



Town of Panton Chartered 1761

3176 Jersey Street, Panton VT 05491-9331

802.475.2333, Fax 802.475.2785

Selectboard Meeting

October 8, 2019

Selectboard Member's present: Howard Hall and Teresa Smith. Also present was Town Clerk/Treasurer Pam Correia, Road Foreman Rick Cloutier, David Raphael, Mary Rudd, Robert Rudd, Bob Groff, and Debbie Brace.

At 6:32pm, 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 September 24, 2019 minutes, with no corrections. Howard Hall seconded. The motion passed.
4. Public Comment – There were no public comments.
5. Road Foreman Report – Road Foreman Rick Cloutier advised the Board that the Arnold Bay beach is completed and all the plantings are done. Howard Hall expressed his gratitude for a great job done by the Road Crew. Rick added that Greenhaven did the plantings and they will keep the new plantings watered all next year. Rick advised the Board that the brakes locked up on the International truck and he has received a quote of \$4,000 to repair the brakes on the truck. He also conveyed that he has received numerous enraged phone calls from Kevin Cooke regarding the removal of a trailer on Hopkins Road owned by Adam Thomann. Rick also advised the Board that the culvert put in place on Hopkins Road was needed so when the trailer passed through the ditch area, it wouldn't damage the ditch. Rick stated that work on the flower bed stone wall at the Town Hall will start in a couple of weeks. Howard added that the rocks can be piled behind the Town Hall and anyone interested in them can take what they want by Spring. Rick confirmed that the electrician is waiting for wire to complete the electrical work for the lightning rod on the cupola and he updated the Board on the status of the other lights at the Town Hall that need some attention.

Howard Hall inquired about the Recycled Asphalt Shingles (RAS) Pilot Project. Rick confirmed that he recently met with representatives from VT Agency of Transportation, VT ANR DEC, and VT Local Roads. He stated that he is not convinced that the product is environmentally safe but told VTrans that he will try the pilot project. The Board briefly discussed the details of the pilot project and added that the site will be on Adams Ferry Road. Howard Hall moved to accept the grant for the asphalt recycling shingles for the pilot program for the Town of Panton, Teresa Smith seconded. The motion passed.

Debbie Brace joined the meeting at this time and advised the Board that she would be willing to fill the vacant Town Agent & Justice of the Peace positions. The Board advised Debbie that they appreciate her interest and will discuss the possibility of her appointment.

6. Review and Approval of VTrans Letter of Support (PELS) – Howard Hall presented a draft letter to the Department of Transportation stating that the Board has not taken a position either in support of or against the proposed Vergennes Economic Corridor. Panton DRB/Planning Commission members David Raphael and Mary Rudd joined the Board to discuss the Town Plan amendment. David advised the Board that the hearing for the Town Plan amendment will be warned in November and if no objections are voiced, the Board can adopt the amendment. The Board further discussed the possibility of presenting an article to the voters in March as well as wanting more information about the boundaries, plantings, the impact on Panton, school closings, water run-off, sewer issues, noise, and property values. Mary Rudd conveyed that Panton was previously against it. David Raphael added that Panton had no say until late in the game when Vergennes realized they needed support from Panton and expressed that he was not satisfied from what he heard at the Special Meeting; therefore, needing to slow down and figure out what is going to happen. The Board confirmed that Panton asked Vergennes to attend the special meeting. Mary Rudd stated that she would like to add to the letter that Panton would like the boundary dispute settled as well. Howard Hall pointed out that Item #4 of the letter addresses this point. Howard Hall moved to send the letter off to our cast of thousands on the back end of the letter, Teresa Smith seconded. The motion passed.

7. Walter Cerf Fund Final Grant Report – David Raphael advised the Board that he had completed the final grant report for the Walter Cerf Community Fund. David reiterated all of the upgrades that have been completed on the Town Hall. Howard Hall stated that the Board is just waiting on the power line to hook up the lightning rod and then the cupola will be completely done. David added that the cupola is the capstone to all the good work the Selectboard has done to update the Town Hall.

The Board briefly discussed the trees along the solar field on Panton Road. David Raphael advised the Board that Green Mountain Power is working with the landscape architect and contractor to put in replacement plants as this screen was a condition of the approval for the solar farm. David added that the Vorsteveld's pledged to maintain that buffer along the corn field.

8. Local Emergency Planning Committee – Bob Groff was in attendance to convey to the Board

what may be coming in regards to the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) and stated that the LEPC is good for our local area, a way to get to know other emergency management folks, and also are required to complete emergency response plans regarding hazmat chemicals. Bob acknowledged that hazmat is very important, but the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) is pushing for hazmat to be #1 on the table and nothing else. Bob stated that flood zones, power outages with trees, snow, massive storms, and run-off are more prominent than hazmat. Bob advised that the Rutland area is now defunct and SERC is trying to expand down into Bennington. He added that the increased area and driving distances for staff and volunteers may lead to reduced participation and potentially the loss of LEPC locally. Bob advised the Board that SERC wants to mandate the LEPC to conduct things such as hazmat drills or be denied funding. The Board further discussed hazmat and preparedness solutions as they agreed that they do not want to lose the LEPC.

9. Review/Approval of Accounts Payable Warrant & Timesheets – The list of invoices and timesheets were reviewed. Pam Correia advised the Board that payments for Sheehan Excavation and Panoramic Landscaping were included on the current A/P warrant for the total combined amount of \$2,538.00. She added that these expenses were for the replacement of the green strip between the Town Hall handicap ramp and the replaced driveway as well as an excavator rental to complete the work. Howard Hall moved to use that money out of the Town Hall Restoration Fund, Teresa Smith seconded. The motion passed.

Howard Hall shared that there will be a small sharing library installed in the entrance to Town Hall and one on Hopkins Road for the residents of Pantton.

10. Communications -

NPO Litigation Exclusion Request Form – Pam Correia presented the Board with a Class Action Notice regarding National Prescription Opiate Litigation which includes without limitation cities, towns, townships, villages, and municipalities as defined Class. She advised the Board that the exclusion request form was a way that the Town could opt out of the Class with action required by November 22, 2019 or take no action and remain in the Class. After brief discussion, the Board agreed to table the item until the next regular Selectboard meeting.

Meeting Room Agreement vs. Policy – Pam Correia advised the Board that she had received some feedback from Paul Sokal who suggested that additional work would be needed by the Selectboard for the September 24, 2019 adopted Meeting Policy to become a policy. After brief discussion, the Board agreed that the document is primarily a list of rules to use the meeting space and could be retitling as an agreement or memorandum of understanding. Teresa Smith moved to change Meeting Policy to Meeting Room Memorandum of Understanding, Howard Hall seconded. The motion passed.

Howard Hall inquired about the FY2020/21 budget.

11. Executive Session to discuss Pending Litigation per 1 VSA § 313(a)(1) – The Board did not go into executive session as it was not needed.

At 7:43pm, Teresa Smith moved to adjourn the meeting, Howard Hall seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Correia
Town Clerk/Treasurer