



Town of Panton Chartered 1761

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Selectboard Meeting

February 13, 2018

Selectboard Member's present: Chair Howard Hall, Zachary Weaver, and Teresa Smith. Also present was Town Treasurer/Clerk Pam Correia, Road Foreman Rick Cloutier, Diana Raphael, Tom Borchert, and Paulette Bogan.

At 6:07pm, Howard Hall called the meeting to order.

2. Teresa Smith moved to accept the January 23, 2018 minutes, with no corrections. Zachary Weaver seconded. The motion passed. Teresa Smith moved to accept the January 30, 2018 minutes, with no corrections. Howard Hall seconded. The motion passed.

Howard Hall stated he would like to add Eric Carter to the agenda after the public comment section.

3. Public Comment – Paulette Bogan approached the Board in regards to the tree cutting done by the Vorsteveld's and stated that the reason for the fining in Ferrisburgh was being that it broke Vermont law. Paulette asked the Board why it did not break State law in Panton. Howard Hall advised her that the trees were not necessarily shade trees but more like trees with Dutch elm disease and sumac trees. Howard also stated the trees that came down were in the line of sight and there needs to be vision. Howard proceeded to explain the tree process in Ferrisburgh. Rick Cloutier stated he had Tech 5 from the State come down and it was clear the Vorsteveld's did not do anything wrong and the ditch was put back. Paulette stated there were good viable shade trees along Arnold Bay Road and there was not a problem with egress in that area. Paulette asked what the next step would be. She suggested to plant more trees and offered to help the Vorsteveld's plant trees. Paulette shared her concern for the beauty of the Town. Teresa Smith advised that she thought it would be great to have Paulette put this in writing and table it for now with Town Meeting coming up. Paulette agreed to bring a letter to the Board in April by way of email to Town Treasure/Clerk Pam Correia.

Eric Carter joined the Board and shared that he had recently participated online in the VLCT Town Meeting Tune-Up training. The Board answered all of Eric's questions regarding Town Meeting and discussed with him the moderator role at Town Meeting. Howard Hall confirmed that Panton Representative Diana Raphael & Waltham Representative Tom Borchert will speak at Town Meeting about the school budget bond vote. The Board briefly discussed the process for Town Meeting.

4. Road Foreman Report – Road Foreman Rick Cloutier advised the Board he has gone through a lot of sand and salt already this year. Rick advised the Board that all the lights are on the 2010 truck at an expense of \$3,500. He stated the cost of repairs to date on the 2010 truck will be close to \$55,000 in

expenses. Howard Hall asked Rick to calculate how many hours he and Chris Dion have put into the truck to prepare for an explanation at Town Meeting. Rick advised the Board he is looking into seed containers for the garage. Rick stated the containers are \$450 less with no warranty through Roger Paquette and that he is running out of room in the Town Garage. Howard suggested going to Roger to get a price and come back to the Selectboard with the price, which could come out of the Equipment Fund. Rick advised the Board that he and Chris Dion are taking off as much time as possible through their accrued comp time to offset the amount of overtime they are putting in due to maintaining the roads caused by the winter weather. Howard stated that he appreciates the amount of time they have been putting in to keep the roads safe. Rick stated he expects an overage on the budgeted garage maintenance; some work was done on the Town Garage doors. He advised that the doors are now sealed tight so there are no more drafts coming in. Rick also advised the Board he expects to be over budget on the salt line item.

