

REVISED  
Town of Panton  
Selectboard Meeting  
Tuesday, March 10, 2009  
6:00 p.m.

Board:

Lynn Donnelly  
Beth Tarallo  
John Viskup, Vice Chair

Administration:

Rick Cloutier  
Sue Torrey

Guests:

Alroy Aunchman                      Deb Brace  
Bruce Many                              David Miner  
Gary Norton                              Eric Preston  
Jack Bowen – Bowen Excavating  
Don Cameron – DH Cameron Construction  
John Cole – Cole Construction  
Rob Harrigan – Markowski Excavating  
Will Reopell – D & F Paving

Call to Order: Vice Chair Viskup called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Motion by Lynn Donnelly to approve the February minutes as written, seconded by Beth Tarallo. So voted.

Board Organization: John Viskup nominated Lynn Donnelly as Chair, seconded by Beth Tarallo. So voted. Beth Tarallo nominated John Viskup as Vice Chair seconded by Lynn Donnelly. So voted. The meeting day and time was discussed and it was decided to keep it status quo. Lynn Donnelly moved to use Robert's Rules of Order, John Viskup made the motion and it was seconded by Beth Tarallo.

Public Comment: Alroy Aunchman asked if there was a written proposal for the \$50,000.00 figure budgeted for Hopkins Road. John Viskup explained that the budget figure was based on using our highway department and not contracting work out. Chair Donnelly stated that there are still things to work out before any decision is made regarding Hopkins Road. Bruce Many asked if a decision had been made on the new truck. Chair Donnelly advised it would be discussed at tonight's meeting. John Viskup replied that he thought the truck had been approved but Sue reminded him that a particular truck recommendation was made to the Selectboard by the Truck Committee but the recommendation needed to be officially approved by the Selectboard at the next Selectboard meeting. Gary Norton asked why the truck purchase wasn't discussed at town meeting and Eric Preston stated that he didn't think it was right not to discuss it. Sue Torrey explained that the Board does not need permission to purchase highway equipment as the town has a capital equipment fund. Gary Norton commented that taxpayers should have a say in what is purchased and is disappointed it wasn't discussed at town meeting. He added that he isn't against the purchase but just it should have been discussed more. Chair Donnelly explained that the garage and new truck will be paid for in June and it made sense to replace the older truck. Eric Preston commented that he still believes it should have been discussed more. John Viskup commented that people should have faith in the Selectboard to purchase equipment and do it well, and that's why the truck committee was established and in the future the Board will preparing a schedule for equipment replacement. Chair Donnelly explained that if vital equipment goes to vote and is voted down, the plans for road work and repair that rely on using the equipment won't be completed. She added that people should attend Board meetings if they have concerns, but they should also have some faith that the Board is acting in the best interest of the town. It was agreed by all that there was no reason the truck wasn't discussed but rather it was an oversight by a new Board.

Road Foreman Report: Chair Donnelly deferred to after the bid package review.

Open and Review Bid Packages: Bid opening postponed to another time. Discussion on construction requirements for the bike path and repair of the town hall. Comment was made that it will be 4-6 months before ANR can look at permitting due to staff shortages. Discussion of holding a contractors meeting and design build versus engineering build. John Viskup explained that the bids will be reviewed at another meeting and if there are any questions the contractors will be notified. Discussion on how the project is being funded and that it's not certain which town will get funding. Discussion on the lack of plans which makes it difficult to bid. John Viskup said it's difficult for a small town like Panton to get financial help and that he hopes Panton will have a fair chance at receiving some of the stimulus money from the State of Vermont. Chair Donnelly advised that contractors will be notified of the bid results within the next seven (7) days.

Road Foreman Report: Rick advised that he has been thawing frozen culverts especially at the Panton/Vergennes Water District building. He recommends replacing that culvert and a culvert on East Road in the spring. Has posted the roads and filled in pot holes on Hopkins Road. Chair Donnelly asked him to get going on the roads. Rick mentioned that Jackman Fuel would like to install another 500 gallon fuel tank at the garage. Discussion on diesel versus off-road fuel. New truck would not be able to use off-road. Alroy Aunchman advised that he will check with George Jackson for a place to dump gravel during the Hopkins Road construction.

New Business: Board Appointments – the following appointments were made :  
Planning/DRB – Louise Giovanella, Jim Darragh, Barb Fleming  
Addison County Regional Planning Commission Representative – Mike Hermann delegate, Jim Darragh alternate  
Addison County Solid Waste District Representative – Joe Kuhn  
2<sup>nd</sup> Constable/Dog Warden – Deb Brace  
Town Service Officer – Deb Brace  
Fence Viewers – Bill Bingham, Eric Visser  
Green Up Chair – Louise Giovanella  
911 Coordinator – Vicki Collette  
John Viskup made the motion to accept the appointments and Beth Tarallo seconded. So voted.

Old Business: Discussed the Vergennes-Panton Fire Contract and Chair Donnelly asked that Sue Torrey contact City Manager Hawley and ask that they send two contracts for Panton ; one contract with the original amount without the underpayment and one contract with the five-year payback. Motion by John Viskup to approve the original fire contract as written. Beth Tarallo seconded the motion. So voted.

Motion by John Viskup to go into Executive Session at 7:35 p.m. to discuss personnel issues , seconded by Beth Tarallo. Out of Executive Session at 8:03 p.m. with no action taken.

Financials/Correspondence:  
Bills and correspondence were reviewed and signed.

Next meeting to open and review bids will be March 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. in the town office.

Motion to recess by John Viskup, Chair Donnelly recessed the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Torrey, Clerk