

Town of Panton Selectboard Meeting
Tuesday, July 10, 2007, 6:30 p.m.
Panton Town Office

Selectboard

R. LaFleche, Jr.
J. Moulton
A. Sullivan

Administration

S. Torrey
R. Cloutier
C. Dion
E. Hanson

Guests

R. Moulton
J. Kuhn

The public hearing of the proposed Zoning Regulations was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chair A. Sullivan. As there was no public input, R. LaFleche, Jr. made the motion to adopt the regulations, seconded by J. Moulton. So voted. Chair Sullivan closed the hearing at 7:00 p.m.

The Selectboard meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Chair Sullivan.

Approval of Minutes – Minutes of the May & June Selectboard meetings were approved as presented on a motion from R. LaFleche Jr., seconded by J. Moulton. So voted.

Public Communication – Motion by R. LaFleche Jr., to accept the letter drafted by R. Moulton to Department of Fish & Wildlife Commissioner requesting gate removal on the road through Dead Creek for ATV use. Chair Sullivan seconded by motion. So voted. J. Moulton abstained from the vote. Letter on file in the town office.

J. Kuhn asked if the Selectboard if an alternate had been named to the Solid Waste Board. Chair Sullivan said she will continue to try to find someone. Mr. Kuhn mentioned that there appears to be a problem between Panton and the Solid Waste District with regard to Green -Up Day. Evidently there wasn't much for green up brought to the district. The Road Foreman advised that much of the roadsides were picked up prior to Green -Up Day by a person performing community service and most of it was trash. He also advised that most of what was dropped off at the town garage on Green -Up Day was household trash (computers, microwaves, old furniture, etc.). He will forward the Solid Waste receipt from Green -Up to J. Kuhn. It was mentioned that household trash being left around town is a constant problem and that although law enforcement officials have been apprised of the situation nothing has been done to prevent this problem from continuing. It was further discussed that there is no one is stationed at the garage to oversee what is being brought in and that the town shouldn't have to pay the Road Foreman to spend the day supervising but rather it should be the town Green-Up Day coordinator or other volunteer. The Road Foreman said that many of the green plastic bags went out but not many came back and J. Moulton added that the town clerk had to ask for more bags as she ran out of them at the office. J. Kuhn requested that the next time the Selectboard ask if he would like to serve as Solid Waste Representative prior to appointing him.

Road Foreman Report – advised that he and the highway assistant had installed new springs on the older truck and that the new truck had been recalled by Clark's. Advised that culverts on Hopkins Road will be around \$9,208.00 and recommends the work is done in a three (3) year phase. Needs a chloride pump so chloride can be applied which will cost around \$400.00. Asked the Selectboard to pay for his trailer registration as it is only used for town work. Motion by R. LaFleche Jr., seconded by J. Moulton to pay for the registration. So voted. Obtained prices for excavator rental; \$4,200.00 from Nortrax and \$3,600.00 from Brown's (per month). He added that Brown's will move the excavator for us when needed.

Page Two
Selectboard Meeting
July 10, 2007

He anticipates to start the ditching work in August (Lake Road, Jersey Street, Spaulding Road and Jackson Road). Advised the Board that he "fixed" the ramp at Arnold's Bay but the paving should be cut and rip/rap installed. J. Moulton stated that perhaps this should be a line item on the next budget so the town's people can vote if they want to spend money on repairing the boat launch. It was mentioned that this was discussed at a prior Selectboard meeting (refer to September 11, 2006 minutes) when Eric Carter presented a petition to the Board to repair the launch. At that meeting he was going to contact Regional Planning about available grant money but nothing further was heard from him. Discussion on liability for the town and Chair Sullivan advised that there was a sign that states the launch should be used at their own risk. It was discussed that since Basin Harbor has stopped boat launching Pantons is now being used as it's closer than other are a boat launches but this doesn't mean that the town must allow the launching. Also mentioned that perhaps the boat launch users should contribute money to have the launch repaired and that there are many other important repairs the town needs first. The Road Foreman advised that there is a tree split in half in the town right-of-way on Spaulding Road and although he has called Job Corps to see if they will remove it, he has not heard back from them. J. Moulton will attempt to contact them again. The tree on the corner of Pease and Jersey by K. Mitchell's will also be removed. According to statute, the Tree Warden must be a resident of the town and therefore the Road Foreman cannot be acting Warden as he resides in Vergennes. Motion by R. LaFleche Jr., seconded by J. Moulton to appoint Bruce Many Tree Warden. So voted. The Tree Warden is responsible for contacting town residents regarding tree removal on their property but in the town right-of-way.

Standards for drive way culverts were discussed and the Zoning Regulation was referred to.

The Road Foreman advised that the culvert on Lake Road had dropped several inches and is splitting fast. The delegate from Better Back Roads will be coming tomorrow to look at what can be done to remedy this. It was discussed that the Board still doesn't know how much money the town will receive in highway grant money. J. Moulton mentioned that the town was late with the grant request as the foreman wanted to wait until the new Selectboard member was elected. It was discussed that there isn't any money in the budget to repair this large culvert. Various methods of repair were discussed and it was mentioned that we had asked the State of Vermont to send someone to look at the culvert. R. LaFleche Jr., said that the town should be prepared to have this replaced before the next budget period. Chair Sullivan said if need be the town could hold a special meeting to get voter approval. J. Kuhn asked if our legislators could expedite the highway money and Chair Sullivan replied that the town consistently requests money and is told there isn't anything available. She added that it's very frustrating for the Board as the State just doesn't seem concerned with small towns. S. Torrey said that she reads in the newspapers where other towns are receiving money because the towns' people have volunteered to work on grants and that in Pantons no one comes forward. Further discussion on how difficult it is to write grants as the State is so exacting and many of the towns receiving grant money have hired grant writers.

Page Three
Selectboard Meeting
July 10, 2007

It was mentioned that the New Haven Highway Department is not allowed to share services with other towns until further notice. Evidently a few New Haven residents complained as it is in their bylaws that highway vehicles do not go outside town limits.

New Business – Motion by J. Moulton, seconded by R. LaFleche Jr., to renew Ed Hanson's contract as Zoning Administrator. So voted.

Financials/Business Matters – the Vergennes Fire Protection Agreement was signed (\$923.00 less than last year) as was the Vergennes Recycling Agreement (same rate as last year). The Addison County Sheriff's contract was also signed and Clerk Torrey will forward a copy of the revised Traffic Ordinance with the signed contract. The ordinance will also be posted in the Addison Independent and on our town bulletin boards. Correspondence was reviewed and check warrants were signed. Clerk Torrey advised that the town had received the first prebate deposit.

At 8:40 p.m. Chair Sullivan recessed the meeting until Friday, July 20th at 12:00 noon.