

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MARCH 1, 2008
Minutes**

The annual meeting of the Town of Panton was called to order at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, March 1, 2008, by Bill Clark who also led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ARTICLE 1. To elect all Town Officers as required by law:

Moderator for a term of one (1) year – Bill Clark was nominated by Dean Jackson. Dr. Luginbuhl moved that nominations cease and the Clerk cast one ballot for Bill Clark. So voted by voice vote.

Selectperson for a term of two (2) years – Lynn Donnelly was nominated by Becky Hutchins, Jan Moulton was nominated by Dean Jackson. The Moderator called for a paper ballot vote and the results were: Lynn Donnelly 41 votes and Jan Moulton 19 votes. The Moderator declared the winner to be Lynn Donnelly.

Selectperson for a term of three (3) years – John Viskup was nominated by Doug Dows, seconded by Brad Howe. Vi Luginbuhl moved that nominations cease and the Clerk cast one ballot for John Viskup. So voted by voice vote.

Lister for a term of three (3) years – Marlene Bedard nominated Becky Darragh, Joan Burt explained that Becky did not want to run for re-election and the motion was withdrawn. Joan Burt nominated Louise Giovanella who declined the nomination. As there were no other nominations, Paul Sokal moved that nominations cease, seconded by Dr. Luginbuhl. So voted.

Auditor for a term of three (3) years – Dennis Mueller was nominated by Chris Cook. Ted Boelens moved that nominations cease and the Clerk cast one ballot for Dennis Mueller, seconded by Becky Hutchins. So voted by voice vote.

Constable/Dog Warden for a term of one (1) year – Hilton Billings was nominated by Marlene Bedard. Vi Luginbuhl moved that the nominations cease and the Clerk cast one ballot for Hilton Billings, seconded by Dr. Luginbuhl. So voted by voice vote.

Collector of Delinquent taxes for a term of one (1) year – Barbara Fleming was nominated by Dean Jackson. Deeny Marshall moved that the nominations cease and the Clerk cast one ballot for Barbara Fleming, seconded by Dr. Luginbuhl. So voted by voice vote.

Town Grand Juror for a term of one (1) year – Rejean LaFleche nominated Dean Jackson who declined the nomination and the motion was withdrawn. As there were no nominations, Matt Fraley made the motion to close nominations, seconded by Alberta Jackson. So voted.

Town Agent for a term of one (1) year – Ted Boelens was nominated by Marlene Bedard. Dean Jackson moved that the nominations cease and the Clerk cast one ballot for Ted Boelens, seconded by Becky Hutchins. So voted by voice vote.

ARTICLE 2. To elect a Water Commissioner for a term of three years to the Board of the Vergennes Panton Water District. Matt Jerry was nominated by Marlene Bedard. Jamie Dayton moved that the nominations cease and the Clerk cast one ballot for Matt Jerry seconded by Vi Luginbuhl. So voted by voice vote.

ARTICLE 3. To see if the Town of Panton will accept and adopt the Town Officers report. Motion by Dennis Mueller to accept and adopt the report as written, seconded by Richard Jackson. So voted by voice vote. Ann Sullivan passed out copies of the Selectman's report and reviewed the highlights of the past year.

The Moderator recessed the meeting at and introduced Representatives Clark and Oxholm who spoke about issues they are dealing with in legislature; property tax, cost containment, education. The meeting was reconvened and Article 4 was read.

ARTICLE 4. To approve a budget to meet the expenses and liabilities of the Town of Panton for the 12 month fiscal year and to authorize the Selectboard to set a tax rate sufficient to provide same. Matt Fraley moved the article for discussion seconded by Vi Luginbuhl. The Moderator recognized Joe Kuhn who recommended reducing the budget to \$550,000.00 by cutting certain highway expenses. The Moderator explained that the Article could not be amended but only approved or not approved. Paul Sokal was recognized and commented about the bad shape of the Panton infrastructure. The budget was accepted and the Selectboard was authorized to set a tax rate by voice vote.

ARTICLE 5. To see if the Town of Panton will vote to collect the taxes through the Treasurer as provided by law. Motion by Ted Boelens, seconded by Brad Howe. So voted by voice vote.

ARTICLE 6. To see if the Town of Panton will authorize the Selectboard to borrow in anticipation of taxes. Motion by Matt Fraley, seconded by Agnes Boelens. Agnes Boelens asked if it would help to offer discount for early payment of property tax. Ann Sullivan said that it had not been brought up to the board before. The Article was approved by voice vote.

ARTICLE 7. To see if the Town of Panton will change the term of Delinquent Tax Collector from a one (1) year term to a three-year (3) term. Motion by Dennis Torrey, seconded by Joan Burt. So voted by voice vote. The new term will begin in 2009.

ARTICLE 8. To see if the Town of Panton will vote to move the Annual Meeting to the first Tuesday in March. Motion by Matt Fraley, seconded by Dean Jackson. Motion by Nancy Polk to amend the article to read the first Tuesday following the first Monday. Bill Polk seconded the amendment. Ann Sullivan advised that there wasn't a significant increase in the attendance at the Saturday meetings but there was a big increase in the attendance of the school meeting which was changed to begin prior to Town Meeting. The motion passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 9. Shall the voters authorize the Selectboard to spend not to exceed \$75,000 for the purchase of a tractor with loader? Bill Polk moved the motion for discussion, seconded by Matt Fraley. Ann Sullivan explained that the expense would be financed for three or four years and that the current tractor is not worth repairing. Deb Brace mentioned that the line item for tractor expense doesn't show a significant expense. Bob Moulton asked that the voters redirect the town hall fund toward the purchase of a new tractor. Gerard Vorsteveld asked why the town wouldn't consider used as they work just as well. Ann Sullivan responded that they were looking a three (3) bids. Nancy Polk requested that the town hall fund be used to repair the town hall. Joe Kuhn inquired about renting a tractor. Deeny Marshall asked if a new tractor would last ten (10) years, the Road Foreman replied thirty – forty years. Deb Brace asked why the road side mowing couldn't be contracted out and it was mentioned that with an extra road helper they should have time to mow and do extra work. Motion passed by voice vote.

Motion by Dr. Luginbuhl to discuss Articles 10 – 18 collectively and postpone any voting action until Tuesday. Seconded by Vi Luginbuhl. So voted. Brad Howe discussed the financial status of Bixby Library; Vi Luginbuhl asked for support of Article 18.

ARTICLE 19. To transact any other business which may legally come before the Town?
Ted Boelens asked that Town Reports be mailed out next year; Mickey Billings suggested post cards informing voters that reports can be picked up. Motion by Dr. Luginbuhl to recess the meeting until Tuesday, March 4, 2008. Seconded by Vi Luginbuhl. So voted by voice vote.