

Town of Panton
Selectboard Meeting
Monday, June 8, 2009
6:00 p.m.

Board:

Lynn Donnelly, Chair
Beth Tarallo
John Viskup

Administration:

Rick Cloutier
Sue Torrey

Guests:

Deb Brace
Barb Fleming
Joe Kuhn

Call to Order: Chair Donnelly called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Motion by John Viskup to approve the May minutes as presented. Sue reminded them that the tape ran out and the minutes were not completed. Motion seconded by Beth Tarallo. So voted.

Public Comment: None

Discussion on moving some bigger rocks at Arnold Bay boat access and grading the area. Rick agreed the work will be done. Discussion on the fire bill the town received for the tire fire on Slang Road on the Mary Sullivan property. It was agreed that because there isn't proof of arson, etc. the town will pay the bill of \$136.00. Rick reminded Sue to get the name of the individual on 22A who had the water break that Panton was charged for by the fire department. Rick will ask someone at the water department for a name and then Panton can bill them for the fire call. John Viskup advised that he made a site visit at Deb and Wayland Brace's and it appeared that the culvert is working properly. Rick commented that a shallow swale behind the Brace's house would help the sitting water on their front lawn. Deb said that this problem is also undermining the road which is breaking up on the edge in front of her house. Deb said that originally she did not want a deep ditch in front of her house because she had small children so the town put a culvert in. Barb, who was on the Selectboard at the time, advised that they had a State hydrologist make a site visit who determined the method used was the proper way to eliminate Winston Whitten's problem and the Brace's problem. Deb says she also contacted the State who disagreed with the method used and she was told the culvert was put in according to George Jackson's specifications. but said she'll wait and see.

Road Foreman Report: Rick reported that he would like to start paving soon. Asked the Board for permission to utilize an excavator for the culvert replacement on Panton Road (flats) to prevent road closure. Claim for guardrail damage has been submitted to VLCT who will forward to the proper insurance carrier. Sue Torrey mentioned that town residents are buying culverts from us which might create problems with our tax exempt status. She added that it is also affecting our cash flow as we are paying for the culverts up front then waiting to be reimbursed. Motion by John Viskup, seconded by Beth Tarallo that culverts can only be purchased for private driveway replacement and must be paid for in advance. So voted.

New Business: Wind damage to the town hall – Sue advised that one side of the cupola was blown in during the last wind storm and a claim was submitted to VLCT for damages. The adjuster made a site visit and remarked that the hall is in very poor shape and the town needs to make a decision on how they want to proceed for repairs. He further added that they do not pay for damages from rotten wood which is the case with most of the hall but they will pay for repair of the gutter and to closing the opening in the cupola. Sue advised that a town meeting should be scheduled to discuss options for the town hall. Discussion on when to hold the meeting and schedule a date to set tax rate. John will contact Addison County Regional Planning to see if they have an update on the stimulus funding. Discussion on the status of Russett's tax abatement hearing. Sue commented that she has not received the hearing results from Ann Sullivan but that the taxes were lowered. Barb will contact Ann to remind her to write the report. Chair Donnelly went on record to say that she believes this was a very bad decision as the house was not damaged during the 2008 -2009 tax year (when taxes were set). It was discussed it makes more sense to abate a portion of the tax for the current year.

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Old Business: – Town Hall – Town Meeting (see above)

Dog Warden – Deb advised that the Booska dogs are no longer in Pantan. Discussion on Deb getting a rabies shot and the Board advised that she should have one. Discussion on writing parking tickets for illegal parking at the Arnold Bay boat access. The Board agreed this was a good idea. Discussion on putting more “teeth” in the late fees for delinquent dog registrations. Sue reminded the Board that the fee goes up to \$100. per Pantan’s Dog Ordinance. It was decided that residents will receive a second letter with a date that they must have their dog registered by or be charged \$100.00 in addition to the regular late registration fee.

Financials/Correspondence: Matt Jerry’s resignation from the Vergennes-Panton Water District was accepted on a motion by John Viskup, seconded by Beth Tarallo. Motion by John Viskup to appoint Ameddia Perry to the vacancy, seconded by Lynn Donnelly. So voted. Beth Tarallo abstained. Correspondence was reviewed and warrants signed.

Motion by L. Donnelly to go into Executive Session at 7:35 to discuss a personnel issue. Came out of Executive Session at 7:50 p.m. with no action taken.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m. on a motion by J. Viskup. So voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan F Torrey
Clerk