



Town of Panton Chartered 1761

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Selectboard Meeting

July 22, 2019

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

At 6:36pm, Howard Hall called the meeting to order.

2. There were no additions, removals, or adjustments to the agenda.
3. Zachary Weaver moved to approve the June 25, 2019 minutes, with no corrections. Howard Hall seconded. The motion passed. Teresa Smith moved to approve the July 10, 2019 minutes, with no corrections. Howard Hall seconded. The motion passed. Howard Hall moved to approve the July 15, 2019 minutes, with no corrections. Zachary Weaver seconded. The motion passed.
4. Public Comments – There were no public comments.
5. ANWSD School Board Vacancy/Town Auditor Appointment – Bradley Dewey joined the Board and expressed his interest in both the ANWSD School Board vacancy and Town Auditor position. Howard Hall briefly summarized the relationship with the Town auditors. Howard added that there are two sides to the tax bill; one being the large school portion and the other being the lake people versus the poor people. Howard stressed his concern for the poor people that want to pay but cannot. Teresa Smith stated that there is a lot of push back on the School Board and added pressure to pass the budget for four schools. Zachary Weaver wondered what Brad wants to get out of the school board. Brad stated that he does not have a lot of skin in the game, but believes that something needs to change in this state. He stated that he would like to approach from a financial angle and views the decline in the population as a problem more than just in this district. He believes that if the people on the lake were to leave, it will hurt the school district in tax dollars and wants to offer constructive input. A long discussion ensued regarding the property taxes for farms and lake properties. Brad stated that he would like to work on his

stamina for meetings that go nowhere. The Board further discussed the school system and the families that may not stay due to high taxes. The Board discussed affordable housing and possible solutions to make the Town prosper with the declining population. Brad stated that he is encouraged to get involved and learn. He stated that the Town feels like a ski town and vacation town; therefore, he has a personal interest to preserve the area. Zach offered help to Brad with any needed information to take to the School Board. Teresa suggested looking at how the schools are structured and reorganize. Special Ed costs and busing contracts in the rural communities were also discussed. Howard Hall moved to nominate Bradley Dewey to the vacant school board position, Teresa Smith seconded. The motion passed. Howard Hall moved to nominate Bradley Dewey as Town Auditor, Teresa Smith seconded. The motion passed.

6. Class 4 Highway Policy & Use of Public Right-of-Way Policy – The Board discussed the next steps to convert the Class 4 Highway Policy and Right-of-Way Policy into an ordinance. The Board was in agreement to hold the public hearing for the ordinance in September or October. Teresa Smith moved to start the ordinance process for the Class 4 Road and Right of Way Policies and schedule the public hearing for 6pm on Tuesday, September 10, 2019 if the time frame fits correctly, Howard Hall seconded. The motion passed. The Board requested that Town Treasurer/Clerk Pam Correia prepare the ordinance to warn for the scheduled public hearing.

7. FY19/20 Tax Rate – Discussion was held regarding the new combined municipal/local agreement tax rate for FY2019/2020. Howard Hall moved to approve the June 30, 2020 tax rate to be set at 0.5786, Zachary Weaver seconded. The motion passed. The Board concluded that Panton residents would be responsible for 1.43% of the total combined municipal/education tax increase.

8. Review/Approval of Accounts Payable Warrant, Timesheets, and Financials – The accounts payable warrant, timesheets, and June financials were reviewed.

9. Communications – Howard Hall presented employee wage increase letters for the Board's signature. Further discussion ensued regarding the Personnel Committee and review of the Personnel Policy.

Pam Correia advised the Board that Attorney Benj Putnam is working on the letters to the Turkey Lane abutters and will forward copies to the Board when they are completed.

Pam Correia presented the Board for their signatures a Resolution to borrow \$20,000 for the purpose of financing Town Hall Renovations previously authorized by the Board at their July 10, 2019 Selectboard Meeting, which is designated for the cupola. Pam also presented the Board for their signatures a Resolution to borrow \$175,000 for the purpose of financing Town operating expenses in anticipation of revenues previously authorized by the Board at their July 10, 2019 Selectboard Meeting.

In regards to the FY2019 Category A Better Roads Grant from the Vermont Agency of

Transportation, Pam Correia presented the Board with a proposal for civil engineering services from Otter Creek Engineering requesting authorization to proceed. The grant will be used to complete a road inventory of hydrologically connected road segments. Howard Hall moved to accept the bid on the Otter Creek Engineering for July 22nd, Teresa Smith seconded. The motion passed.

Pam Correia suggested to the Board a gift of appreciation for Dave Chase for mowing the grass around Town Hall and the park and ride. After brief discussion, the Board was in agreement to send a thank you note to Dave for volunteering his time as well as to the Dock Doctors for putting the boat ramp in at the Town beach.

Howard Hall advised the Board that the work on the rafters upstairs of Town Hall has started in preparation for the cupola and the work should be done by Friday. He added that the cupola is coming on August 5th and advised that he will call Brown's Crane Rental since he has not heard anything more about the donation of the crane. Teresa Smith stated that the Board should try to get the crane for free, but they should also contact Brown's. Zachary Weaver expressed his agreement.

At 8:29pm, Howard Hall moved to adjourn the meeting, Zachary Weaver seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Correia
Town Treasurer/Clerk