



Town of Panton Chartered 1761

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Selectboard Meeting

September 10, 2019

Selectboard Member's present: Howard Hall and Teresa Smith. Also present was Town Clerk/Treasurer Pam Correia, Road Foreman Rick Cloutier, and Bradley Dewey.

At 6:35pm, 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 August 26, 2019 minutes, with no corrections. Howard Hall seconded. The motion passed. The Board tabled the approval of the August 12, 2019 minutes.
4. Public Comment – There were no public comments.
5. Road Foreman Report – Road Foreman Rick Cloutier advised the Board that ditching work was recently completed on Stove Pipe City Road as part of the State Connecting Segments Program. He stated that he did receive some complaints about the work from residents and added that he discovered the Visser farm had been pushing manure from their barn and is running down into his ditch. Rick advised the Board that he is following State law, but when he addressed the issue with the Visser's, they did not want to hear about the problem. Therefore, with no results from the Department of Agriculture, the issue has been turned over to an environmentalist with the Agency of Natural Resources.

Rick advised the Board that the road crew is getting ready for winter. He stated that the upcoming projects planned are to ditch in front of BJ's Farm Supply, complete the stone wall at the Town Beach, and then address the maintenance of the stones in the flower bed at Town Hall. Rick added that Kevin Sullivan spread out the dirt between Town Hall and the new driveway. Rick will also hydroseed the area. Rick advised the Board that eight yards of concrete have been donated for the boat launch so far and eight more are needed. The Board was very pleased to

hear that the Town beach is staying clean and that people are being respectful of the beach.

Howard Hall inquired about the culvert at Jennifer Brace's property. He stated that Ms. Brace is not getting any results from the State and would like Rick to facilitate some help for her and contact the State. Rick stated that he went over to look at it in order to help her and point her in the right direction. The Board then discussed the removal of the rocks from the stone wall and where they will be disposed of.

6. ANWSD School Consolidation Proposal – Howard Hall conveyed his appreciation to Panton ANWSD Board Representative Bradley Dewey for providing the Board with a report on the school consolidation proposal. Brad advised that the ANWSD Board voted at their meeting on the previous night to postpone the preliminary proposal until September 27, 2019, which consists of closing the Addison and Ferrisburgh schools. He added that the residents in attendance conveyed that the decision felt rushed and there has not been enough analysis provided. Brad advised that the ANWSD administration will review the proposal and put more meat on the bone for residents to analyze.

Brad highlighted some background information on topics such as:

- The district will lose 100 students in the high school between 2020 thru 2026;
- Level funding and fixed costs;
- Property tax trends;
- Teacher staff ratios;
- Future technology needs;
- The need of a strategy for Panton.

Discussion followed on the impact of residents and students. Brad noted that if the school closure and consolidation is voted down, in January 2021, the ANWSD Board will be able to close schools without town votes. He added that the schools will then just be empty shells and if no longer used for educational purposes, the towns may buy the buildings back for \$1.

Further discussion followed regarding busing, behaviors, school population, and capacity.

7. Telling & Hillman, P.C. Audit Services FYE June 30, 2019 – The Board reviewed and signed the engagement letter from Telling & Hillman as acknowledgement of the audit services to be provided.

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

9. Communications

- Pam Correia presented the Board with a draft Meeting Policy for the use of holding meetings upstairs in Town Hall. The Board briefly discussed the policy and expressed they would like to see it implemented.

- The Board further discussed delinquent tax collection.
- Pam Correia presented the Board with a letter of appreciation to Campbellsville Industries for the outstanding work of the cupola delivery and installation. The Board reviewed the letter and signed it for mailing.

At 7:51pm, Howard Hall moved to go into executive session to discuss pending litigation under the provisions of 1 VSA § 313(a)(1)(F) of the Vermont Statutes, Teresa Smith seconded. The motion passed.

At 8:02pm, Howard Hall moved to leave executive session, Teresa Smith seconded. The motion passed.

Teresa Smith moved to authorize Benj Putnam and his firm to represent the Town in any litigation and legal action which is presented to the Town of Panton, Howard Hall seconded. The motion passed.

At 8:34pm, Teresa Smith moved to adjourn the meeting, Howard Hall seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Correia
Town Clerk/Treasurer