

**Meeting Minutes
TOWN OF ST. ALBANS
SELECTMEN'S MEETING
MONDAY JANUARY 25, 2021**

Roster: Todd Brown, Vice Chairman
Peter Denbow, Selectman (present by telephone at 6:10 pm)
Hiram Weymouth, Chairman
Richard Fisher, Town Manager
Brady Snowman, Road Commissioner

Call to Order – Flag Salute

Public Forum

New Business

1. Approve Minutes for December 14, 2020 and December 28, 2020 Motion *by Todd Brown to approve the minutes for December 14, 2020 and December 28, 2020. Seconded by Hiram Weymouth* Vote: 2-0
2. Review 2021 Budget Changes
Manager Fisher noted that three minor changes on the Notes on the first page of Administration of the budget:
 1. Changed the IRS mileage rate to \$.056 per mile to reflect new IRS rate for 2021.
 2. Internet Costs year changed from 2020 to 2021.
 3. The costs for preparing the Town Report: 2021 Estimates: Bromar \$3.23 per copy, Kelly Printing \$3.10 per copy, Dexter Printing \$3.30 per copy [250 copies minimum]
Mr. Fisher stated that in 2020 he ordered 450 books and still has 117 books remaining in inventory. Mr. Fisher would like to reduce this year's order to 350 books, which should significantly reduce the costs below the \$2,000.00 proposed by the budget committee, and he would like to reduce the budget number to \$1500.00

Mr. Fisher then explained the major changes to show how to include the trucks in the five-year plan. Mr. Seth Snowman shared his concerns over the school district budget and how it impacts on the town. A general discussion ensued. Manager Fisher made some changes to reflect increased insurance costs. His final proposed budget number is \$1,295,798.20. Manager Fisher briefly reviewed the Insurance section of the budget. Peter Denbow expressed his support for the budget as revised.

Todd Brown made a motion to approve the budget at \$1,285,798.20 for 2021. Peter Denbow seconded the motion. Vote: 3-0 All in Favor.

The matter of the Town Warrant was raised. Manager Fisher read Article 10, Dangerous Structures Ordinance, as stated below:

Art. 10. Shall the Board of Selectmen prepare an Ordinance that would provide definitions, procedures for notification and placarding, provide specific duties for the Code Officer, authorize local enforcement with legal reimbursement when a structure is determined by definition to be a dangerous structure that is uninhabitable and/or structurally unsound? The Demolition of Dangerous Structures Ordinance for the Town of St. Albans be considered for approval by the citizens at their town meeting on March 5, 2022. The Ordinance would be prepared by the Town Manager at no additional cost to the Town of St. Albans.

Todd Brown made a motion to include Article 10 in the Town Warrant. Hiram Weymouth seconded the motion. Vote: 3-0 All in Favor.

Mr. James O'Neil received information that the late penalty percentage has been reduced from the State of Maine from 8% to 6% and requested Manager Fisher look into this and make the adjustment on Article 2, if confirmed.

Manager Fisher questioned about how the Town of St. Albans through the Town Warrant shows salaries and also divides up the Administration into smaller categories. For example, the past and current practice is to show the base salary of the Road Commissioner, but that does not show his overtime yet his overtime is budgeted and approved by the Board and the Budget Committee. Hiram Weymouth suggested the Manager propose an alternative budget that reflects the budget as it is approved here. There was a general discussion on this matter. There was no motion.

At 6:48 p.m. Chairman Weymouth recessed the meeting in order to allow the Budget Committee to meet. At 7:10 pm Chairman Weymouth reconvened the meeting.

Old Business

Webb Ridge Road Status

Manager Fisher read an email from the Engineer working informally for the Town, Eric P. Calderwood, PE., in which he wrote that MaineDOT was receptive to a temporary bridge, 70 feet in length, centered on the span. Seth Snowman took the floor and explained his involvement in the project. Currently there are two contractors who have provided estimates. Timberland proposed a bridge at an estimated cost of \$100,00 and another contractor at \$350,000. Mr. Snowman explained in detail the differences between the temporary bridge from both contractors. Timberland would install in 4 days, would cost approximately \$100,000 with \$10,000 for engineering costs. The second company was more at \$350,000. Mr. Snowman believes Timberland bridge may be the best solution until we can find funding for a permanent replacement bridge. At this point, we have to wait for MaineDOT to provide more information.

Audit Contract

Manager Fisher provided the contract recently received from our Auditor.

Hiram Weymouth made a motion to accept the contract, seconded by Peter Denbow. Vote 3-0 All in favor.

Fire Chief

Manager Fisher there are two applicants for the position, and he wants to interview both candidates this week. He requested the matter be tabled until the next meeting. The issue was raised whether the personnel manual recommends voting from within and does the Manager think that the Selectmen made the right decision to advertise. Manager Fisher responded that the decision to advertise the position has already been made and there is nothing to be gained by asking him now about water that's already gone over the dam.

Road Commissioner Report

Brady Snowman reported that all is quiet, trucks are repaired.

Fire Department

Interim Chief Jamie Crocker reported that times are slow, not too many calls this month, fundraisers are going well, working on the gear grant. Chairmen Weymouth asked how many calls. Jamie Crocker replied, 139 calls last year.

Selectmen Report

Vice Chair Todd Brown reported that the Planning Commission issued two approvals for repairs to homes on Birch Island.

Manager Report

Manager Fisher is easing himself back into the position, and expects to ease himself back for another work. We are back at full strength and also have a part-timer helping out and would like to keep her around.

Todd Brown made a motion to go into Executive Session under 1 MRSA 405 (6)(A) for personnel at 7:40 pm. Seconded by Hiram Weymouth. Vote 2-0. Peter absent for vote.

Todd Brown made a motion to end the Executive Session at 8:10 pm. Seconded by Hiram Weymouth. Vote: 3-0 All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Richard Fisher, Manager

Hiram Weymouth, Chair

Todd Brown, Vice Chair

Peter Denbow, Selectman

Date: _____