

Town of Panton
Selectboard Meeting
Monday, July 14, 2009
6:00 p.m. – Panton Town Offices

Board:

Lynn Donnelly, Chair (absent)
Beth Tarallo
John Viskup

Administration:

Rick Cloutier
Sue Torrey

Guests:

Alroy Aunchman Deb Brace
Barb Fleming David Huff
Marjorie Huff Richard Jackson
Joe Kuhn

Call to Order: Vice Chair John Viskup called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m. Motion by Beth Tarallo to approve the June minutes as presented, seconded by John Viskup. So voted. Joe Kuhn expressed his dismay that the June minutes did not include his comments about the financials, particularly with regard to why the revenues are dropping and line items for projects be included in the financials. Sue Torrey asked that Joe be patient and wait until fiscal year 2007 is closed which will occur after she meets with the town accountant Friday.

Public Comment: None

Road Foreman Report: Rick reported that Arnold Bay boat access has been repaired and he has received many compliments about how much better it looks. Rick further mentioned that perhaps the Board could speak with Dock Doctors about installing a dock as they use the access to do much of their dock work. It was discussed that if this occurred there would need to be standards/policies regarding their use. Rick gave the Board copies of his out-of-pocket insurance expense and asked that the Board help offset the expense as he was promised. John advised that this will need to be discussed in another meeting with Lynn as she was the person who told Rick the town would offset the expense. Rick added that he will ask former board member Rejean Lafleche and Chris Dion to attend as they were at the original meeting where insurance rates were discussed. John Viskup mentioned that no minutes were taken at the meeting in question as it was an early morning meeting to discuss the proposed highway budget. Rick commented that he feels he is going backward as he didn't get as large as an increase as his helper and will not get a raise this year. Sue Torrey added that she didn't get a big increase last year and will not be getting a raise either. She commented that at least he gets family insurance coverage. Rick again commented that Lynn promised to "level fund" the increase in deductible. John commented that it should be discussed in executive session.

Rick advised that there are driveways to be repaired before the Hopkins Road construction can be started. It was discussed that a letter should be sent to the residents involved. It was mentioned that the residents are aware they need to do their repairs and it's just a matter of giving them a date by which the work must be completed. Beth will work on a letter with Rick this week. Rick mentioned that he would let the residents purchase stone from the town. Sue Torrey interjected that residents must pay in advance as the town is not in the business of being a bank and it impacts cash flow.

Motion by Beth Tarallo, seconded by John Viskup to purchase a crack sealer not to exceed \$1,300.00. Deb Brace asked about the cost of rubber and Rick advised that it's around \$.16 cents a pound. It was discussed that none of the surrounding towns have this equipment. Rick commented that the equipment should last for at least twenty years. Rick also mentioned that he uses a tamper quite a bit which he rents but can purchase for around \$1,500.

Rick advised the Board that Gary Norton is willing to use his tandem truck to haul any dirt away (from ditching, etc.). Discussion of Arnold Bay road being in bad shape and needing repair but there is never enough money to do the work. Rick suggested the Board walk some of the Panton roads to see their condition. The Board did not have any objection to Gary using his truck.

Discussion on putting larger road towns out to bid and writing associated specifications. John Viskup mentioned that there are town residents who would like to have a chance to bid on our projects and the town needs to be fair to everyone and from this point forward projects will be put out for bid and closed bids submitted to the town office. Discussion on having policies in place for a situation like this. Beth recommended that the board look at all policies and Sue Torrey added that copies of standard policies were attached to their agenda. It was agreed that policies are important and should be put in place soon.

Rick presented the Board with a list of issues in the garage identified by the state in 2007. He added that the state inspector has been calling about the status. These “repairs” were not put in the budget and could potentially be expensive as according to Rick a smoke alarm might cost \$5,000.00. He added that the Town of Addison just put one but that Panton garage should have had one installed when it was built. Rick said that the Board should meet with the inspector to further discuss. John Viskup asked that Rick look into prices for smoke detectors. Rick mentioned that because of the rain he is two weeks behind in road work.

New Business: Long Term – 5 year plan – Beth commented that she would like the Board to think about capital planning, roads, town hall, etc. Discussion on divvying up the work among the Board. Discussion on completing the stimulus application and that it must be done by August. John Viskup commented that he hoped this time the town would qualify for funding, but sooner or later the hall needs to be repaired. Discussion on perhaps doing the work piece-meal if the funding falls through. Discussion on having a fund raiser perhaps utilizing the Baptist church. Deb Brace offered to help with a fund raiser and the Board accepted her offer.

Meeting schedule – Beth questioned if meeting once monthly was enough and John replied that perhaps the Board needed to meet more often. Sue suggested one meeting for highway and one meeting for financials. It was decided for the Selectboard to meet the 2nd Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. and the 4th Tuesday at 3:30 p.m. This will be a trial for the calendar year and each employee is welcome at each other’s meeting.

Old Business: Sue Torrey asked about the status of the Panton School Board. Beth explained that the Supervisory Union was asked to amend their by-laws per Panton’s request to clarify who would act on the Supervisory Board if the Panton School District dissolves. This will be voted on in September, but if changed the district will remain in place until the next annual school meeting.

John recognized David and Marjorie Huff who were in attendance to object to the trailer being left on the property between their house and the Russetts by the Vorstevelds. John Viskup explained that they were not allowed to park the trailer there (no permits were granted) and the town will not allow it to be set up due to variance issues. John further explained that the trailer was moved to another location but is still in violation of zoning regulations and they will be fined accordingly. Discussion on past violations particularly the bunker violation which was dropped by the previous Selectboard. Sue Torrey read a letter from Attorney Carroll recommending the violation be forwarded to the Vermont Environmental Board. John Viskup commented that this must stop as it’s setting a precedence for the town. He will contact Zoning Administrator Ed Hanson tomorrow to get this resolved.

Unregistered Dogs – Dog Warden Deb Brace advised the Board that there remain 10 unregistered dogs despite the owners being sent three letters with warnings and fines. Discussion on what the next step should be and that according to the Panton Dog Ordinance the dogs can be taken and impounded. Deb further explained that as Panton Constable she can legally remove the dogs. It was discussed that there are many ways to get their dogs registered and therefore there isn’t an excuse for not doing it. It was mentioned that Deb will have a law enforcement person assist with the impounding. Beth commented that she isn’t comfortable with removing dogs from their property. It was agreed that one final letter should be sent to the owners by registered mail.

Selectboard Meeting

7/14/09

Page Two

Financials/Correspondence: Correspondence was reviewed and warrants signed. The loan papers for purchasing the new tandem truck were reviewed and it was decided to postpone signing the papers until a final invoice is presented. Reviewed the Jackman pre-buy information and it was decided not to pre-buy fuel oil or propane for the year. Discussion on the expense for the smoke alarm for the garage and the Board will contact VLCT to determine what exactly is required.

Vice Chair Viskup recessed the meeting to Monday, July 27th at 11:00 a.m. at which time the town tax rate will be set.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan F Torrey
Clerk