

## Selectboard Retreat 2019- Structural Draft Outline

Date: September/October, Day & Time TBD

Location: TBD

### Program Outline

*Depending on the start time, the retreat can begin with dinner, or a meal break can occur after part 1*

Part 1- A panel discussion on preparing for economic resiliency in the event of a downturn in the economy. The panel will discuss what policy considerations to take under advisement in the short term to help inform future outcomes based on Williston's current financial position.

Panelists (possible participants, messages are out to each to gauge interest/availability, request is for Selectboard to approve final panel configuration and size)

- Jeff Carr, President and Senior Economist, *Economic & Policy Resources*
  - Mr. Carr has served as the State Economist for a number of years and his consulting business is located in Williston. He can provide insight into future economic trends as part of this discussion, and provide policy insight for the Town.
- Dominic Cloud, City Manager, St. Albans
  - Mr. Cloud has led a revitalization of St. Albans over the past decade with a focus on public/private partnerships that couple municipal investment with commercial tenants in the downtown. His experience and approach to secure long-term investment in St. Albans would be insightful to the discussion.
- Jeff Davis / Jeff Nick, J.L. Davis Realty
  - J.L Davis Realty is a major real-estate owner, developer and commercial business brokerage and leasing agent in Town. The insight of Mr. Davis or Mr. Nick would be helpful on this panel to provide perspectives on the future trends and realities faced from a private sector lens.
- Robert Letovsky, Ph.D., Professor of Business Administration & Accounting, Saint Michael's College
  - Mr. Letovsky brings business management and economic insight to the panel and can share his perspective on the Town's current economic position and policy consideration moving forward.

Panel Structure (duration 1 – 1.5 hours)

1. Remarks by each panelist sharing their perspective on the topic and area of expertise
2. Moderated discussion to address questions raised by Selectboard members among panelists

3. Closing plenary discussion to recap key points and identify next steps for staff in future policy development

Part 2- A roundtable discussion on retail cannabis sales and what local policy considerations to be aware of to encourage or prevent implementation. The Legislative outlook for the 2020 session will be discussed, along with advocacy efforts from VLCT.

Participants (duration 1 – 1.5 hours)

- Matt Boulanger, Planning Director & Zoning Administrator
- Karen Horn & Gwynn Zakov, VLCT Public Policy & Advocacy Staff
  - Confirmation received that Ms. Horn and/or Ms. Zakov would be happy to attend and join in the discussion