

Town of Panton
Selectboard Meeting
Tuesday, June 24, 2008, 6:00 p.m.

Board:

Lynn Donnelly
Rejean Lafleche – Chair

Administration:

Rick Cloutier
Sue Torrey

Guests:

Bruce Many
Robert Porter
Charles Keeley
Eric Preston

Absent – John Viskup

Call to Order: Chair Lafleche reconvened the meeting from June 3, 2008 at 6:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: Motion by L. Donnelly to approve the minutes with the following change: “recessed until June 24th”. Motion seconded by R. Lafleche. So voted.

Public Comment: Eric Preston commented that he had been questioned by J. Viskup regarding his reported harassment of the road foreman. Eric added that this was not true. Further discussion was deferred until arrival of the road foreman. Eric said that he has concerns and th at’s why he attends the monthly meetings.

New Business: Lack of a contract with our Assessor was discussed.

Old Business: S. Torrey passed around the information on the upcoming hearing for Laura Lee Bushey.

Financial Reports: S. Torrey advised that the loan application for the tractor is complete and ready to forward to the State. Motion by L. Donnelly, seconded by R. Lafleche to adopt the ACRPC Rapid Response Plan. So voted. S. Torrey advised that dental rates are increasing by \$24.18 per month. Discussion on percentage the town pays for health care. Motion by L. Donnelly, seconded by R. Lafleche to pay the increase until October 1, 2008 at which time the road foreman contract will be reviewed. So voted.

Bills were reviewed and signed.

L. Donnelly commented that the Board is still waiting for an equipment list from the road foreman. Alternative heating was discussed. S. Torrey suggested reducing the budget for contracted services by 50% and questioned why the town would need to contract out so much. Chair Lafleche replied that an excavator was required for some jobs. S. Torrey said that if the backhoe can’t be used it should be sold to pay off some of the loans. L. Donnelly said these are things that should be looked at for next budget time. S. Torrey commented that perhaps the town should think about contracting everything out as Waltham does which would eliminate the need for benefits and two men. She further added that it doesn’t appear that the work that was done in the past by one man isn’t getting done with two. Chair Lafleche questioned this and S. Torrey gave the example of the intersections not getting cleared which in the past was done with a weed trimmer. E. Preston agreed with this analogy and Chair Lafleche asked why Mr. Preston hadn’t come forward sooner and Mr. Preston replied that he hadn’t been in town that long but has been attending the last few meetings at which time he expressed his concern. Mr. Preston added that he feels the Board doesn’t respond to his concerns or give him respect and as a taxpayer he doesn’t understand why this is. Chair Lafleche replied that everyone has a different way of doing things and that the Board is entrusting the road foreman to do his job. Chair Lafleche also advised that the Town of Ferrisburgh will be helping Panton with roadside mowing this year. S. Torrey said that if we had to hire it out she hoped the town would reconsider this year due to the high price of fuel. Lynn Donnelly commented that with two men in the highway department, the work shouldn’t be contracted out necessarily. She added that she knows sometimes it’s necessary but she would like to understand why.

Selectboard Meeting

June 24, 2008

Page Two

She added that for the past two months she has asked the road foreman for a listing of his recommendations for the summer priorities and also a list of equipment he wanted. She further commented that without this it will be difficult to budget for what is needed; her goal is to keep taxes down.

Comp time was discussed again and S. Torrey will speak with the town accountant regarding legalities (time frame that it must be used). Lynn Donnelly asked S. Torrey to report on the highway comp time at the July meeting. The lack of personnel policies and procedures was discussed. The Highway Helper will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Discussion on work to be done on Jersey Street. Lynn Donnelly asked if the work can be done with town equipment and R. Cloutier advised that some could but they will need an excavation to ditch. S. Torrey commented that in the past ditching was done with our backhoe and comment was made that an excavator does better ditching. R. Cloutier advised the Board that Ferrisburgh will be letting him use their tractor to mow the main roads. Discussion on what towns owe us for work and what we owe them. L. Donnelly asked R. Cloutier for his list of priorities again and R. Cloutier said he was concerned with getting the 1999 truck through another year. R. Cloutier commented on the wear and tear of using his truck for town business. Purchasing a truck was again discussed perhaps with a plow to use in small areas. Lynn Donnelly would like recommendations of what to purchase.

R. Cloutier commented that it was a misunderstanding between him and E. Preston. It was mentioned that the town has not heard from the two outstanding highway grants. R. Cloutier to contact the responsible parties. It was discussed that in the near future the State of Vermont will be eliminating highway grants for towns.

Motion by L. Donnelly to adjourn. Chair Lafleche recessed the meeting at 8:31 p.m.