

Town of Panton
Selectboard Meeting
Tuesday, January 12, 2010
6:00 p.m. – Panton Town Offices

Board:

Eric Carter
Beth Tarallo
John Viskup, Chair

Administration:

Rick Cloutier
Sue Torrey

Guests:

Sharon Ashcraft
Joe Kuhn
Gary Norton

Call to Order: Chair Viskup called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Motion by Beth Tarallo to approve the December minutes as written, seconded by Eric Carter. So voted.

Deb Brace: Although not in attendance, the Board received Deb Brace's letter of resignation as Dog Warden/Constable. Motion by Eric Carter to accept her resignation effective immediately, seconded by Beth Tarallo. So voted.

Public Comment: Joe Kuhn recommended more snow fence on Panton Road in 2011. Eric concurred that it's needed in places. Discussion on the financials and it was noted that because the entire loan amount was expensed against the new truck it appears as if the highway is over budget but the loan income offset the expense. The highway budget is on-track at 62% of budget.

Road Foreman Report: Rick informed the Board that FEMA *may pay* for the last snow storm and that we have been awarded the \$10,000 grant from Better Back Roads. Advised that the Vergennes/Panton Water District wants to run water out on Slang Road and perhaps the work could coincide with the bridge repair so water is available for this part of town. Gary Norton commented that he needs water and has the pipe ready except for getting water across the creek. Discussion on various methods to accomplish this and it was discussed that perhaps the piping could be located at the bottom by the bridge abutment. Gary Norton commented that previous Selectboards would not give permission and Chair Viskup apologized for this. If the State of Vermont approves the water line going across the creek then the Board will give their approval. Rick advised that he received an estimate for the backhoe bucket boring of approximate \$1,500.00. The Highway Department will take the bucket off and put it back on. Rick estimated that the backhoe will be out of service for approximately a week. Mentioned that he would like to finish cutting brush on Lake Road in the next week or so and work with Eric on drafting the Winter Road Policy. Rick will call Eric on setting up a time next week. Eric asked the Board for their comments and input. Rick advised that during the snow storm the City of Vergennes borrowed fuel from Panton as there wasn't any place open. Panton will receive reimbursement from Vergennes. Discussion of Ferrisburgh using molasses with their salt which reduced their salt usage by 33% and keeps the salt from bouncing off the road. Rick asked Eric to visit Ferrisburgh Highway Department with him to look into this more.

Old Business: Legion contribution – Chair Viskup commented that according to the Vergennes American Legion, the town is behind three years in paying the Legion for flag placement. Sue advised that she contacted Henry Broughton three years ago after receiving their letter of request, to inform him of Panton's new petition requirement. No petitions were received and no further letters of request. The Board agreed that it is the least the town can do for our veterans and directed Clerk Torrey to send them a check for \$240.00. Clerk Torrey stated that although she agrees this is well deserved, they should not be treated any differently than other organizations requesting funds.

Russett Abatement – John advised that he spoke to Ann Sullivan about getting her report on the Russett abatement. Sue read the note Ann left on the original recording of the abatement hearing which stated she would provide notes as well as a report. Sue stated that although she typed the minutes of the hearing, a formal report should be done. Comment was made the Ann Russett has been residing at the house for some time so no further tax reduction will be made.

Russett Dog Fine – Beth advised that she spoke to Phil Russett who still refuses to pay the fines as imposed by the town on his dogs. He again suggested the town take his dogs. It was discussed that the town does not want to remove any dogs from their homes however all residents must be treated equally especially considering other residents have paid their fines. Chair Viskup remarked that he feels the town has been more than fair to Phil. It was discussed that perhaps the town should file a judgment and asked Clerk Torrey to follow up on this with the attorney at VLCT.

Recycling Contract – Panton received a response from the City of Vergennes stating that based on their data collected ten years ago there wasn't a problem with outside use of the Recycling Center. Sue commented that when she recycled Saturday there was someone asking each car what town they were from. Joe Kuhn said no one was there when he recycled and Eric said his wife stated there wasn't anyone when she was there. Joe Kuhn reiterated that he doesn't believe recycling should be part of the town tax base but should be a private contract between the resident and trash hauler. Eric will draft a response to Vergennes's letter asking them to consider a sign and/or someone periodically checking.

New Business:

none

Financials/Correspondence:

Correspondence was reviewed and check warrants signed. Clerk Torrey will be on vacation February 8th through the 12th so the Board rescheduled the monthly meeting to February 16th at 6:00 p.m.

At 8:20 p.m. Chair Viskup recessed the meeting until January 26 at 6:00 p.m. for final budget review and signing of the Town Meeting Warning.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Torrey, Clerk