

Town of Panton Selectboard Meeting
Monday, May 8, 2006
Panton Town Offices
Minutes

Selectboard

R. Atkins
J. Moulton
A. Sullivan

Administration

R. Cloutier
S. Torrey

Guests/Visitors

L. Bushey

Call to Order: Chair Sullivan called the regular meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Minutes: Motion by R. Atkins, seconded by J. Moulton, to approve the minutes of April 10, 2006 with the following change: under New Business, second paragraph, third line, change “inside bottom of garage to *outside* bottom of the garage.” So voted.

Chair Sullivan asked for a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss the Road Foreman’s six (6) month performance review. Motion by J. Moulton, seconded by R. Atkins to go into Executive Session at 7:12 p.m. So voted. The Board came out of Executive Session at 7:25 on a motion from R. Atkins, seconded by J. Moulton with the action of increasing the Road Foreman’s hourly rate \$.50 an hour effective April 13, 2006. So voted.

Road Foreman Report: Advised the Board that because of the increase in fuel prices he cannot get a bid from the pits. Picked up the new truck from Clark’s and drove to Barre to have it outfitted. R. Atkins informed the Board that the town received an anonymous donation of gold leaf lettering for the new truck. Motion by J. Moulton, seconded by R. Atkins to accept the donation. So voted. Chair Sullivan commented that the bicentennial sign was damaged on 22A and the road foreman responded that this was the State of Vermont’s responsibility. R. Atkins commented that the corner of Pease Road and Jersey Street is made more dangerous by the homeowner’s trees blocking the view of traffic coming down Pease Road. S. Torrey mentioned that she thought this had been is problem in the past and will look back in previous minutes. Chair Sullivan asked the Road Foreman if in the future he will need a half-time person. The Road Foreman said that for safety reasons this would be a good idea and that the State of Vermont probably is becoming more strict with regard to safety in the town highway departments. He added that there is enough work for another full time person and it would also be more efficient as time is wasted when on a job going back and forth to pick up equipment. Discussion on this being a non-benefit position and due to budget constraints it would not be until the next budget period. Discussion on the drain odor at the garage. A. Sullivan will look into having the drain pumped.

Public Communication: Laura Lee Bushey advised the Board that she believes the water flow pattern has been changed with regard to the conservation ditch that runs diagonally across her property and her neighbor’s property due to “refuse dumpings” from her neighbor to the West. She further added that she believes when the septic system failed on her neighbor’s property in December, raw sewage flowed into the conservation ditch. She asked the Board to impose the appropriate fine for this health violation. Ms. Bushey also mentioned that when her new house was constructed she was required to have a curtain drain around her mound system so why wasn’t this required of her neighbor? Ms. Bushey stated that because the town received State money to construct the conservation ditch that they therefore bear the responsibility for cleaning it up. She said that she had left a message at the town office in December asking the Selectboard

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and Health Officer to look into this situation but did not hear back. She called the Agency of Natural Resources in March and after their investigation, they did not find any violations having occurred with the neighbor's septic system and closed the case. She asked that the Town of Pantown join with her to ask the ANR to reopen the investigation to address when the ditch was created to catch the sewage overflow (which went into the conservation easement) and to ask for assistance in cleaning out the ditch. Ms. Bushey also said that when her neighbor mows the debris is going into the conservation ditch further blocking the water flow. Chair Sullivan said that her call to the town office was referred to the Selectboard but they assumed Ms. Bushey had gone on to notify the State so they did not respond. Chair Sullivan said that they did not have enough information yet on this situation, but that the Board will get back to her.

New Business:

Review Truck Bids - Chair Sullivan opened the bid received for the 1994 International dump truck. Motion by R. Atkins, seconded by J. Moulton to accept the bid of \$8,541.00 from Lang Landscaping. So voted.

Old Business:

Air Handler – R. Atkins will touch base with Dundon's. J. Moulton said it seemed that this action has taken too long (at least seven months).

Paving Bids – no action

Chair Sullivan brought up the topic of prepaying gasoline for our dog warden and what store should be used. S. Torrey said that she can get a bank credit card this way it can be used anywhere. The Selectboard agreed this was a good idea and directed S. Torrey to purchase a card.

Chair Sullivan asked what was planned for work on the Town Hall/Offices this year. J. Moulton said that the entry way needs work. Chair Sullivan asked S. Torrey to put town hall repair on next month's agenda. Due to scheduling constraints, the June meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 13.

Action Items:

Correspondence was reviewed and warrants were signed; Payroll - \$3,946.58, A/P \$103,366.63. Grants for HAVA were reviewed and it was discussed this could be used for repairing the handicap ramp. Chair Sullivan will review the grant and respond back to the Board. The lack of a town emergency management coordinator was discussed and it was mentioned that perhaps Melanie Clark would be interested considering she has a background in emergency care. J. Moulton said that the town will lose out on FEMA money if we don't have something in place. S. Torrey will contact M. Clark. J. Moulton asked if Life Insurance and Disability had been added for the road foreman and clerk. S. Torrey explained that VLCT did not include all the information so therefore the price is different than first quoted. The new rate would be \$36.88 for two employees.

Motion by Ron Atkins to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m. seconded by Jan Moulton. So voted.