

Town of Panton
Selectboard Meeting
Tuesday, March 9, 2010
6:00 p.m. – Panton Town Offices

Board:

Beth Tarallo
John Viskup, Chair

Administration:

Rick Cloutier
Sue Torrey

Guests:

James Dayton	M'Lissa Dayton
Doug Dows	Ed Hanson
Joe Kuhn	Bruce Many

Call to Order: Chair Viskup called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Motion by Beth Tarallo to approve the February minutes seconded by John Viskup. So voted. Motion by Beth Tarallo to postpone the election of Chair until the April meeting. So voted.

Public Comment: Joe Kuhn re-stated that he wants a Town Manager. He again stated that he doesn't believe it necessary to have two highway people. Joe added that his son recommended that Panton have Addison County Regional Planning hire the manager who would manager three or four towns, similar to Zoning Administrator Ed Hanson current capacity. State that Eric did a great job presenting the budget at town meeting. Discussion ensued on establishing the viability of the existing town hall roof and Joe offered to speak to the roofer company he used. The Board will bid it out when the time comes.

Discussion of the current financial formats and accounting practices currently used by the town. Doug Dows commented that he doesn't believe the town is being audited properly and said that he is glad to help out with financial reporting if needed. He also recommended that the town report contain a tax reconciliation page, which will show the tax rate expected when using the proposed budgets. Further discussion by M'Lissa and Doug on practices used by our internal auditors and external auditor and that they don't always coincide. M'Lissa commented that the town is receiving compilation services versus an audit. M'Lissa commented that an audit is a testing of information; it's impossible to look at everything. Doug mentioned that the professional auditors have missed catching some errors. Doug stated that perhaps more questions should be asked before the town picks an outside auditor, i.e. looking back at town meeting minutes to ensure the will of the people has been done. Discussion on how often an audit should be done and the expense to the town. Also discussed the possibility of an audit and then a follow up audit the next year. M'Lissa didn't believe this to be necessary. The Board and Sue Torrey commented that they are doing the best job they can and feedback is most appreciated. Chair Viskup asked Doug Dows to step up and be part of the next audit review to which Doug agreed. M'Lissa Dayton commented that it's difficult with the Selectboard turn-over and this is where a town manager would help. Lack of policies was discussed. It was agreed that money should be put in the next budget for an audit as it's over-due. Discussion on mailing the town reports next year. It was decided that next year a notice will be posted on the town website offering to mail reports if so requested.

Road Foreman Report: Rick advised that he and Sue have been working on the grant for Panton Road. Discussed culvert grant for Slang Road; will be closed for two weeks therefore West Road must be open for Rescue/Fire, etc. so he has been putting stone on the road. Should find out in July if we received grant money. Discussed road mud from Visser farm. Chair Viskup asked Rick to speak with the Vissers again. Rick agreed to speak with them tomorrow about putting stone in their driveway to eliminate the road mess. Put a new water pump in the backhoe. Locked in gravel prices with Pike at \$7.75. Discussed planting trees on Panton Road where brush was cut back.

New Business:

Ed Hanson discussed the process of utilizing the Judicial Bureau to issue tickets of violation when enforcing local ordinances. He advised that based on the experience in other towns the process doesn't work and is basically a waste of time so therefore he can't recommend Panton use it as an enforcement vehicle. He added that process can be lengthy - one town has been in court for over three years. Chair Viskup commented that the legal system is broken.

Beth Tarallo asked Ed about a possible zoning violation on Panton Road. Ed advised that he has spoken with the individual and is trying to work with her to correct the situation but if it isn't taken care of a formal zoning violation will be issued. He will keep the Selectboard updated.

Joe Kuhn commented that perhaps our legislators could help with the Judicial Bureau

The following appointments were made on a motion by Beth Tarallo, seconded by John Viskup. So voted.

Addison County Solid Waste Representative – Joe Kuhn
Fence Viewers – Eric Visser, Bill Bingham
Emergency Management Coordinator – Matt Fraley
911 Coordinator – Paul Sokal
Green Up Coordinator – Louis Giovanella
Tree Warden – John Viskup

Old Business:

Discussion of the status of the Vorsteveld violation.

Traffic Ordinance – Revision – motion by Beth Tarallo to postpone until the April meeting. So voted.

Financials/Correspondence:

Correspondence was reviewed and check warrants signed.

Chair Viskup adjourned the meeting at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Torrey, Clerk