

Town of Panton
Selectboard Meeting
Tuesday, May 12, 2009
6:00 p.m.

Board:

Lynn Donnelly, Chair
Beth Tarallo
John Viskup

Administration:

Rick Cloutier

Guests:

Alroy Aunchman
Deb Brace
Joe Kuhn

Call to Order: Chair Donnelly called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Motion by John Viskup to approve the April minutes. Motion seconded by Beth Tarallo. So voted.

Public Comment: Chair Donnelly recognized Joe Kuhn asked if John Viskup spoke with Green Mountain Power regarding the clean up. John replied he had not. Mr. Kuhn commented that the road cracks should be filled the second year after paving. Discussion on cost of construction Hopkins Road versus Stove Pipe City Road. Rick Cloutier commented that the same gravel will be used on both roads for cost containment. Mr. Kuhn talked about high road expense and Rick Cloutier tried to explain that the garage payment will be taken out of his budget which makes it appear high. Joe asked that Rick bring a work plan to each Selectboard meeting. Joe stated he is not satisfied with the financial reporting; he would like to see the projects reported separately. Deb Brace commented that perhaps Joe could bring an example of his report to the next meeting. John Viskup advised that Sue is keeping the books according to acceptable financial guidelines which is acceptable to all except one person and therefore he will not dictate a change. The Selectboard will take Joe's comments under advisement.

Road Foreman Report: Rick advised that he attended a meeting with Hopkins Road residents and it was decided to try three gravel vendors to see which packs the best for use on the road project as he doesn't want to make a decision. Rick questioned his road topping line item as he doesn't think it changed but he had bills in April. Advised that the grant money not used last year can be used on any Class III road. Advised he will be meeting with Outback Roads representative May 26th. Looking for a grant to repair eroding ditches on Panton flats. Discussed hiring an excavator to ditch East Road, Arnold Bay Road and Panton flats. Chair Donnelly commented that the priority for this budget year is Hopkins Road and Stove Pipe City Road. Chair Donnelly inquired about filling in the foundation on the town property across from the town hall. Rick Cloutier commented that at one time the stone wall was going to be sold (during Ron Atkins tenure as Selectman). The Board agreed this should also be on the agenda as a priority. John Viskup reminded Rick to bring his plan book to the meeting. Deb Brace mentioned that the road is breaking up in front of her house and there was a bike accident because of it over the weekend. She added that her culvert also needs to be repaired due to drainage problems. Deb also commented that she thinks Hopkins Road has had more money spent on it than any other road in town. Chair Donnelly said the plan was logical and the decision has been made to revamp the road. Discussion on opening South Road and the Board agreed it was not in the budget nor was it even feasible. Rick expressed concern over his high medical bills. Discussion on the run-off on the field off Lake Road. Rick explained it is a natural run off. Deb Brace said they blocked off a natural waterway when they did the ditch repair for Winston Whitten and now her basement is full of water and her blacktop driveway is eroded. The Board agreed to make a site visit to Deb's house.

New Business: Beth attended the Vergennes cracker barrel meeting; busing was discussed – not a large turnout. Next meeting tentatively scheduled for November.

Old Business: Trees - Beth advised that the Preston's are agreeable to removal of their tree. The Board will decide on what tree to replant. Discussion on contacting Job Corp to remove the tree and stump. John mentioned that he will write a tree ordinance and present to the Selectboard. Discussion on possibility of having a specialist look at the tree prior to removal. Stimulus funding - John expressed his dismay that the town hall will not qualify for stimulus money. According to the State the town must reapply in the fall. The State also advised that our road is not eligible for stimulus money. Discussion of how the State designated the road a byway but won't give Pantown any funding. Deb Brace mentioned that the piece of fascia board should be removed that's hanging from the hall roof. Dog Warden Fees - Discussion of problem with Booska's dogs on Pease Road. Discussion on Deb getting fines for dog collection and balance of the registration fees (minus State payments) turned over as delinquent. Deb asked that all fees be accumulated until the end of the year and turned in for a Master Card gift card. Asked Board to let use her own discretion when assessing fines and would like to refund partial fine assessed for an out-of-town dog. John Viskup commented that policy needs to be established regarding fees, etc. Deb commented that the dog expense should not be part of the tax base to which the Board agreed but deferred any further comment until they can speak with Sue.

Financials/Correspondence:

Correspondence and bills were reviewed and signed.

Lynn Donnelly commented that Sue Torrey is a great Town Clerk when it comes to record keeping but is concerned about the way financials for special projects are reported. She added that Sue also can't be expected to micromanage (tape cut off)