

**Draft
Town of Panton
Town Meeting
Tuesday, March 1, 2016
10:00 A.M.**

J. Douglas Dows called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. He informed all present that you could vote if you were a registered voter of Panton and that people could not speak at Town Meeting unless they were residents of Panton. If a non-resident wanted to speak he would need to ask permission from the residents at the meeting.

The meeting was started with Pledge Alliance to the Flag.

Article 1: To elect a Moderator: D Dows asked for nominations for moderator. B Tarallo nominated D Dows. H Hall 2nd. Seeing there were no other nominations; D Dows closed the nominations for moderator and asked the Clerk to cast one vote for D Dows as moderator.

D Dows if there were any non-residents who would like to speak. There were two, Warren VanWyck and Diane Lanpher, Addison County Representatives. D Dows asked if there were any objections to these people speaking. There were no objections so W VanWyck spoke first.

W VanWyck stated that the State spending grows faster than the revenues. Medical professionals are leaving the State. One reason being taxes are being assessed on individual doctors, dentists and medical professionals making it harder for them to attract new business. People are leaving the State one reason is high property taxes. He is also hearing that electrical costs maybe rising. He doesn't feel that the legislature is taking into account what small businesses may need to start up and become profitable. E Markowski asked what may be causing the higher electrical rates. W VanWyck stated that the solar arrays power has been selling for three to four times the market rate and Green Mountain Power just passes on these costs to the consumer.

D Lanpher wanted to bring three things to the attention of the people. She services on the House of Appropriations Committee and has had many years of tough budgets. There have been many cuts, laid-off or allowed 300 people to retire and not rehired. There are many pressures with a lot going on. The Lake needs to be cleaned up, we need to take care of our children and there are law enforcement issues. They need to make sure that legislature is paying attention and providing either the services or the outcomes, and the budget and the staff to handle the jobs. She feels if it wasn't for the pressure that Medicaid has put on the budget this year there wouldn't be a problem. There is a 68 million dollar gap between revenue coming in and services demands. Medicaid is in the high 50 million of this gap.

D Lanpher introduced a Bill #674 to increase the notifications around combined sewer overflow. Many people have voiced their concerns regarding discharge of sewerage into Otter Creek. Vergennes alone is responsible for dumping millions of gallons. Rutland, Burlington and Vergennes are the top three abusers. There are also manure issues with things that need to be cleaned up in the Lake. She stated that there are solutions on the table right now that help address all the issues. She mentioned Biogas and wondered where the downfall of it was. She was sure there was some downfall somewhere but had not found it yet.

Lastly she asked how many people realized that they had become parents last year. She told everyone that they had just become parents of 539 children between the ages of zero and five because of the epidemic of opiates and other issues, these children are now under State care making the people of Vermont their parents responsible for their care. She added that 40% of the children live in poverty.

H Neel asked about the refugees in Burlington. D Lanpher assured him that these people were happy to be here and that they were hard working because they did make it to America. E Markowski said that diversity was a blessing for all of us. That the money spent was a true investment and diversity tends to be a solution.

D Dows wanted to bring the dedication of the annual report to everyone's attention. This year, Joan and Ralph Burt have the honors for all they have done for Town in the years that they have resided here.

D Dows asked that all present observe a moment of silence to recognize the residents of Panton who had passed away in 2015. He named off each individual.

Article 2: To elect officers: D Dows asked that someone open article 2 for discussion. K Werthman opened the article. P Moore 2nd. A vote was taken and the Ayes have it Article 2 was opened. K Werthman nominated H Hall for Select Board a three year term. P Moore 2nd. There were no other nominations so the clerk was asked to cast a ballot for H Hall for a three year term on the Select Board.

B Tarallo nominated B Biello for a three term as Lister. H Hall 2nd. There were no other nominations so the clerk was asked to cast a ballot for B Biello for a three year term as Lister.

For the two year term of Lister there were no nominations.

For the Auditor term of three years there were no nominations.

For the Auditor term of two years there were no nominations.

For the position of Constable a one year term P Moore nominated D Palmatier. H Hall 2nd. There were no other nominations. The clerk was asked to cast one ballot for D Palmatier as Constable for one year.

For the position of Dog Warden for a one year term, E Markowski nominated himself. H Hall 2nd. There were no other nominations. The clerk was asked to cast one ballot for E Markowski as Dog Warden.

There were no nominations for Grand Juror.

For the position of Town Agent M Neel nominated T Boelens. P Moore 2nd. There were no other nominations. The Clerk was asked to cast one ballot for T Boelens as Town Agent.

