



Town of Panton Chartered 1761

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Selectboard Meeting

October 23, 2018

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

At 6:35pm, Howard Hall called the meeting to order.

2. The Board reviewed the agenda for additions, removals, or adjustments. Howard Hall moved to add Paul Sokal under recycling to the agenda, Teresa Smith seconded. The motion passed. Howard Hall also asked if there was anyone in attendance for public comment.

3. Public comments – There were no public comments.

4. Recycling - Paul Sokal advised the Board that he was present to bring the Board up to speed with the Vergennes Recycling Center as the Addison County Solid Waste District representative for Panton. Paul stated that the District has authorized the manager to have their attorney draft a sales agreement with Ferrisburgh which will have an arm's length of contingencies taking the property off the market for a period of time, give the District some time to investigate Act 250, and to speak with engineers to develop the property. Paul advised that he is looking for some direction from the Selectboard as he is likely to be called upon to vote on whether to proceed with this property. Teresa Smith inquired about where property is located. Paul advised that the property is located on Rte. 22A where it joins Route 7 and to the north. Paul stated that there is a little bit more than 30 acres owned by Ferrisburgh. Paul advised the Board that there will be some trees there to screen what happens there and the District is proposing a minimal facility so that the public from the District towns can come and have access to it. Paul stated that the property is on the market for \$375,000. He stated that some believe the soil is clay and would cost something for permitting, power, etc. Paul stated that the draft agreement is to be voted on by the ACSWD Board with noticeable contingencies that could be managed by a private business. The Board discussed the possibility of using other haulers and potential access to a transfer station from Route 7 in Middlebury. Paul stated that Casella has lost \$62,000 this year

in this district and losing money is what drove the decision for them to get out of Vergennes. Howard Hall stated that he is really concerned that all other haulers will be overwhelmed with trash and huge dump sites will appear. He advised that Addison, Panton, Waltham, Ferrisburgh, and Vergennes all pay their fair share per capita so Vergennes does not get angry and then has to eat extra costs. Howard stated that the drop dead closing date of the Vergennes Recycling Center is December 31, 2018 as the City wants to build a new salt barn where the recycling center is located now. Teresa stated that the aesthetics of it concern her as the doorway into Vergennes. Teresa wondered if it could be done responsibly with significant landscape design so that it does not look like a waste facility. Paul stated that he did not think it would pass zoning without the landscaping coming into it. Paul stated that he has ambivalence for it and he looks at it as a business opportunity for other haulers. The Board advised that Road Foreman Rick Cloutier does not want a recycling center located at the Panton Town Garage. Paul suggested that Panton could contract with a vendor on Saturdays to accept recycling and trash. Teresa wondered if Panton contracts with a Saturday morning hauler, would the location be the Town garage. Paul stated that he believes that a vote coming up might pass. Paul advised that Middlebury being a shire town is centrally located to all the towns in the District and maps were looked at to see if there is a way to get off of Route 7. The Board suggested procuring a right-of-way or purchase land from area farms. Paul stated that the whole district could be served there and Ferrisburgh would like for that to happen. Paul advised the Board that the District could tax the Town by statute. Paul stated that if a facility is created, the townspeople would pay every time they go there and a facility close by is a positive thing for Panton. Howard stated that Paul should come back and keep the Board updated more in depth of what is going on, but if a money thing, he should go ahead and vote. Paul advised that in the draft agreement from the attorney, it is the contingencies that matter. Paul stated that there are plenty of ways to get out of the agreement without making a purchase but the next thing to do is vote on it. Paul advised the Board that the possible use is zoned in Ferrisburgh but any of the neighbors could tie it up for a long period of time. Paul stated that if it meets ACT 250, it could not sustain an argument. Teresa stated that if the Town does not participate in a forward motion, it could be forced upon them. Howard Hall moved to explore a purchase in this property, Zachary Weaver seconded. The motion passed.

5. Teresa Smith moved to approve the October 9, 2018 minutes, Zachary Weaver seconded. The motion passed.

6. Review of Financials/Timesheets – The list of invoices, timesheets, and September financials were reviewed. Town Treasurer/Clerk Pam Correia advised the Board that the new 2019 Mack truck was expected to be arriving and she would need to transfer money from the Highway Capital Equipment Fund to cover the invoice. Zachary Weaver moved to transfer \$98,930 from the Highway Capital Equipment Fund to cover the truck invoice from Sheldon Trucks, Teresa Smith seconded. The motion passed.

7. Communications – Town Treasurer/Clerk Pam Correia advised the Board that she was looking into purchasing a new phone system for the Town office and highway garage. Pam advised the Board that the current phone system was very old, outdated and really needed to be

replaced. She advised the Board that she had received a proposal from Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecom outlining a hosted phone system. The Board requested that Pam learn more about the installation costs including fiber optics and provide more specific information. Howard Hall advised the Board that the furnace is not working and asked Pam to call J. W. & D. E. Ryan about the furnace. The Board briefly discussed the new FY19/20 budget. The Board briefly discussed the Better Back Roads Grant and Mitigation Grant that Road Foreman Rick Cloutier presented to them at the previous Selectboard meeting. Zachary Weaver moved to accept the Better Back Roads Grant, Teresa Smith seconded. The motion passed. Teresa Smith moved to accept the Mitigation Grant application, Howard Hall seconded. The motion passed. Howard Hall asked if the Memorandum of Understanding had been signed by Kevin Sullivan yet and requested that Pam contact Kevin Sullivan to sign it. Town Treasurer/Clerk Pam Correia advised the Board that the General Election was coming up on Tuesday, November 6th and she would like to have their help at the polls if they were available.

At 7:46pm, Teresa Smith moved to adjourn the meeting, Zachary Weaver seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Correia
Town Treasurer/Clerk