

Town of Panton
Select Board Meeting
February 11, 2014 6:30 P.M.
Minutes

In Attendance:

Select board:

John Viskup, Chair

Beth Tarallo

Administration:

Diane Merrill, Treasurer

Jean Miller, Clerk

Rick Cloutier, Road Foreman

Barbara Fleming, Delinquent Tax Collector

Joan Burt, Lister

Guest:

Lisa Stearns

Kevin Brennan, PLLC

John called the meeting to order at 6:30.

Beth made a motion to accept the minutes of January 28, 2014 Select Board meeting. John 2nd. All approved. Beth made a motion to accept the minutes of January 28, 2014 Special Meeting/Hearing. John 2nd. All approved.

Public Comment – None

Assessor Contract – John made a motion to accept the Lister’s recommendation for the \$550 per month fee with Edgar Clodfelter, NEMRC. Beth 2nd. All approved. The Select Board signed the contract and it will be mailed to Edgar Clodfelter/NEMRC for signing.

Diane will contact the necessary people to ensure that remote access is allowed or stopped for use of the Assessor’s computer.

Health Care Sign Up – Tabled

Kevin Brennan – Delinquent Taxes/Progress/Plan of Action - Final letters will be sent to two of the delinquent tax payers that have been turned over to Kevin Brennan for collection. The letters will state these are the steps that will be taken, telling them the sooner they pay the less their costs will be and if they do not pay these taxes a tax sale will occur on March 31, 2014.

Another tax payer has made arrangements to make monthly payments to clear up their taxes. As long as the payments are received as agreed upon no further action will be taken. If they fail to meet their obligations actions will be taken.

A suggestion was made that the Town may want to have annual tax sales. Since it is up to the Delinquent Tax Collector to establish delinquent tax policies, we asked Barb Flemming to address this issue and speak about it at Town Meeting. Other Towns have done this and if taxes have not paid been within six months of the due date the properties are put up for tax sale. This has been very effective.

Kevin Brennan – Gaouette/Stearns Subdivision/Spaulding and Lake Road - Discussion ensued regarding Spaulding Road and the damage that heavy equipment could do to the road during construction. The Select Board felt that it should not be the tax payers’ responsibility to have to pay for any damage that might occur, and revisited road area that would need additional materials prior to work being done, as advised by VTRANS. Kevin will write up some conditions that the new property owners would have to follow (covenants) to address this issue and submit it to the Select Board for review. Select Board stated they would share these with VTRANS get their review/input.

Road Foreman Report – They are going to start cutting brush in the Hawley Cemetery on Route 22A. A fence will be put up in the spring. It was discussed whether a gate should be installed.

The Town has an adequate amount of sand for the winter. There is enough salt for a couple of storms. Salt was ordered a couple of weeks ago but has not been delivered. Salt has been diverted to the State of Georgia for their roads.

The 2010 truck has a hydraulic issue, sometimes when the wing plow is picked up the sander and chain stop. Viking is trying to help resolve the problem.

A resident called John saying Rick was using Town equipment to fill the cracks in the American Legion parking lot. Rick would like to clarify that he has his own crack sealing equipment and this is what he was using to do the repairs. He has not used Town equipment as was reported.

The resident had concerns regarding Jeff Stone driving Town equipment. Jeff Stone and Bruce Many have agreed to work with the road crew if they needed help this winter. They both have credentials to drive Town equipment. They have their CDL and have both had a pre-employment drug test which they passed.

Rick operated a brush hog for the Town of Waltham and the Vorsteveld Farm about the same time as the Town of Panton roads were being done. Both the Town of Waltham and Vorsteveld Farm rented a brush hog. Rick was not using the equipment that Panton had rented to do work for either party. When he did the work for Waltham and Vorsteveld's he was not on Town payroll. It was on his off hours.

The issues have been addressed so residents will know that nothing inappropriately has occurred and to alleviate any and all concerns.

Work is being done on the mower to get it ready for spring.

Highway financials were reviewed.

VLCT PACIF Safety Equipment Grant – Helmets/hard hats, steel gas cans and back up cameras for the trucks would be applied for under this grant. The grant would cover 50% of the cost of the items. Discussion ensued on if there was money in this year's budget to pay for the Town's percentage of the cost or if it would be better to wait for the new budget year that starts July 1st, 2014. Diane will see if there is room in the budget to purchase rugs for the office under this grant.

Canopy Grants – Grant to plant trees. John said that he would donate trees to the Town just let him know where they should go. The trees would be sycamores. The Canopy Grant would not be needed.

Review/Approve Bills – Bills were reviewed and approved.

Public Hearing Planning for Town Meeting Australian ballot items – The informational meeting for Australian ballot items will take place on February 25, 2014 at 6:30 P.M. A notice will be posted. A warning will be posted advising that the Select Board meeting will start later, at 6:45 P.M. Pm February 25, 2014.

Municipal Charter – Discuss Comments Received at Public Hearings, Process/Timeline for Posting Revisions – John made a motion to accept the revision to the proposed Town Charter from July 15 to July 1 in Section 5 which is the only revision, in order to meet the standards of the law, it will be highlighted. Beth 2nd. All approved.

Town Meeting Prep - The Select Board discussed what needed to be done to be prepared for Town Meeting. Who would cover what, anticipated questions, prepping Town Hall, notices etc.

Correspondence was reviewed.

John adjourned the meeting at 9:30. Beth 2nd.

Respectfully
Jean Miller, Clerk