For the position of Water Commissioner a three year term A Perry nominated C Cook. H Hall 2nd. There were no other nominations. The Clerk was asked to cast one ballot for C Cook for a Term of three years as Water Commissioner.

For the position of Union School Director for a term of 4 years, (This is a new position if the Unified School District gets approved.) This should have been voted on by Australian Ballot with a petition filed. No one filed a petition so the Select Board will appoint a person at a future date.

Article 3 to hear reports of the Town Officers: Article 3 was moved by J Dayton. P Moore 2nd. D Dows asked of those in favor of hearing the Officers reports. A vote was taken and the Ayes have it. There were no Nays.

B Tarallo and H Hall presented the Select Board report. They have protected the Town interests by strengthen internal procedure, increased protections of health, safety and well-being of public and environment by adopting a Junk Ordinance, adopted a Conflict of Interest policy, had an out of house audit done by Telling & Telling, and R Cloutier, Road Forman worked with State agencies regarding pollution of the water ways. To name some of the accomplishment done:

The Town has received a Structures grant of \$27,000, a Paving grant of \$175,000, a Park and Ride Grant of \$40,000 and a Planning grant of \$10,087. Grants that are pending include a \$10,000 grant from Better Back Roads for a retaining wall at Arnold Bay, a \$20,000 grant from Better Back Roads to replace a culvert on Jackson Road, and a \$2,000 grant for Safety Equipment from PACIF.

A paving plan has been established. The plan is to pave from Panton Bridge on Panton Road to Pease Road this spring; retreat East Road and Hopkins Road to Rte. 22A in 2018; pave Pease Road and Arnold Bay Road to the Ferrisburgh line (may be done this Spring) 2019; retreat Jersey Street or East Street in 2020; and do Pease Road down Lake Road to Addison line in 2021.

E Markowski voiced his concerns regarding heavy farm equipment on the roads and how to protect the Town's investment in the roads. H Hall suggested that he come to a Select Board meeting for a discussion.

Addison Regional Planning and Road Foreman updated the culvert inventory and the condition of the culverts. This needs to be done to apply for certain grants.

Article 4 Shall the Town vote to appropriate the following sums which shall be raised by taxes, to be placed in Town Reserve Funds: Highway Capital Equipment Fund \$20,000; Highway capital Project Fund \$20,000; Tire Fund \$2,000; Town Hall Restoration Fund \$15,000; and Reappraisal Fund \$2,000. The article was moved by M Neel and 2nd by E Markowski. D Dows asked for a vote and the Ayes have it. There were no Nays.

Article 5 shall the voters authorize the transfer of \$1,706 from the June 30, 2015 undesignated fund balance of the General Fund to the Reserve Fund. The article was moved by J Dayton and 2nd by H Mahoney. D Dows asked for a vote and the Ayes have it. There were no Nays.

Article 6 Shall the Town vote to adopt the proposed 2016 . 2017 fiscal year General Fund Operation Budget in the amount of \$643,423 of which \$501,258 shall be raised by taxes and \$142,165 by non-tax revenue. Article was moved by M Neel and 2nd by M Perry. D Dows asked for a vote and the Ayes have it. There were no Nays.

After the discussion of the proposed budget N Morgan asked about the East Panton Cemetery. There had been \$1000 allocated to the cemetery a couple of years ago and nothing seem to have been done. Road Foreman, R Cloutier stated that C Allen was looking into fencing to see if the Town could get it donated. He further reported the Cemetery borders a State highway and is partly in the Right of Way other channels have to be gone through and it takes more time. B Tarallo reported that the SB worked with the Foreman when the issue was initially brought to their attention, and planned to fence the cemetery: however this issue had turned out to be more complicated than initially thought. M Neel and H Neel also voiced their concerns stating headstones had fallen over and rodents had burrowed into some of the graves.

Article 7 Shall the Town vote to authorize the renaming and repurposing of the Digitization Fund to be Digitization and IT Fund, for the purpose of digitizing Town records and purchasing and or repairing IT equipment. Article moved by J Dayton and 2nd by P Moore. D Dows asked for a vote and the Ayes have it. There were no Nays.

Articles 8 through 22 are Australian Ballot items.

Article 23 To transact any other non-binding business. P Moore wanted the Town to know that 60% of the Bixby Library funding was received from the five Towns that they service. The remaining 40% is received from donations.

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D Dows asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by H Neel and 2nd by M Neel. D Dows asked for a vote. The Ayes have it. There were no Nays. Meeting adjourned at 11:30 A.M.