

MINUTES
TOWN OF ST. ALBANS
JOINT MEETING- BUDGET COMMITTEE/SELECTMEN
REGULAR SELECTMEN'S MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2021
6:00 P.M.

Roster:

Todd Brown, Chairman, Selectmen
Hiram Weymouth, Vice Chair
Peter Denbow, Selectmen
Richard Fisher, Manager
Jamie Crocker, Fire Chief
Jeff Aubin, Road Department

Emillie Lemire, Chair, Budget Committee
James Thorne, Vice Chair, Budget Committee
Eleanor Davids, Budget Committee
Joyce Weymouth, Budget Committee
Joseph Madigan, Budget Committee,
Shelda Madigan, Budget Committee
Robin Steinwand, Budget Committee

Absent: Seth Snowman, Budget Committee; Denise Linderman, Budget Committee

Todd Brown called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Budget Committee Reorganization

Manager Fisher opened the floor for nominations. Motion by Joseph Madigan, seconded Joyce Weymouth to nominate Emillie Lemire for Chairperson. Motion to close nomination by Joseph Madigan, seconded by James Thorne. Vote on the nomination of Emillie Lemire was unanimous.

Chair Lemire opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chair. Motion by Joyce Weymouth to nominate James Thorne as Vice Chair, seconded by Joseph Madigan. Motion by Joseph Madigan to close nominations, seconded by Joyce Weymouth. The motion passed unanimously.

2021 Budget Review

Manager Fisher reviewed the current budget with the Selectmen and the budget committee members. As of October 31, 2021 the daily balance in the General Ledger Fund has increased over \$318,700 since October 31 2019. He also noted that expenses the past three years have remained consistent.

ARPA Discussion

Manager Fisher stated that the town has received 50% of the ARPA funds, our 2021 allotment and suggested that there are certain expenses not allowed such as lowering taxes, building bridgbanking the finds for a rainy day. Emillie Lemire suggested looking into City of Brewer's pre/after school program and see if that would be a good fit here. There was also a suggestion that the funds be used to pay for new fire gear.

2022 Budget Appropriations – Special Items

Manager Fisher provided a list of special items for consideration for the ARPA funds. Ther was a short discussion on the items listed.

Manager/Budget Workgroup

Manager Fisher advanced the idea of a small workgroup to review the initial budget numbers and discuss how to improve the budget and review the numbers at the beginning of the process instead of at the end of the process. After a short discussion, Budget Committee members Emillie Lemire, Joe Madigan, and James Thorne agreed to join the Manager's workgroup.

Committee Meeting Dates

The Budget Committee agreed to meet on the following dates: Workgroup will meet on November 17, 2021 and December 8, 2021. The full Budget Committee will meet on January 11, 2022, January 13, 2022, with an additional date added, if needed, on January 18, 2022. The meetings begin at 6 p.m.

The meeting was Adjourned by Chair Emillie Lemire at 6:52 p.m. and the Selectmen's regular meeting was continued at that time.

Minutes

1. Motion by Todd Brown to approve the minutes of the Special Selectmen's Meeting held on Monday, October 25, 2021. Seconded by Hiram Weymouth. Vote 2-0-1 Peter Denbow abstained as he was not at the meeting on October 25, 2021.

New Business

2. Truck Bid – Consider Offer from High Bidder. Motion by Peter Denbow to accept the offer of \$4,300.00 Charles Osgood, the high bidder from the previous meeting. Seconded by Todd Brown. All in Favor: 3-0.
3. Treasurer Report/Update on Accounting Review- Manager Fisher provided an update on the accounting and his ongoing work with Marc Royer, CPA. They've made significant progress on improving reconciliation. Manager Fisher reported that finances are solid and we are \$300,000 over of last year's revenues and our expenses are within 1 percent of last year's numbers
4. Set New Years Day Holiday as a Floating Holiday – Friday 31st is Year End Close out – closed to the public but employees report to finalize 2021 records. Monday, January 3rd is deadline for nomination papers to be returned, requiring the office to be open. No motion required.

Old Business

5. Department of Environmental Protection Notice – Investigation into Presence of PFAS
Manager Fisher explained the latest status on the PFAS investigation into farmlands.
6. Department of Environmental Protection Notice- Investigation into Teflon in groundwater
Manager Fisher updated the Board on the contamination of the old dump and the current situation with DEP. He asked for the Board to decide if they wanted to test the wells on adjoining properties which the town would bear the cost or would they prefer for DEP to test the wells at their expense. Motion by Hiram Weymouth to have DEP test the wells at their expense. Seconded by Todd Brown, All in Favor: 3-0.
7. Update on Webb Bridge Road Bridge
Manager Fisher stated he met with two State Senators and Seth Snowman concerning the bridge on the previous Friday and spoke with Maine DOT and he expects to receive the agreement by the first week in December.

8. Pond Road Easement Update

Manager Fisher informed the Board that he is still waiting for an easement agreement and that he plans on contacting our attorney to obtain a draft of what we are looking for.

Executive Session

9. Executive Session under MRSA Section 405 (6)(A) to discuss personnel matters

Reports

10. Fire Department - Fire Department reports that they need gear. No written report this week.

11. Public Works Department -Jeff Aubin reported that all the trucks are ready for winter and the salt/sand shed is full.

12. Committee Reports - none

13. Selectmen’s Items – Meeting Tuesday for MMSWA.

14. Town Manager - none

15. Executive Session

Motion by Peter Denbow to go into Executive Session under MRSA Section 405 (6)(A) to discuss personnel matters. Seconded by Todd Brown- All in favor. 3-0.

Motion by Todd Brown to end the executive session and adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Hiram Weymouth. All in Favor 3-0.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard Fisher
Manager
Town of St Albans

Todd Brown, Chairman

Hiram Weymouth, Vice- Chairman

Peter Denbow, Selectman

Date: _____