



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

**3176 Jersey Street, Panton VT 05491-9331**

**802.475.2333, Fax 802.475.2785**

Selectboard Meeting

December 10, 2019

Selectboard Member's present: Howard Hall, Teresa Smith, and Zachary Weaver. Also present was Town Clerk/Treasurer Pam Correia, Road Foreman Rick Cloutier, Bob Groff, Gerard Vorsteveld, Hans Vorsteveld, David Raphael, Bob Hartenstein, Bradley Dewey, and Sharon Ashcraft.

At 6:36pm, 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 November 26, 2019 minutes, with no corrections. Zachary Weaver seconded. The motion passed.
4. Public Comment – There were no public comments.
5. Road Foreman Report – Rick Cloutier stated that they had started grading Hopkins Road. Howard Hall asked Rick about the recycled shingles that were put down on Adams Ferry Road. Rick advised the Board that the shingles are working ok and added that he is working with the State on another \$175,000 paving grant.
6. Highway Department Storage/Salt Shed – The Board briefly discussed the replacement of the storage and salt sheds at the Town Garage. Rick Cloutier advised the Board that it will cost \$155,000 to replace the salt shed and \$85,000 to replace the equipment shed. Rick added that he has not gotten any good results from the insurance company and is done dealing with them. Teresa Smith stated that the Board will need to think about financing to cover the costs of replacing the storage and salt sheds.
7. South Road Trail – Howard Hall asked Hans Vorsteveld to explain what he planned to do with

the South Road trail. Hans advised the Board that he has plans to cut all the trees down. The Board discussed the width of the trail and concluded it to be 5 feet wide with 3 feet on each side. Howard advised Hans that the Board cannot just say go ahead and cut the trees until all the information has been gathered and an affirmative answer on what the trail is has been determined. Howard added that he wants to be cautious and does not want to get into a big argument or discussion about the trail until he knows how much the right-of-way of the trail is. Hans and Gerard Vorsteveld confirmed that they own the land on both sides of the trail. The Board reiterated that the question at hand is what the right-of-way is. Teresa Smith stated that the Board needs to make sure they are 100% clear before giving permission to the Vorsteveld's to cut the trees. Hans stated that they are trying to clean the mess up. Howard stated that he appreciates the Vorsteveld's coming in to talk to the Board about the matter. Sharon Ashcraft shared with the Board her opinion that the bridge on South Road was closed, but the road was not given up. She also presented the Board with some documents relating to the trail and added that she believes it is not a valid discontinuance. Howard stated that he wants the Vorsteveld's to be a successful business and wants some time to look over the documents Sharon presented to ensure that the Board is doing the right thing. Teresa expressed her appreciation to Sharon for all the work she put into researching the documents and added that the Board can now reconstruct the width of the trail and the right-of-way while taking into consideration how it will impact everyone. David Raphael stated that the trail is memorialized in the Town Plan as a route or trail that residents use, and the Planning Commission will want to look at it. The Board conveyed to the Vorsteveld's to be patient while they work on the right-of-way matter and asked if waiting will be a hardship on them. Hans advised the Board that the equipment is waiting in the yard ready to go and he is just waiting for permission from the Town; otherwise, they may cut the trees and burn them. Teresa stated her concern that the Vorsteveld's are not encroaching and are also following the Right-of-Way Ordinance. Zachary Weaver asked Sharon to explain what her goal is in terms of no cutting. Sharon stated that she likes the privacy of the trees, she's never seen trees ever been cut, there should be a sign identifying it as a Town trail, the trail is an amenity to the Town, the trail is a recreational public use, the Town will be losing trees, she would like to see the trees protected, and the tree lines cannot be replaced. The Board agreed to table the discussion to the December 26, 2019 Selectboard meeting which will give them some time to review the information and gain a clear understanding of the right-of-way.

8. Petition to Change Articles of Unification – Bradley Dewey brought the Rural School Alliance (RSA) to the Board's attention and explained to the Board that the RSA needs a petition to be put on the ANWSD ballot for a vote to change the language to the current district language. He added that no school closing can be done without all five (5) towns voting and will need to be approved by all five (5) towns collectively. Bradley advised the Board of the two proposals put forth by the ANWSD Board. Proposal A is to refurbish the Addison school for special education and move the Addison students to the Vergennes Elementary School. Proposal B is to stick to the vote made in November to keep the Addison and Ferrisburgh schools and to reduce the costs below the threshold. Bradley stated that the School Board voted in their FY21 budget to refurbish the Addison school and move the Addison students to the Vergennes Elementary School. Further discussion followed.

9. Town Plan Amendments – David Raphael advised the Board that the Planning Commission is ready for the Selectboard to accept the Town Plan amendments and noted that the Board would need to hold a public hearing which needs to be warned 15 days in advance of the Selectboard meeting. David stated that the primary change made to the Town Plan was the enhanced energy plan. He added that the Town Hall language has been updated in the Community Facilities and Services section to reflect the completion of renovations to the Town Hall and offices as well as an update to the Transportation section to replace the Vergennes 22A Bypass now referred to as the Vergennes Economic Corridor. Further discussion followed about the Vergennes Economic Corridor. Howard Hall stated that it would be a benefit to the Town if a member of the Planning Commission would be willing to be on the committee to ensure representation.

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

11. Communications – The Board further discussed the draft budget for FY2020/21. Pam Correia asked the Board what they would like to do this year for Christmas bonuses. The Board confirmed that they would like to give Christmas bonuses again this year in the amounts of \$400 for all full-time employees and \$200 for all part-time employees. Zachary Weaver moved to accept the Christmas bonuses, Howard Hall seconded. The motion passed.

At 8:25pm, Teresa Smith moved to adjourn the meeting, Zachary Weaver seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Correia  
Town Clerk/Treasurer