



Town of Panton Chartered 1761

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Selectboard Meeting

February 20, 2019

Selectboard Member's present: Howard Hall and Teresa Smith. Also present was Town Treasurer/Clerk Pam Correia, Road Foreman Rick Cloutier, Richard Jackson, David Rheaume, Sheriff Peter Newton, and Captain Brent Newton.

At 3:00pm, Howard Hall called the meeting to order.

2. Howard Hall moved to approve the January 22, 2019 minutes, Teresa Smith seconded. The motion passed.

3. There were no public comments.

4. Jackson Road – Road Foreman Rick Cloutier stated that a truck rutted up and destroyed the Class 4 road off of Jackson Road last spring. He stated that he had to fill the Class 4 road back in with eight tandem loads of dirt. Further discussion was held regarding the access of the Class 4 road off of Jackson Road and potential trespassing. Captain Brent Newton of the Addison County Sheriff's Department stated that a Class 4 road reverts back to the property owner when it's closed. Captain Newton stated that he spoke with the Addison County State's Attorney and confirmed that per State regulations, a Class 4 road can be closed for the winter, a notice against trespass for the Jackson property could be issued and, if violated, the trespasser can be charged criminally. He stated that the Addison County State's Attorney also suggested that the Town make an ordinance for road closures.

5. Road Foreman Report – Road Foreman Rick Cloutier stated that the highway sand pile is gone and the salt budget is depleted, but he believes there is enough salt to get through the remainder of the winter. Rick stated that he is working on a Class 2 paving grant in the amount of \$60,000 for Jersey Street which will serve as a bandaid and he should get five to six years from it and also for Panton Road where the damage has been caused by the weather. Rick advised the Board that the new Mack truck is going good. Rick advised the Board that the Town garage now has a hydraulic hose machine to build their own hoses. Howard Hall stated that he spoke with Vergennes City Council member Jeff Fritz regarding a new salt shed. Howard advised that Mr. Fritz is willing to participate in paying for half of a new salt shed in order to share it with the City of Vergennes. Howard stated that he would like Road Foreman Rick Cloutier to think about it. The Board briefly discussed a few maintenance items for Town Meeting Day. The Board stated that they would like to offer the bags of blown-in rock wool insulation that have been stored upstairs in Town Hall to anyone that is willing to take them. The Board briefly discussed the possibility of applying for a grant for a heated covering on the handicap access ramp.

6. Arnold Bay Boat Ramp – David Rheume inquired about a boat ramp at Arnold Bay and asked the Board what has to be done beginning to end. Howard Hall advised that he would like to know the legalities involved with the State. Howard stated that he has a lead on bunk walls that could be used as a slab to be put in and he is working on a donation. Howard expressed that he is more than happy to help with a boat ramp. David Rheume stated that a donation of bunk walls will alleviate the cost of any cement work. The Board further discussed providing a donation letter for a tax benefit. David advised the Board that he is looking for a starting point. David also asked about voting on the cupola and the status of the school house. Howard stated that voting on the cupola is within the budget and not a separate line item. Howard advised that the cupola is within a reasonable price range and if the budget gets voted down, there would need to be an additional budget hearing. Teresa Smith stated that the Board is pleased with the solution for the cupola at a lower cost and is keeping the budget within a two percent increase. Teresa stated that the school house leaks, there is no solution for it yet, and it is in terrible condition. David stated that the school house should be removed before someone thinks they want to restore it. Teresa stated that it is not worth the money to restore and the Board has zero plans to renovate the school house.

7. Addison County Sheriff's Department – Sheriff Peter Newton introduced himself as the new Addison County Sheriff. He stated that the new contract would be out in June and is expecting the rate to go up to \$28.50/hr. plus the standard mileage rate. Sheriff Newton stated that the Sheriff's Department has lost some deputies but also has hired new ones. Captain Brent Newton stated that the new deputies are more interested in stopping cars and believes the speed issue will take care of itself resulting in safer roads in town.

8. 2019 VLCT Pacif Equipment Grant – The Board reviewed the VLCT Pacif Equipment Grant application. Teresa Smith moved to accept the grant as written, Howard Hall seconded. The motion passed.

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

10. Communications – Town Treasurer/Clerk Pam Correia advised the Board that she needs to start replacing the computers in the office because the support for Windows 7 is ending January 2020. The Board discussed the PowerPoint presentation for Town Meeting and the appointment of a new Town moderator due to the resignation of Doug Dows from the position.

At 4:22pm, Teresa Smith moved to adjourn the meeting, Howard Hall seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Correia
Town Treasurer/Clerk