

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MARCH 3, 2007
Minutes**

The annual meeting of the Town of Pantown was called to order at 10:02 a.m. Saturday, March 3, 2007, 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. Marlene Bedard moved that nominations cease and the Clerk cast one ballot for Bill Clark, seconded by Dr. Luginbuhl. So voted by voice vote.

Selectperson for a term of two (2) years – Lynn Donnelly was nominated by Marlene Bedard, Rejean LaFleche was nominated by Chris Cook and David Raphael was nominated by Louise Giovannella. The Moderator called for a paper ballot vote and the results were: Rejean LaFelche 17 votes, Lynn Donnelly 15 votes and David Raphael 11 votes. The Moderator declared the winner to be Rejean LaFleche.

Selectperson for a term of three (3) years – Ann Sullivan was nominated by Bob Moulton, seconded by Brad Howe. So voted by voice vote.

Lister for a term of three (3) years – Bob McNamara was nominated by Joan Burt. Viola Luginbuhl moved that the nominations cease and the Clerk cast one ballot for Bob McNamara, seconded by Corrie Palmer. So voted by voice vote.

Auditor for a term of three (3) years - Chris Cook was nominated by Brad Howe. Bob Moulton moved that the nominations cease and the Clerk cast one ballot for Chris Cook, seconded by Dean Jackson. So voted by voice vote.

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

Collector of Delinquent taxes for a term of one (1) year – Barbara Fleming was nominated by Dean Jackson. Viola Luginbuhl 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 – Lars Hubbard was nominated by John Viskup. Bob Moulton moved that the nominations cease and the Clerk cast one ballot for Lars Hubbard, seconded by Becky Hutchins. So voted by voice vote.

Town Agent for a term of one (1) year – Lynn Donnelly was nominated by Louise Giovannella. Viola Luginbuhl moved that the nominations cease and the Clerk cast one ballot for Lynn Donnelly, seconded by Dean Jackson. So voted by voice vote.

ARTICLE 2. To elect a Water Commissioner for a term of three years to the Board of the Vergennes Pantown Water District. Chris Cook was nominated by Marlene Bedard. Ron Rost moved that the nominations cease and the Clerk cast one ballot for Chris Cook seconded by Bob Moulton. So voted by voice vote.

ARTICLE 3. To see if the Town of Panton will accept and adopt the Town Officers report. Motion by Corrie Palmer to accept and adopt the report as written, seconded by Richard Jackson. So voted by voice vote.

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. The budget was accepted and the Selectboard was authorized to set a tax rate by voice vote. Discussion on why an additional person was being added to the highway department and the Board explained that it is dangerous to have only one person operating heavy equipment and that it was only a matter of time before the State would mandate the addition of another person. Joe Kuhn expressed dismay that town expenses are going up every year and believes that the small towns should share a town manager to better handle day-to-day operations and plan for the future. Bob Moulton mentioned that our roads and culverts are in bad shape and it would be difficult for one highway person to maintain the current work load and perform all the needed repairs. Ann Sullivan advised that Hopkins Road will be the priority in 2007, and anticipates that it will receive a new base and the old culverts will be replaced. She added that in a few years it may be more cost effective to pave it rather than keep it dirt. She also advised that Panton has not received grant money from the State of Vermont as we are not improving our roads nor did we have surveys of our culverts and roads. The surveys have been completed and it is expected that consequently Panton will receive money in 2007. Jan Moulton added that the grant application paperwork has increased from two (2) pages to (17) seventeen pages.

ARTICLE 5. To see if the Town of Panton will vote to collect the taxes through the Treasurer as provided by law. Motion by Dean Jackson, seconded by Steve Hofmann. 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 Dr. Luginbuhl, seconded by Paul Sokel. So voted by voice vote.

ARTICLE 7. To see if the voters will authorize the Treasurer to establish a reserve fund for town-wide reappraisals with funds received from the State of Vermont for that purpose. Motion by Viola Luginbuhl, seconded by Paul Sokel. So voted by voice vote.

ARTICLE 8. To see if the Town will vote to amend the current Highway Equipment Reserve Fund from \$5,000.00 annually to \$10,000.00 annually? Motion by Corrie Palmer, seconded by Steve Hofmann. So voted by voice vote.

Motion by Joe Kuhn to bypass discussion of Articles 9 through 17, seconded by Steve Hofmann. Motion by Joe Kuhn to withdraw the motion. Motion by Al Tisbert to postpone the discussion of Articles 9 through 17, seconded by Steve Hofmann. So voted by voice vote.

ARTICLE 9. To vote by Australian ballot on the following: Shall the Town vote to give \$5 25 to Addison County Community Action from Town funds?

ARTICLE 10. To vote by Australian ballot on the following: Shall the Town vote to give \$450 to Addison County Counseling Service from Town funds?

ARTICLE 11. To vote by Australian ballot on the following: Shall the Town vote to give \$ 773 to Addison County Home Health & Hospice from Town Funds?

ARTICLE 12. To vote by Australian ballot on the following: Shall the Town vote to give \$6,300 to Bixby Library from Town Funds?

ARTICLE 13. To vote by Australian ballot on the following: Shall the Town vote to give \$ 500 to Champlain Valley Area on Aging from Town Funds?

ARTICLE 14. To vote by Australian ballot on the following: Shall the Town vote to give \$ 750 to Elderly Services from Town Funds?

ARTICLE 15. To vote by Australian ballot on the following: Shall the Town vote to give \$ 450 to Graham Emergency Shelter from Town Funds?

ARTICLE 16. To vote by Australian ballot on the following: Shall the Town vote to give \$ 275 to Hospice Volunteer Services from Town Funds?

ARTICLE 17. To vote by Australian ballot on the following: Shall the Town vote to give \$ 3,000 to Vergennes Rescue Squad from Town Funds?

ARTICLE 18. To transact any other business which may legally come before the Town? Nancy Polk asked that next year there be an Article to discuss the Charities. Discussion on mailing the town reports versus picking them up and other methods of getting the reports out. Joe Kuhn asked for someone to serve as an Alternate Representative on the Solid Waste District Board. Ann Sullivan asked for volunteers to serve on a committee for a feasibility study on the town hall. No volunteers came forward.

Motion by Steve Hofmann to recess the meeting until Tuesday, March 6, 2007. Seconded by Dr. Luginbuhl . So voted by voice vote.

Selectboard of Panton:

Dated: _____

Attest: _____

Dated: _____

Susan F. Torrey
Panton Town Clerk