

Town of Panton Selectboard Meeting
Monday, July 10, 2006
Panton Town Offices
Minutes

Selectboard

R. Atkins
J. Moulton
A. Sullivan

Administration

R. Cloutier
S. Torrey

Guests/Visitors

J. Kuhn

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

Minutes: Motion by J. Moulton to approve the minutes of May 8, 2006 as written. So voted.

Public Communication: J. Kuhn requested that that Selectboard appoint an alternate to the Addison County Solid Waste District Board. He added that T. Walterscheid had acted in this capacity in the past and had done a good job. Clerk Torrey to contact Mr. Walterscheid to see if he is agreeable to the appointment. Mr. Kuhn also mentioned that he has been asking ACSWD to do something about large junk (waste) and as they don't seem interested he suggests that perhaps the town could contact people to forward their large waste to the town garage for pickup. He further added that he believes this is a county problem not just a Panton problem. Discussion ensued regarding potential fixes for this problem, such as, extending Green-Up Day to larger waste, contacting ACSWD about methods of cleaning up large waste, etc. Mr. Kuhn asked about liability insurance coverage on the land the town purchased. Clerk Torrey will look into the coverage details. The Selectboard also mentioned that they intend on filling in the cellar hole on the property to prevent anyone from falling into the cellar. Mr. Kuhn inquired about purchasing equipment for mowing over the guardrails. The Selectboard said that this will be addressed at this meeting as there is so much overgrowth it is difficult for the Road Foreman to cut with a trimmer. Mr. Kuhn inquired about someone taking a count at the Vergennes Recycling Center of how many Panton residents are using the facility. He said perhaps we could hire someone (perhaps a student) for a few Saturdays and even prepare a survey of questions for them to ask, i.e. how many in the household, etc. He added that he doesn't believe that the fee for utilizing the center should be received from property tax. The Selectboard agreed that a survey is a good idea and Chair Sullivan said that hopefully by the next meeting they will have answers. Mr. Kuhn mentioned that the minutes on the Panton website are very brief. Chair Sullivan explained that the minutes are abbreviated per statute. Clerk Torrey advised Mr. Kuhn that the meetings are taped and he is welcome to listen to any taped meeting.

Discussion about the culvert issue at Wayland and Debra Brace's. Mrs. Brace spoke to Clerk Torrey a few days prior about the excess water on her property which is affecting their septic system. She feels the culvert is not sufficient to take care of the running water. The Road Foreman will check on this problem.

Road Foreman Report: Advised the Board that he had received two quotes for guardrail mowing; Kevin Sullivan, \$100/hour & Bagley, \$135/hour. The equipment can be rented for \$1,000.00 but can only be used for 40 hours. Motion by J. Moulton to contract with Kevin Sullivan not-to-exceed \$600.00 or six hours. The Road Foreman will contact Mr. Sullivan. The worst areas will be brush hogged first. The Road Foreman said that even with a blade on the trimmer the vine and tree growth is so prolific that it takes about three hours to gain three feet. This cutting can be done by next week. Discussed problems with the 1999 truck; no tune-ups,

Road Foreman Report: (cont'd)

