



## ***Town of Panton Chartered 1761***

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Selectboard Meeting

May 28, 2019

Selectboard Member's present: Chair Howard Hall and Teresa Smith. Also present was Town Treasurer/Clerk Pam Correia, Steve Weber, and Eben Markowski.

At 6:30pm, Howard Hall called the meeting to order.

2. There were no additions, removals, or adjustments to the agenda.
3. Teresa Smith moved to approve the May 14, 2019 minutes, with no corrections. Howard Hall seconded. The motion passed.
4. Public Comments –Steve Weber, who owns a parcel located at 1083 Lake Road, advised the Board that he missed the May 1st tax installment because he was expecting a bill in the mail as this process is what he is used to at his prior town of residence. Steve stated that he believes the assessed penalty is unfair as he was unaware the installment was due and that if unpaid it warranted a penalty. Steve advised the Board that he is looking for relief from the penalty since he never got a bill in his name and it is not reasonable for people that have just moved to Panton. Town Treasurer/Clerk Pam Correia advised that when Steve purchased the property, the tax bill should have changed hands at the closing and/or the previous owner should have forwarded the tax bill to him. Pam also added that the name of ownership cannot be updated on the tax bill until the new 2019 grand list is filed which will then show on the new tax bill coming out in September 2019. Howard Hall stated that the Board cannot give Steve a waiver on the assessed penalty and he will have to go to a Board of Abatement meeting with his request. Teresa Smith noted that she was sympathetic to Steve's situation and wondered if a welcome letter could be put together for new residents that would outline important dates to remember. Town Treasurer/Clerk Pam Correia stated that once the June 10, 2019 grievance hearings were held, she would schedule a BOA meeting. The Board welcomed Steve to the community.

Steve Weber also asked the Board about the access on Turkey Lane as to whether there is public Town-owned access or if it is privately owned. Brief discussion followed. The Board believes this access is an asset to the Town and wonders what the right-of-way says. The Board would like to gather more information on Turkey Lane and further research the Town land records to clarify the question.

Howard Hall clarified that as Chair of the Selectboard he is only responsible for starting the meetings and is equally powered along with the other members through the Selectboard process.

5. Scheduling of Manure Run-Off Public Meeting – Howard Hall stated that a Monday date is being looked at to schedule a special selectboard meeting to address the recent manure run-off problem. The meeting will be attended by Laura DiPietro from the VT Agency of Agriculture, where questions from concerned townspeople can be answered regarding the permitting process, weather, etc. Eben Markowski stated that he has low expectations and is interested in the policy and of how the problem happened. Teresa Smith agreed that she would like to know how the problem happened and also to learn how to not let it happen again for the interest of the town. Eben stated that spreading happening again today with it raining and left a disgusting mess on Pantan Road. The Board set a tentative date for the public meeting on Monday, June 17, 2019.

6. Records Management Policy & Retention Plan – Town Treasurer/Clerk Pam Correia presented the Board with a draft Records Management Policy & Retention Plan. The Board requested that Pam whittle down the Town retention periods for each record to what seems reasonable. The Board then tabled the discussion to the next regular meeting.

7. VT Municipal Employees Retirement System (VMERS) Group Change - Howard Hall stated that he would like to confirm with employees whether they are agreeable or not to the group change. The Board requested to table the discussion to the next regular meeting.

8. Release of Lease Land Approval – The Board received a request to consider and execute a Quit Claim Deed to remove 50 acres of “lease land” located on West Road from the Patrick J. Cooke title. The Board expressed questions about the Cooke’s land including a most recent subdivision, and where the “lease land” lot is located. The Board would like more clarification as to what is being given away and requested that Zoning Administrator Kris Perlee attend the next regular meeting to help clear up their questions. Town Treasurer/Clerk Pam Correia will contact Benj Putnam for representation in the lease land issue as Town Attorney Jim Carroll has a conflict in the matter. The Board tabled any further discussion until the next regular meeting.

9. Review/Approval of Accounts Payable Warrant, Timesheets, and Financials – The accounts payable warrant, timesheets, and April financials were reviewed. The collection of delinquent taxes was discussed.

10. Communications – Howard Hall advised that he spoke with Town Attorney Jim Carroll and stated that he is working on the Class 4 Roads and Town Right-of-Way Ordinances. Howard

stated that he attended the Transportation Advisory Committee meeting regarding the Vergennes Economic Corridor. He also stated that the study passed and it was endorsed by the Transportation Advisory Committee. Howard Hall wondered if the Board should consider putting the issue of the Vergennes Economic Corridor on the November ballot to determine if the citizens endorse the economic corridor. Teresa Smith noted that she is looking for a Summer meeting schedule.

Town Treasurer/Clerk Pam Correia advised the Board that the Town's application for a 2019 PACIF Equipment Grant had been approved and eligible for a grant of up to \$544.65. Pam advised that the 50% match grant will be used towards the purchase of additional rugs for the Town Office and contribute towards the purchase of an ergonomic office chair. She also stated that the dehumidifier that was applied for was denied but could still be purchased with the records preservation funds from the budget.

Town Treasurer/Clerk Pam Correia conferred with the Board regarding the parking behind the Town Hall and wondered what their plans were to pay for the parking area. Howard Hall stated that funds from the Town Hall Restoration Fund should be used to cover the expenses of creating the parking area. He added that the only other items he expected to use the Town Hall Restoration Fund for, other than the cupola, were painting of the upstairs in the Town Hall and some work on the stairway between the Town Office and the upstairs in the Town Hall.

At 8:02pm, Howard Hall moved to adjourn the meeting, Teresa Smith seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Correia  
Town Treasurer/Clerk