

Town of Panton Selectboard Meeting
Tuesday, May 13, 2008 6:00 PM-Panton Town Office

Selectboard

L. Donnelly
R. LaFleche, Jr.
J. Viskup

Administration

R. Cloutier
S. Torrey

Guests

Mickey Billings
Deb Brace
Barb Fleming
Greg Lynk
Janice Porter
David Raphael
Kevin Sullivan
Julie Viskup
Denis Guillette – Pike Industries
Ed Biello
Doug Dows
Joe Kuhn
Dave Merrill
Robert Porter
Gerry Santenello
Paul Tippet

Call to Order: Chair LaFleche called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The minutes of April 8 were approved as written on a motion from L. Donnelly, seconded by J. Viskup. So voted.

Public Comment: L. Donnelly asked Robert Porter what his plans were for the vehicles etc. on the corner of Panton Road. Mr. Porter explained that he will be getting rid of the steel and vehicles and welcomed anyone with questions to speak to him. He agreed that two weeks should be sufficient time to clean up the field (excluding any breakdowns). Janice Porter added that Robert has been cleaning up his grandfather's years of accumulation as well. Discussion of the two flat bed trucks one of which is parked on the corner and the other parked at the house). Both vehicles are registered and used. Joe Kuhn commented that people should be encouraged to get rid of old vehicles, etc. and perhaps the town could somehow help with this. John Viskup added his appreciation to Robert for cleaning up the area and explained that if anyone else should complain, one of the board members will speak with him or he is welcome to attend a board meeting. Janice Porter expressed her dismay about the harassment her son Robert is receiving from a neighbor. Chair LaFleche advised that if this should continue Mrs. Porter should speak with the state police or sheriff's office. Lynn Donnelly asked if the flat bed truck parked on the corner could be stored in the field but Mr. Porter explained that he has had things stolen out of the vehicle and prefers to have it close to his house. Lynn Donnelly advised that she will contact the neighbor to see what can be done. Gerry Santenello advised Mrs. Porter that he had complained about the junk and he feels people should be considerate of each other. Short discussion on being a "Vermonters" versus coming from out-of-state. Mrs. Porter mentioned that the neighbor who has been harassing the boys has quite a bit of junk around his residence. She added that she will be going to the State's Attorney about the harassment as there is a law that protects handicapped people like Robert. Lynn Donnelly thanked the Porter's for attending the meeting and John Viskup added that although the neighbor problem may be out of the Selectboard jurisdiction the Board is always willing to listen. Paul Tippet thanked the Board for the working they are undertaking.

Re: Allen Road, Chair LaFleche explained that the road will be returned to dirt and the corner of Jersey Street and Allen Road changed from a "Y" to a "T" intersection. The mail boxes will be moved according to the Postmaster's specifications however, the Allen Road residents want their mailboxes at the end of their driveways. Chair LaFleche explained that paving money is better utilized elsewhere and there is a poor base on the road. The existing pavement will be reclaimed and used on Jersey Street.

Road Foreman Report: R. Cloutier advised that he has prices for paving Jersey Street and asked Denis Guillette from Pike Industries to explain the process to the Board. Mr. Guillette advised that the bad sections should be reclaimed and calcium chloride added to the mix (increases road stability). He advised that the project can begin mid June with payment deferred until July. Rick Cloutier added that a pad will be also be layed at the garage which will prevent the sand pile from sinking into the ground. Mrs. Porter advised that there is a great deal of sand in the gully by the sluice and would like it cleaned up. Rick will check. Rick added that the City of Vergennes swept the town office driveway and the water plant. Motion by John Viskup, seconded by Lynn Donnelly to accept the Pike contract, Option 2, at a price of \$107,151.61. Lynn Donnelly expressed concern about the farm vehicles traveling over the new pavement on Jersey Street and Rick Cloutier advised that they are aware of the problem and will work with the town. Rick advised that he spoke with Mrs. Condon regarding the work on the culvert in front of their house on Panton Road. S. Torrey asked if the ditch in front of her house would be seeded soon as there is standing water and mosquitoes are very thick around her house. Rick explained that he is awaiting the hydroseeder and the culverts in front of Condon's will eliminate the standing water. Chair Lafleche advised the board that there is a failed (separated) culvert on Jackson Road which has also undermined the ditch and road. Photos were passed around. Rick Cloutier explained that the culvert is approximately seventeen years old and was backfilled with mostly sand and a heavy rain right now would finish the road. Two smaller culverts were scheduled to be replaced this year with money from the culvert budget. It will cost approximately \$6,000.00 to replace this large culvert and will require utilizing an excavator due to the bank height. Rick added that they have been offered the use of an excavator at \$65.00 an hour. Concern was expressed of overspending the current budget and Joe Kuhn added that it's all right to go over sometime especially if something is needed. Discussion on accrual accounting for this expense. Joe Kuhn commented that the road cracks should be filled to preserve them an additional year. Chair Lafleche explained that this can't be done by our road crew as it requires special equipment. Discussion on towns getting together to purchase this type of equipment. Joe Kuhn added that he would like to see a town manager to cover Waltham, New Haven, Panton and Addison and perhaps have the Addison County Regional Planning Commission look into this possibility. John Viskup asked that the road foreman chart out his projects so the board has an idea of what is coming up and projects can be prioritized. Motion by Lynn Donnelly, seconded by John Viskup that work that can be billed in July and accrued in July be done now. So voted. Joe Kuhn apologized for the misunderstanding with the transfer station taking wood free. He added that he would like to see the town use a chipper and offer the mulch to the town residents. Rick Cloutier agreed but added that most of what he takes down is sumac and not suitable for mulch. Discussing as using it for fill. Rick advised that he has been in contact with the Fish & Wildlife Department and they have cleaned up the area by third bridge and West Road. The area is now being patrolled by the State Police.