work done for only one recall (airbrake) no service as required in maintenance agreement, bad injector. Clark's Equipment will repair the bad injector and replace the second injector and perform maintenance and tune-up for \$3,500.00. Without this work we could lose the engine in the truck. The Road Foreman said that this expense could be offset by the sale of the old truck. Motion by J. Moulton to have this work done, seconded by A. Sullivan. So voted. Discussed increases in price of road salt (\$44.50/ton 2005, \$46.92/ ton 2006). The two prices for stone to repair of Hopkins Road is \$9.40/ton from Pike and \$8.79/ton delivered from Champlain Construction. It was mentioned that except for a grant for replacing the culvert on Slang Road, Panton will not be getting any highway grant money. Evidently this is because we have only been maintaining our roads and not improving them. It was mentioned that the State of Vermont still assumes that Jersey Street is a gravel road. Clerk Torrey said that there must be a communication problem as the town is required to submit paperwork to the State substantiating money used for paving. Motion by J. Moulton to contract with B. Niles to map the Panton roads (inventory). So voted. This will give the town a better chance of getting grants as the State looks at this inventory. The Road Foreman will contact Mr. Niles. Clerk Torrey requested that the Road Foreman order road signs to save time and numerous phone calls due to questions from the vendor. This was agreed to. It was mentioned that Phil O'Brien gave the town a diesel fuel gauge for the fuel pump at the garage; J. Moulton will send him a thank you note for his generosity. The Road Foreman advised that chloride will be applied within the week. Discussion ensued regarding applying chloride to West Road and it was agreed that it is a waste of town money to chloride the entire road length being that it's a Class 4 road. Chloride will be applied forty feet (40ft) beyond O'Brien's. Further discussion on why, in the past, South Road to Panton dam received chloride as it belongs to the State of Vermont. It was agreed that this should not have occurred and will not be done again. New Haven's road crew will be assisting Panton's Road Foreman this week hauling winter sand as well as bringing their loader to mound the sand. The Panton Road Foreman will reciprocate by assisting them in drawing gravel. It was discussed how wonderful it is for the towns to be so neighborly and help each other out. What usually takes days will be completed in one day. It was noted that the Road Foreman was receiving work calls while off-duty. The Selectboard directed the Road Foreman not to accept work calls while at home and not on duty. As the Road Foreman can only take direction from the Selectboard, all problems should be addressed to them (per Vermont Statute 19, 101. Discussion about fuel oil and diesel and it was agreed to stay with the current distributor LeBeau & O'Brien.

New Business: Vacation for the Town Clerk was discussed and it was agreed that if the Clerk wanted to take two weeks in August that the office could be closed for one week and the new Assistant Clerk could hold abbreviated office hours for one week. A notice to this effect will be posted in the newspaper. Clerk Torrey advised that she is waiting for bank statements after which she will be ready to meet with the Board to set the tax rate. She emphasized that this should be done soon as the tax bills should be mailed out in July.

Old Business: Discussion on which newspaper is best for town notices. Chair Sullivan advised that she had received two communications from citizens who are concerned that the newspaper of record was changed. She added that M. Hermann spoke with Angelo Lynn, editor of the Addison Independent, who agreed to match the same price as we currently pay for notices in the Eagle. Further discussed ensued regarding the number of readers reached in each paper.

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Motion by J. Moulton to rescind the original motion of November 14, 2005 changing the newspaper of record from the Addison Independent to the Addison Eagle.

A. Sullivan seconded the motion. So voted. The newspaper of record will be the Addison Independent. Clerk Torrey advised the Board that the garden outside the office is being cared for compliments of Steve Hofmann. It was agreed that the garden is beautiful and adds much to the Town Hall/Offices. Chair Sullivan advised that Board that she has been researching the apparent issue with the Arnold Bay [boat access]. She said that the only problem appears to be high water and that there is room to turn around. She also said that she believes it would create a problem for Panton residents who use the access for swimming and picnicking if the access was designated as a public boat launch. It was originally designated for Panton residents and perhaps in the future picnic tables of some sort can be added. There are trees that need trimming which the Road Foreman will take care of. Discussion on the status of the dehumidifier; S. Torrey explained that the unit has been installed but is not operational as there is a problem with the plumbing and electrical connection. She also explained that she purchased an additional piece of carpet as the concrete floor in the office is very slippery due to the high humidity. The vault is being dehumidified and is maintaining adequate humidity percentage. S. Torrey also expressed concern that the town does not have a contract with Dundon's for the work that is being done with regard to installing the dehumidifier. Chair Sullivan will touch base with the contractor. Further discussion on how it has taken three years to get the humidity problem resolved in the office.

Action Items: Correspondence was reviewed and warrants were signed; Payroll - \$5,457.13, A/P \$128,966.32. The contracts for Vergennes Recycling and Fire Protection were reviewed and signed.

At 9:30 p.m. Chair Sullivan recessed the meeting until a later date at which time the tax rate will be set.