5. Presentation Regarding District School Budget Bond Vote – Waltham Representative Tom Borchert spoke to the Board about the district school budget bond issue that will be voted on at Town Meeting. Tom stated that the bond has been in the planning stage for several years and was dropped unexpectedly on the public. Tom explained to the Board why there is a proposed bond and what the District is proposing a \$7.6 million bond for. He stated the bond will be to fix the HVAC system at the high school, do energy upgrades and improvements in all four schools, and incorporate safety and security measures in all four schools particularly the elementary schools. Tom stated the reason the bond issue got started is because of the HVAC system which was new in 1958 and is now corroding, the sprinkler system, bad ventilation, and a break in the pipes. The District is hoping to do the work over the summer. Tom advised the Board that there is a very informative video about the facilities issues with which the District is facing and explains a lot at <https://vimeo.com/253332940>. Howard asked how long the District could keep the Addison school. Tom stated that the Addison school will be getting the least amount of money because it is in the best shape. Addison is an efficient user of energy, doing security upgrades, controls, and LED lights so under \$100,000 will be allocated to the Addison school. Tom advised that the Board cannot close Addison until 2021, but Addison can close whenever they want. Tom stated the list of proposed projects will be done at the Vergennes High School, Vergennes Union Elementary School, Ferrisburgh, and Addison. Discussion followed about the tuition and the amount of kids coming from Panton. Teresa Smith stated it would be worth showing parts of the video at Town Meeting to give residents an understanding of what is happening in the schools and where the money is being spent. Tom stated that solar arrays could be put in fields in Ferrisburgh to cover the electricity. Zachary Weaver asked Diana Raphael if she would bring the Panton student figure to incorporate into Town Meeting when she speaks.

Panton Representative Diana Raphael spoke to the Board about the proposed district school budget. Diana shared some highlights with the Board. She stated the budget this year is lower than last year, the class sizes will now be equitable across the district and parents have the option to send their kids to other schools in the district, and the Staff Wellness Program fund balance will pay off the food deficit and students will have the technology they need. The student to teacher ratio and the district class size policy was briefly discussed. Diana stated that the services of the electrician and the food service will be shared with Mt. Abe. Diana agreed to the request by the Board to stand up at Town Meeting and speak briefly to the residents and give a school update. Howard Hall asked if the school has a Reserve Fund. Diana advised that the District is in conversations with the State right now about whether they can have a Building Fund.

6. Town Hall Committee – Howard Hall gave an update of the upgrades that have been done to the Town Hall building. He stated that six stringers were put in the stairs versus the two that were there previously. Howard stated the clap board was an add-on to the work and the galvanized hand rail, which will last much longer, was also an add-on for \$1800. He advised the electric will also be run to light up the new Town of Panton sign when it comes. Howard stated that the Fire Marshall will need to be contacted about how the door should be opening. Howard also advised he received an email from Justus Cameron at The McKernon Group regarding potential savings on the handicap access ramp. Howard explained the work that could be done with the cost savings of the handicap access ramp such as refinishing the floors

upstairs, high efficiency measures, and installing new lighting upstairs. The Board briefly discussed any updates on the upstairs kitchen and the septic system.

7. Review of Financials/Timesheets – The list of invoices, timesheets, and the December and January financials were reviewed.

8. Communications – The Board discussed the upcoming Town Meeting and would like to put together a PowerPoint presentation for the residents. The Board agreed to have Town Treasurer/Clerk Pam Correia warn a special meeting for Monday, February 19, 2018 at 10:30am to work on the PowerPoint presentation.

Howard Hall presented a letter to the Board he had drafted regarding the Town Moderator position. The Board briefly discussed any changes to be made to the letter. Teresa Smith moved to send the letter with the changes approved by the Board. Zachary Weaver seconded. The motion passed.

Town Treasurer/Clerk Pam Correia presented a proof of the Town Report to the Board for their review. Teresa Smith moved to accept the Town Report as produced. Zachary Weaver seconded. The motion passed.

At the September 26, 2017 Selectboard meeting, discussion was held regarding the refund of a zoning permit fee to Dennis and Rosemary Mueller for the approval of a quarry. It was stated in the minutes that the Mueller's did not meet any of the requirements and it should not have been permitted. Howard Hall moved to refund the \$300 permit fee. Teresa Smith seconded. The motion passed.

At 8:17pm, Howard Hall moved to adjourn the meeting. Teresa Smith seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Correia
Town Treasurer/Clerk