Dave Merrill and Greg Lynk arrived at the meeting and Chair Lafleche explained the plans for Allen Road. He added that they should speak with the Postmaster regarding mailbox placement. Dave asked about upgrading Allen Road to a Class III road and Chair Lafleche said it had not been discussed.

New Business: The Board reviewed a letter from Valerie Congdon regarding the condition of her mailbox. According to the Postmaster, because her mailbox is leaning at such an angle, the postal carrier cannot safely get to the box to deliver the mail. She asks that the town move the mail box according to the postal parameters. Discussion on how the mailbox got in this condition and Rick stated that they hit it with the plow over the winter but repaired it. It was decided that the town will attempt to repair the post. Lynn Donnelly advised that according to selectboard guidelines, there should be a Vice Chair. Motion by Lynn Donnelly to appoint John Viskup as Vice Chair, seconded by Rejean Lafleche. So voted. John Viskup advised that George Kneeshaw came to him regarding a problem with his appraisal and that our Assessor has not responded to him. S. Torrey explained that she was aware of this problem and referred it to our town lister, Joan Burt. She added that grievance has not been scheduled as yet but will be soon and she will check with Joan to make sure this problem is being addressed. Lynn Donnelly advised that Ziggy Comeau, City of Vergennes Alderman, contacted her regarding community sharing of equipment and services. Alderman Comeau would like to attend a Panton Selectboard meeting and would also like the Panton Selectboard to attend one of their meetings to further discuss this possibility. Because the meetings are held on the same night, it was agreed to tentatively move the next monthly Selectboard Meeting to Tuesday, June 3, at 6:00 p.m. Doug Dows commented that it's nice to have the meetings start at 6:00 p.m. while it's daylight. He added that he would like to see the town hall restored and be more of an asset to the community and perhaps returning to a more close knit community, i.e. having a harvest supper or other social functions. John Viskup added that the town needs a grant writer and Doug Dows agreed to write the grant. Doug inquired on the status of the speed limit on Panton Road and gave the board a brief overview of how the speed limit was changed without a traffic engineering study. He added that he was advised by the previous Selectboard that Addison County Regional Planning had conducted a speed study a copy of which he forwarded to the transportation agency. They advised this study did not comply with the law for adopting a speed ordinance. Doug forwarded this info to Selectboard but to date no action has been taken. Further discussion on what the adequate speed limit should be for safe roads and that the Sheriff's Department as well as Addison County Regional Planning can conduct the study. Chair Lafleche will speak to ACRPC regarding a study.

Old Business: DRB/Planning Commission forwarded the appointment of Jim Darragh as Alternate to Addison County Regional Planning Commission. So voted. Doug Dows was appointed to serve as Alternate to the ACRPC Transportation Advisory Board. So voted.

Financial Reports/Business Matters: Warrants were signed and correspondence reviewed. Sealed bids for the tractor were opened and reviewed and a bid of \$5,500.00 was accepted. Clerk Torrey will notify all bidders. Dog Warden Mickey Billings introduced himself to the Board and mentioned that he would like to consider a three year dog registration. He and Clerk Torrey will work together on this possibility. Discussion on the condensation problem at the town garage. Clerk Torrey said that the road foreman has to cover his desk with plastic to prevent damage from the humidity and condensation. Chair Lafleche advised that exhaust fans would help and windows were eliminated from the garage design due to budget constraints during construction. Clerk Torrey advised that she called Joan Burt about the Kneeshaw problem and she will follow up with our Assessor. Lynn Donnelly advised that comp time should be addressed at the next meeting.

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Chair LaFleche adjourned the meeting at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Torrey, Clerk