



Town of Panton Chartered 1761

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Selectboard Meeting

August 22, 2018

Selectboard Member's present: Chair Howard Hall and Teresa Smith. Also present was Town Treasurer/Clerk Pam Correia, Chief George Merkel, Lynn Donnelly, Stephanie Taylor, Lt. Peter Newton, and Sheriff Don Keeler.

At 6:31pm, Howard Hall called the meeting to order.

2. There were no additions, removals, or adjustments to the agenda.
3. Howard Hall moved to approve the July 11, 2018 minutes, Teresa Smith seconded. The motion passed. The August 8, 2018 minutes were not accepted by the Board and tabled until the September 11, 2018 meeting when all Board members are present.
4. Public comments – There were no public comments.
5. Matt Birone – Did not join the meeting at this time.
6. ACSD Contract – Sheriff Don Keeler stated that he and Lt. Peter Newton were present because his constituents called to notify him that the contract is on the agenda. Howard Hall stated that Chief George Merkel is in attendance specifically to talk about a contract strictly as a sales presentation. He informed the Sheriff's Department that there will be no debate and the Board is happy to invite them back to a future meeting. Lt. Newton stated that they are here just to listen. Sheriff Keeler stated that he is upset with how the agenda reads and Howard Hall apologized on behalf of the Board stating what the intent was. Chief George Merkel stated that the current contract highlights speed enforcement. He stated that the Vergennes Police Department provides police services, motor vehicle enforcement, and criminal investigations. Chief Merkel stated that the Vergennes Police Department will provide services depending on what the Board would like. He stated that the VPD has the staff that is trained and equipped to provide the services and there are a number of ways to do it. He advised that the Town could go

with 40 hours and take on their own initiative or split the cost with one or two other municipalities such as Waltham and Ferrisburgh. Chief Merkel advised the Board that there is a US Department of Justice Cops Grant that could help cover the costs of the contract. He stated that attendance at traffic hearings will come out of the fee. Chief Merkel stated that because the VPD is close in proximity, officers are on-call, and that the officers know the area well are all good reasons why coverage can be around the clock. He also stated that VPD offers professional police services and are not here to make money while offering a proactive approach to police services and quality of life calls. Chief Merkel explained the amount of quality of life calls involved and stated that VPD has an officer with specialized training in drugs and a narcotics enforcement officer. Chief Merkel advised that if the Town of Panton contracts for police services, money can be applied for through the Governors Highway Safety Program which is not limited and can apply to the Town of Panton with no cost to the Town. Howard Hall stated that it is important to help the citizens, and with the older population, checking their well-being is always something the Town is looking to do. Howard advised that the biggest problem the Town has is cars zipping up Panton Road and the thefts occurring on Hopkins Road. Chief Merkel advised that the foot patrols done in the City of Vergennes in hopes to eliminate the car thefts may have pushed the problem into the Town of Panton. Chief Merkel stated that VPD is a committed agency and with their persistence, they took care of the issue. Chief Merkel stated that things come at a cost and the Town will get quality from that cost. Teresa Smith stated that she could not analyze the services without a cost and wondered what the cost is per hour of police services. Chief Merkel stated that the services will provided at \$47/hour with a cruiser. He stated that if the Town would like 40 hours of coverage, VPD will have to buy a cruiser and an administrative fee will be charged. Chief Merkel added that motor vehicle enforcement will be included with that cost. A long discussion ensued regarding the USDOJ grant, the services being offered, and the outcome the Board would be looking for.

7. Town Hall Committee – Howard Hall advised the Board that the upstairs door will be fixed, the burrs will be adjusted, and that the railings on the handicap access ramp are galvanized but should have been painted a flat black. Howard advised that the McKernon Group offered to split the cost of error since it was their mistake. Teresa Smith stated that she does not want to pay the full amount of the error made by the McKernon Group which is \$3700 especially since the total final cost of the ramp came in as \$80,000. Teresa stated that she would like to wait to make a decision on the cost of the error at the next meeting when all Board members are present and advised that she will go with the majority of the decision.

8. Right of Way Ordinance – The Board reviewed a letter addressed to Tom Spencer in regards to a water line installed in the Town right-of-way without approval. Howard Hall moved to send a letter to Tom Spencer about a violation of the Town right-of-way on Arnold Bay Road, Teresa Smith seconded. The motion passed. Howard Hall suggested that an ordinance be put into place rather than a policy as he has become aware of a farm within the town looking to install a manure digesting system which would then need to be hooked up to lines with VT Gas. Town Treasurer/Clerk Pam Correia stated that she will obtain the language from Zoning Administrator Kris Perlee and ask him to attend the next Selectboard meeting on September 11, 2018.

9. Review of Financials/Timesheets – The list of invoices, timesheets, and July financials were reviewed.

Matt Birone joined the meeting. The Board briefly reviewed the operations of the Town. The Board briefly discussed a proposed right of way ordinance which will protect the Town and ensure that all rules are being followed. After a brief discussion about a potential digester on a local Pantan farm, Matt Birone wondered about the Town tapping into the gas line since there is not an existing line in town.

Town Treasurer/Clerk Pam Correia advised the Board that the new tax bills had just gone out and further discussed the Town's present cash flow. Teresa Smith stated that she would be in support of a tax anticipation note with the idea that it be paid back as soon as possible. Teresa Smith moved to approve a tax anticipation note (TAN) for \$160,000, Howard Hall seconded. The motion passed.

10. Communications – Howard Hall inquired about when the auditors from Telling and Hillman would be coming and asked that Town Treasurer/Clerk Pam Correia notify the Town auditors inviting them to come in with any questions they may have. Town Treasurer/Clerk Pam Correia gave a brief overview of the progress that has been made on what the Board was looking for as a follow-up from the June 23, 2018 Special Town Meeting. She stated that a community newsletter has also been done and it was inserted in all of the tax bills mailed. She also advised that a binder is now available for review at the Town Clerk's Office containing descriptions of all the elected officer positions within the Town as well as procedures on how to get on the ballot. Howard Hall stated that the stabilization wall at the Arnold Bay beach is almost completed. The Board reviewed employee evaluation forms and concluded that they would still like to have a form that is road crew specific. The Board reviewed an August 20, 2018 email received from Paul Sokal regarding the Town website. The Board discussed the possibility of purchasing tablets in the near future for uses pertaining to Town business.

At 8:19pm, Teresa Smith moved to adjourn the meeting, Howard Hall seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Correia
Town Treasurer/Clerk