



Town of Panton Chartered 1761

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Selectboard Meeting

July 25, 2018

Selectboard Member's present: Chair Howard Hall and Zachary Weaver. Also present was Town Treasurer/Clerk Pam Correia, Paul Sokal, Julie Rheume, and David Rheume.

At 6:34pm, Zachary Weaver called the meeting to order.

Howard Hall moved to add to the agenda, Zachary Weaver seconded. The motion passed. Action was taken to add the following items to the agenda: FY18/19 Tax Rate, FY17/18 Town Audit, and Solar Field.

2. Zachary Weaver moved to approve the June 27, 2018 minutes, Howard Hall seconded. The motion passed. The July 11, 2018 minutes were not accepted by the Board and tabled until the August 8, 2018 meeting when all Board members are present.

3. Public comments – David Rheume asked the Board what they thought it would take to put a boat launch in down at the Town Beach. Howard Hall stated that it would have to be something more permanent. David stated that by putting a cement ramp down in the water, a vehicle could be put in to the water without getting stuck. David conveyed to the Board that a good example of a ramp would be the one down at the Champlain Bridge. Howard stated that the Town would have to abide by the Shoreland Protection Act and have permits. The Board advised that they could have Road Foreman Rick Cloutier look into the idea of a boat launch. David advised the Board that Rick has talked to a few different people inquiring about prices and he wonders how to proceed from here. Howard asked David for some time to investigate and the Board could get an answer to him by September or October. David stated that the lake level is still going down so now would be the time to put something in. The Board advised that the next step is to get costs, talk to Rick Cloutier, and get some thoughts from other Towns who have a boat launch. Howard stated that the green algae blooms are a problem and the water may be getting too low

and shallow.

4. Town Hall Committee – Howard Hall advised the Board that a punch list of the work still needing to be done by The McKernon Group is being put together. The Board briefly discussed the items that have been completed and the items still in progress. The Board stated that they would like the project to end in a great relationship with The McKernon Group. Howard Hall advised that a Memo of Understanding for the carriage barn will still need to be done.

5. Town Beach Usage –Paul Sokal stated that he is concerned about Town property and that at the time there was not an inventory of what the Town owned. Paul stated that there should be a public record about this property and that the Town owns it. He suggested making it a part of the Town Report or the budget. Paul advised that nobody he knows of has any information on the property and he is concerned that it could just disappear as new people come on to the Selectboard and Development Review Board, stressing that it is a Town asset. Howard Hall stated that the Board is investigating the property due to reports of sand being put there. He stated that the VT Department of Natural Resources is looking into it as this is not allowed. Howard advised that Zoning Administrator Kris Perlee is also looking into it and will report back what needs to be done. Paul stated that he wants to make sure there is public access to the Town property. The Board stated that they understand and believes it is a Town asset and they are not willing to give up the property. Paul stated that it is imperative to track this property. Zachary Weaver stated that the Town will do some research and see if it can be tracked in the records. The Board discussed the location of the beach and how cars park in relation to the road. David Rheaume stated that there is not much activity because there is not good access and the area is rutted up and steep. The Board discussed if the Town could legally do anything with the State to level off the area and put stone down there. The shoreline was briefly discussed. Paul stated that he is not advocating to spend money; he just wants the Town to realize that the public has access. Zachary stated that signage would be helpful referencing a Town right-of-way. David Rheaume asked the Board about the status of the old schoolhouse. Howard Hall stated that it had been tabled by the voters, but the Selectboard has the determination of which items have movement. He stated that the schoolhouse has been let go so badly that it is a safety hazard. The Board stated that there is nothing of value in it and there is nothing going on in that building. Restoration of the building was briefly discussed. Howard stated that the Town could get a contractor to give them an estimate but then what would the Town do with it. Zachary Weaver stated that the Town would need to analyze the options. The Board advised that the Fire Department does not want to burn the building because of the lead paint on it. Howard advised that the carriage barn has been given to Kevin Sullivan and he would be taking it by December. Howard also advised that the Town will hold a check in the amount of \$5,000 from Kevin Sullivan to be given back when Kevin is done.

6. Caterer's Permit-Brandon Harvest Group dba Café Provence – Howard Hall moved to approve the caterer's permit, Zachary Weaver seconded. The motion passed.

7. Review of Financials/Timesheets – The list of invoices, timesheets, and June financials were

reviewed.

The Board briefly discussed a follow-up from the Special Town Meeting. Town Treasurer/Clerk Pam Correia will provide information as requested by the Board at the upcoming August 22, 2018 Selectboard meeting.

8. FY18/19 Tax Rate – Town Treasurer/Clerk Pam Correia updated the Board on the status of setting the new tax rate. Pam explained that she had just received the educational tax rate last week and was still waiting on current use to finish up before the new tax rate could be set.

9. FY17/18 Town Audit – Zachary Weaver moved to contact Sam Hillman of Telling & Associates in regards to the audit, Howard Hall seconded. The motion passed. The Board asked that Town Treasurer/Clerk Pam Correia contact Sam and noted that they would like her to begin sooner rather than later.

10. Solar Field - Howard Hall stated that he contacted Brian Otley of Green Mountain Power to ask him for a complete summary of the inventory for the battery storage project needed for the tax rate. Howard stated that there are a lot of dead plants and they are required to have them. Howard conveyed that Brian has hired a landscaper to replace them.

11. Communications

- Minutes Procedures – The Board discussed the Open Meetings Act.
- Lake Champlain Algae Blooms – Howard Hall stated that Town Health Officer Geoffrey Nelson has posted a warning sign at the beach but it is not closed at this time. The Board advised they would like to contact the Vergennes-Panton Water District to get more information and develop a procedure for daily testing.
- Employee Evaluation Forms – The Board discussed the employee evaluation forms briefly and stated that they would like to see the forms simplified further.

Town Treasurer/Clerk Pam Correia advised the Board that Road Foreman Rick Cloutier is interested in learning more about the Vermont Diesel Emissions Reduction Grants Program developed by the VT Department of Environmental Conservation. The Board discussed briefly. Zachary Weaver stated that he could see the benefit. Zachary Weaver moved to investigate the emissions grant and gather more information, Howard Hall seconded. The motion passed.

The Board briefly discussed the Selectboard meeting time and wondered if it should change once the summer months were over. Town Treasurer/Clerk Pam Correia will email Selectboard Member Teresa Smith to ask if she would like to continue meeting at 6:30pm.

At 7:42pm, Zachary Weaver moved to adjourn the meeting, Howard Hall seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Correia
Town Treasurer/Clerk