Town Manager Michael Welch, Zoning Administrator Priscilla Messier and Secretary Ida Rainville.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 by Chairman Wakeham, who led the assembly in the pledge of allegiance. Minutes of the August 12 and September 9 meetings were approved as presented. (Bryon Quatrini/Dale Urie)

Also present for the discussion were: Howard McKinstry, Russ Hutchins, Pauline Mosher, Jane Donna, Paul Bengtson, Kim Leonard of the Caledonian and the news crew from LSC-TV and Channel 7; also Marlene Rock, Steve Watson, Michelle Foy of Umbrella, and Pastor John Marshall of the Grace United Methodist Church.

Chairman Wakeham introduced Howard McKinstry to talk to the Board concerning the clean up of his property on Harrison Avenue. Mr. McKinstry stated that his livelihood depended upon the materials stored around his property and asked that the Board not force the issue of cleaning up and throwing away what is considered to be offensive trash on his property. The Board of Selectmen replied that the amount and type of materials Mr. McKinstry had stored on his property was in violation of zoning ordinance and must be removed. The Town has a court order in place to clean up the area. Previous attempts to assist Mr. McKinstry in the clean up through the Community Justice Center and mediation, and with the Grace Methodist Church, have failed to solve the problem. Chairman Wakeham informed Mr. McKinstry that the Town has a responsibility to the townspeople to clear away what is considered a health hazard and eyesore to the community. Volunteers are available from the church to assist. Pauline Mosher, a neighbor of Mr. McKinstry's for many years, spoke to the fact that the neighborhood has deteriorated considerably in the past few years because of the collection of refuse around Mr. McKinstry's property, and though he once had a legitimate business in trade, he no longer appears to sell anything, but collects junk that other people take advantage of the opportunity to drop off at his property.

Bids will be opened on October 10 for clean up of the property ordered by the Town.

Zoning Update - Priscilla Messier

Revisions of by-laws concerning the commercial/light industrial zone - public hearing scheduled for October 30.

GEA Grant NEK safety project

Administered by Umbrella, to pass through the Town, a grant to fund six full time advocates and two part time domestic coordinators. Previously approved application. The Board voted unanimously to accept the grant (Elwin Cross/Dale Urie).

Community Health Committee

Paul Bengtson from NVRH reported that an advisory council is being formed in accordance with the Town Plan. Mr. Bengtson had previously met with Mike Welch and Reg Wakeham to discuss how the committee might work and to put together names of representatives of agencies and individuals who would have input to various health issues. The first meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 26 at noon at the NVRH conference center. A list of suggested charger members was presented to the Board and unanimously approved (Bryon Quatrini/Dale Urie) with the flexibility to add new members at any time.

Community Justice Center Grant

Steve Watson reported that the Community Justice Center has received a \$55,000 grant to continue operation, with matching funds from the Town in the form of office space, utilities, and furnishings. Steve reported that the steering committee needs a representative of local government on the board. On a motion by Bryon Quatrini, seconded by Elwin Cross, the Board unanimously appointed Dale Urie to serve. The Board voted unanimously to accept the grant (Cross/Quatrini).

Student Representation

After discussing the possibility of inviting student representatives to participate in Selectboard meetings, the Board voted unanimously to authorize Dale Urie to invite student representatives to the board meetings (Bryon Quatrini/Elwin Cross).

2003 Budget Process

Organization of a public budget committee was tabled until the next meeting. Marlene Rock suggested one area to look at is the special appropriations.

Municipal Property Review

Mr. Welch reported that he, Gib Handy, and Bryon Quatrini had reviewed several parcels of land owned by the town. On a motion by Bryon Quatrini, seconded by Dale Urie, the board voted unanimously to move forward with the process for liquidating some of the land.

Duck Pond Road - firearms

Several residents of the Duck Pond Road in Waterford expressed concern at the use of the town's gravel pit for target practice. The Board voted unanimously to gate and post the property for no trespassing (Quatrini/Urie).

Three Rivers Bike Path

Property owner Bruce Ralston, adjacent to the bike path route wishes to develop a portion of his property which would impact a section of the bike path. Questions arose as to how this could affect the overall project, and could the bike path be re-routed to accommodate the property owner, and not interfere with property development. The Board voted to authorize Mike Welch to request the Planning Commission study the situation (Bryon Quatrini/Dale Urie).

Status Report on Board Priorities

Mike Welch brought the Board up to date on specific points of the Board's list of priorities, especially development of the Downtown improvement expansion, parking management, CSO, Corrections, Economic Marketing, Municipal Building, and East St. Johnsbury and St. J. Center water and wastewater projects.

Tax Sale Update

Tax sale was held on September 18. The Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the tax sale and incorporate them in the minutes of this Selectboard meeting (Quatrini/Cross). They are recorded in Book 10, pages 307 - 310 of the Selectmen's minutes. The next sale will be scheduled in two to three months.

Other Business

Mike Welch reported that the Department of Health had responded to the Board's request for them to review the Needle Exchange Program. The Dept. of Health had suggested that further interaction between VT Cares and the Town could resolve the issues. Bryon suggested the Board and Mr. Welch should let the Dept. of Health know that the concern is still there.

Marlene Rock requested permission to stretch an advertising banner across Main Street. Mr. Welch informed her that it would be possible on Railroad street, but because of certain state requirements and lack of buildings the banners could be attached to, Main Street may not be possible.

Bryon Quatrini again asked the Board to look at the speed limit on Breezy Hill.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM (Quatrini/Cross).

Respectfully, _____, Ida W. Rainville, Executive Secretary