



## ***Town of Panton Chartered 1761***

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### **Board of Civil Authority Meeting Minutes Tuesday, November 2, 2021**

In attendance BCA Chair Teresa Smith, Selectboard Chair Howard Hall, JP Gretchen Bailey, JP Diana Raphael, JP Paul Sokal, Town Clerk-Treasurer Maggie McCormick

Via Zoom; JP Paula Moore, Vermont State Representative Diane Lanpher

#### **AGENDA**

1. Teresa called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.
2. Approval of the minutes of the July 14, 2021 meeting
  - a. Diana moved to accept the minutes as written. Gretchen seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.
3. Public comment: None
4. Use of tabulator
  - a. The cost of programming a tabulator for elections was discussed
    - i. Secretary of State representative Lori Bjornlund said the SOS will likely cover programming costs for state-wide elections
    - ii. Programming for Town Meeting 2021 was \$909. Chip rental was \$50. It is not yet known if chips will be included with the new tabulators.
  - b. Paula moved that Panton use a tabulator for all future elections. Paul seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.
5. Redistricting
  - a. Teresa invited Diane Lanpher to discuss redistricting
  - b. Howard asked if the Panton BCA should look for coalition with the BCAs of other affected towns
    - i. Diane responded:
      1. Legislative Apportionment Board (LAB) needs to hear from each individual community
      2. Similar movement in 2010 for single districts
      3. Adjustment to the current map are likely. Important to watch for those revisions.

4. Municipal input is important to the LAB. She recommended that Panton respond first, then check in with neighboring/affected towns
- c. Diana expressed concern about the current proposal, since it would mean Panton would have a representative who was not part of the Addison Northwest School District and noted that the schools are a large unifying factor. She stated that Weybridge residents use Middlebury as their hub and Monkton uses Bristol.
- d. Paula pointed out that 10,000 people is the number at which two representatives is prescribed. A deviation of 10 points is the point at which a re-districting is consider Addison 3 district is just over that. Northfield School closed.
- e. Diane stated that the LAB is not asking the BCA to present a solution but felt it would be welcome if the affected Towns reached consensus on a possible solution. She also pointed out that there isn't consensus on the current plan since the LAB vote was 4 to 3 vote.
- f. Discussion followed on how to respond to the LAB request. There was agreement that Panton is intrinsically tied to Vergennes through the Bixby Library, contracted fire, ambulance, and police service, the Vergennes-Panton Water District. Vergennes is social and economic center for Panton residents.
- g. The BCA noted it is crucial that all affected municipalities have representation for things such as the proposed truck bypass and resolving town boundary questions. Paula 7656 population for the current 5 towns. Adding Weybridge would put the district at 8400; Teresa: Waltham is wildcard. New Haven more likely to have residents who would come to Vergennes than Weybridge.
- h. Paul suggested that the response should be that Panton needs connection to: Vergennes and that the Panton BCA does not need to propose an alternative plan.
- i. Diane noted that the LAB will take comments, make recommendations and changes, so that what is presented to the Legislature may be different than the current map.
- j. Teresa moved that the Panton BCA position is as follows: if redistricting is needed, Panton should remain in district with Vergennes. Paul seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.
- k. Paula informed the group that the response form required the BCA provide its rational for their response.
- l. Diane stated that the Vergennes BCA had met and was not in favor of the current redistricting plan. Ferrisburgh has a BCA meeting scheduled for Monday. It was not known if Addison and Waltham had BCA meetings planned. The Panton BCA will reach out to other BCAs for their response.

m. The BCA only needs to vote on what the response will be in this meeting, not the exact wording of the response. Paula and Gretchen will work together to formulate the response and circulate it to the entire BCA. The agreed upon response is item j above. The BCA agreed that the rationale will focus on the following things that tie Pantan to Vergennes:

- i. ANWSD
- ii. Bixby Library
- iii. shared Emergency Services
- iv. Vergennes-Panton Water District
- v. Opera House
- vi. Eateries
- vii. Shopping
- viii. Places of Worship

6. Adjournment

Paula moved to adjourn the meeting. Teresa seconded. All in favor; the meeting adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Maggie McCormick  
Town Clerk-Treasurer