



Town of Panton Chartered 1761

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Selectboard Meeting

May 14, 2019

Selectboard Member's present: Howard Hall, Teresa Smith, and Zachary Weaver. Also present was Town Treasurer/Clerk Pam Correia, Road Foreman Rick Cloutier, Vergennes City Manager Matt Chabot, Vergennes Mayor Jeff Fritz, Danelle Birong, Anna Hopper, Bob Groff, Joe Duffy, Mary Rudd, Robert Rudd, Dennis Hopper, and David Raphael.

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 April 23, 2019 minutes, with no corrections. Zachary Weaver seconded. The motion passed.
4. Public Comment – Dennis Hopper addressed the Board regarding his concerns about the Arnold Bay marker and its location. Dennis advised the Board that it has been under water for half of the year this year and last year. Dennis stated that he had come to the Board in the past and was asked to provide details. He also added that he personally had spent \$2,000 on plans and photos of the marker which then showed up on the Town beach two weeks later. The Board stated that the monument was moved due to worry about it being damaged. Howard Hall stated that the plaque was originally put down at the beach by Mitzy Goward and it was thought to be appropriate to put it back where it was originally found. Dennis wondered if the monument could be placed so that it is not under water and noted that Channel 44 was down at the Town beach filming and showed the monument mostly under water. Howard stated that the Town is making improvements to enhance the area and the Board will take a look at it. Howard added that the port-a-potty is coming back with a cover.
5. Road Foreman Report – Road Foreman Rick Cloutier stated that due to a recent power surge, the security cameras went down at the Town Garage. He added that they were rebooted and are now working properly again. Rick advised the Board that he had received an acceptance letter

for the FY2020 Better Roads Category A Mitigation Grant and the work will need to be completed at the Town beach by the second week of June. Rick stated that the grant is a \$6,400 grant with a 20% match and he asked for in-kind services to cover the Town share of which was agreed to. Rick advised the Board that he will start next week with the excavator and will get the trailer to get it moved. Rick added that the roadside mover is back together and he plans to start mowing next week. He advised the Board that the new truck is going awesome and he is currently working on a deal with Kevin Sullivan to clean up behind the Town Office.

6. ANWSD School Board Vacancy – Town Treasurer/Clerk Pam Correia advised the Board that David Holmes expressed interest in the school board vacancy. David was not in attendance; therefore, the discussion was tabled.

7. Procedure for the Bypass Discussion – DRB members David Raphael and Mary Rudd were in attendance to discuss the Vergennes Economic Corridor. They advised the Board that they had learned of new information they were not aware of, still have a lot of questions about the study, and want to learn more. Mary advised the Board that she would like an overview from the City of Vergennes.

8. Vergennes Economic Corridor – Vergennes Mayor Jeff Fritz advised the Board that Vergennes had visited Morrisville and they have tried to follow their example as the projects are virtually identical. Jeff stated that the impact has been phenomenal and 800 trucks go through the City of Vergennes every day as well as hazardous materials transported through the downtown. Jeff added that the downtown should be for all the five towns and wants the project to be within the city limits. Jeff also stated that this is a problem the City of Vergennes is trying to take care of themselves and wants to build for the future. David Raphael stated his agreement that the truck traffic is a problem through Vergennes and stressed that he wants to remain open minded, but stated it is very hard to get his arms around building a new road. David expressed his concern that this is the foremost and singular access to the town and with the proposal that access will be facilitated by a stop light. Discussion followed about rezoning the acreage within Panton of which Vergennes believes could create a revenue opportunity for the Town of Panton. David stated that the aesthetics and the impacts are a concern to him personally and to the Town of Panton DRB. Mary Rudd expressed her concern for enough capacity from the Vergennes sewer system if new businesses or single-family homes were added. Matt Chabot stated that discharges come from the McDonough Pump Station on the other side of Otter Creek where the pump station would be first to be reviewed and they must also abide by the State 1272 Order. Matt confirmed that the Vergennes sewer system does have capacity. Matt added that if there is regional consensus, the project will be moved up on the Capital Plan. David wondered if the State is on board with the project. Matt responded that they are just vetting the process. He added that he shares concerns but also sees the potential and wants to minimize the impact on Panton and Ferrisburgh. Jeff stated that the current City Council realizes that the sewer issues need to be addressed sooner rather than later and part of the resolution is the corridor. David stated that economics are shifting and transportation is changing. He added that the truck traffic problem needs to be resolved and it needs to be talked about more in order to learn more. David

