

Town of Panton
Selectboard Meeting
Tuesday, August 12, 6:00 p.m.

Board:

Lynn Donnelly
Rejean Lafleche – Chair
John Viskup

Administration:

Rick Cloutier
Chris Dion
Sue Torrey

Guests:

Chris Dion
Dennis Guillette – Pike Industries
Renny Perry – Vergennes City Mgr.
Julie Viskup

Call to Order: Chair Lafleche called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: Motion by L. Donnelly to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by J. Viskup.
So voted.

Fire Protection Agreement: Renny Perry advised of an error in the Vergennes fire contract billing, explaining that Waltham received our billing contract and we received their contract. This error occurred over the past two years and resulted in Panton paying \$20,226.00 less and Waltham paying \$20,226.00 more. The increase to the contract for Panton this year is \$13,049.00, which combined with the contract error is an overall increase of \$33,276.00. Discussion by Mr. Perry and the Board about various means to correct this mistake; billing only our budgeted amount until town meeting and putting the additional amount of \$13,049.00 in the new budget; five or six year payment plan for the total owed; or any payment plan that will work for Panton. Mr. Perry said that he is sure the Vergennes City Council will not object to any payment plan Panton chooses to utilize and he will speak with them at their meeting tonight. Discussion on changes in the fire contracts for “assisted lifts” that the firemen are performing for Vergennes Rescue which will fall under the \$8.00 man hour fee. Discussion on why this isn’t charged to VARS; Mr. Perry will speak with them about this and will delay the contract until this is decided. Chair LaFleche commented it appears that we are being double billed for rescue service as they bill private insurance, have memberships drives and towns are also paying an annual contribution. Chair LaFleche added that VARS refuses to supply financial statements despite repeated requests which is somewhat suspicious. The Board will advise Mr. Perry of their decision after further discussion.

Pike Contract: Dennis Guillette, Pike Industries Facility Manager, advised that liquid asphalt prices have increased (across the country) but Pike was able to absorb the increase until August. He stated that because their costs have gone up, the cost is being passed to the customer which means the scope of work will need to be changed to finish the road projects. Legal ramifications were discussed as the town has a signed contract with Pike for the 2008 paving season. Mr. Guillette added that they tried to start paving in June but were told we weren’t ready. This affected the prices as they increased after June. L. Donnelly recommended to table further discussion until the Board can discuss at length. Mr. Guillette advised that the price increased by \$16./ton which will change the unit price to \$69.52 (includes a \$4.00 discount). He added that Pike will honor our bottom line contract price but will pave only what has been re-claimed. The cost to complete the project would be \$126k versus contract price of \$107k. Discussion on not paving East Road as planned to keep cost down. Chair LaFleche advised that the Board will notify Mr. Guillette of their decision by the end of the evening.

Public Comment: None

Road Foreman Report: Advised that Lake Road will be re-opened tomorrow; expressed concern that the Outback Road grant for Adam's Ferry Road must be completed by October 15 (to repair erosion and replace a culvert). Discussion on replacing driveway culverts and the expense involved. Julie Viskup will review our current driveway policy from a legal standpoint. John Viskup mentioned the garbage on Slang Road and the road foreman advised that this has been an ongoing problem with people leaving household trash. It was noted that although names were found on some of the trash and turned over to the authorities, nothing further happened. The littering sign has also been taken.

Old Business: L. Donnelly inquired about the Planning Grant. S. Torrey said that she had received an email from L. Giovanella and one of the reasons for not completing the work was that the Selectboard delayed approving the new zoning regulations. L. Donnelly directed S. Torrey to invite Planning members David Raphael, Chair and Mike Hermann (former Chair) to the September 11th meeting to further discuss why the grant wasn't completed.

John Viskup advised the Board that he has received complaints of Chuck Booska's dogs bothering the next door neighbors on Pease Road. Dr. Viskup reminded Mr. Booska that the Panton Dog Ordinance requires all dogs to be contained within their property. Dog Warden Mickey Billings has also spoken to Mr. Booska and warning letters have been sent regarding his dogs being unregistered. John spoke to Mr. Booska who agreed to contain and register his dogs. S. Torrey advised this has not been done. After further discussion, it was agreed that the Selectboard will send registered letters to the three (3) individuals, including Mr. Booska, who have not yet registered their dogs, with a fine of \$100.00 payable in (3) days. This is in accordance with the Panton Dog Ordinance.

New Business:

Reviewed the new Highway Helper job description. R. Cloutier commented that it's difficult not to work any overtime until December 1st. R. Cloutier mentioned that he was not part of the interview process when C. Dion was hired and there is no documentation of what was discussed. C. Dion advised that it was as stated in the job description. L. Donnelly remarked that C. Dion needs to review the new job description prior to his review. R. Cloutier and S. Torrey will work together on streamlining the job description. Motion by L. Donnelly to extend Chris Dion's contract until the September 11, 2008 meeting. J. Viskup seconded the motion. So voted. L. Donnelly stated that any changes will be retroactive to his anniversary date. She also asked that any changes to the job description be forwarded to the Board prior to the meeting. Discussion on salary that is budgeted for Highway. L. Donnelly commented that there are many things that can be done other than a salary increase. Discussion on Heavy Rescue fees.

Motion by L. Donnelly to move into Executive Session at 7:50 p.m. inviting R. Cloutier, S. Torrey and Julie Viskup to attend. Seconded by John Viskup. So voted. At 8:45 p.m. the Board came out of Executive Session with a motion by L. Donnelly that R. Cloutier has the authority to proceed with the paving on Jersey Street. John Viskup seconded the motion. So voted. Motion by R. Lafleche to pay the 2009 Vergennes Fire Protection contract as presented, seconded by J. Viskup. So voted. L. Donnelly abstained from the vote.

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Financial Reports: Warrants were reviewed and signed. Tax delinquencies were discussed and reviewed as well as setting up a reserve for delinquent tax.

Chair Lafleche adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully,

Susan Torrey, Clerk