also wondered what the future of rail is and could it be a way to shift freight from coming through Vergennes. David stated that his preference is Route 17 as there are 4,100 vehicles on Pantan Road with no shoulders, speeders, and kids riding on Pantan Road. More discussion followed about the effects on Route 17, the viability of the rail option, and the effects of noise on Main Street. David Raphael explained the procedure to make a change to the Town Plan if the corridor is included as an amendment. Jeff stated that he would like to get from the Town of Pantan that they are willing to listen and added that he is not asking for a commitment. Howard Hall stated that he would like to squash any rumors that the Town of Pantan is against the projected corridor in any way. Howard added that the Board wants to follow all procedures required, giving the project their due diligence, and that the Board cannot hastily sign off on and do the projected corridor. Matt stated that Vergennes is here to give Pantan a seat at the table and be a part of the process but struggles to understand what the downside would be for Pantan to talk with VTrans and continue pursuing the opportunity. Howard stated that the Board wants to work with everyone and be on the same table but an endorsement would come with caveats and there is more the Town will need to know. Danelle Birong stated that open language will open the door for potential grant money down the road. Further discussion followed regarding a wording change to the Town Plan. Teresa Smith stated that if people try to be transparent, it will help the process move forward and suggested the Board put together questions and concerns for the June 13th DRB meeting. Jeff advised that the next step is a vote on the study by the Transportation Advisory Committee on whether to endorse the project or not, gather all the letters from the legislature, meet with Ferrisburgh and Waltham, and speak with the governor. Zachary Weaver stated his observation to be that all are in agreement that everyone wants to alleviate the truck traffic. Brief discussion ensued regarding the maintenance of the road concluding that the State will maintain it.

9. Cupola Project – David Raphael stated that the plans for the new cupola make it look authentic and like it belongs on top of the building. Joe Duffy stated that the plans are architecturally correct and permanent; not meant to be temporary. The Board discussed the prep work to be done prior to installation of the cupola and further discussed the drawings. Joe stated that people are wanting more and looking towards more historic reproduction. Joe confirmed the timing for installation of the cupola would fall in September or October and that the engineers stamp is not needed, but the Board will need to approve the drawings and choose two paint colors before it will go into production. The Board chose white for the whole cupola and dark ivy on the louvers. Howard Hall wanted to keep in mind that the paint should match since the building will need to be painted outside again in the next four years. Zachary Weaver moved to accept the architectural drawings and color selections; Teresa Smith seconded. The motion passed.

10. Review/Approval of Accounts Payable Warrant & Timesheets – The list of invoices and timesheets were reviewed.

Teresa Smith exited the meeting.

11. Communications

- VT Municipal Employees Retirement System (VMERS) Group Change – The Board discussed briefly. Howard Hall stated that he is having a dilemma with employee raises although he also understands that it will be beneficial to employees to be in a higher pension plan. Howard stated that he is unsure if he can justify the cost of living with a plan increase. Town Treasurer/Clerk Pam Correia reiterated that the change would not go into effect until July 1, 2020. With not all Board members in attendance, the Board tabled the discussion to the next regular meeting.

- Town Hall Cleaning- Town Treasurer/Clerk Pam Correia stated that Kirsten De La Cruz was now coming in to clean the Town Office. Pam stated that she would like to get Kirsten on a bi-weekly schedule and advised the Board that Kirsten requires a two-hour minimum for her services at \$30 per hour which will result in an overage in the budgeted Town Hall cleaning expense. Discussion followed. Zachary Weaver moved to keep Kirsten at bi-weekly at her going rate, Howard Hall seconded. The motion passed.

At 8:12pm, Zachary Weaver moved to adjourn the meeting, Howard Hall seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Correia
Town Treasurer/Clerk