



Town of Panton Chartered 1761

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Selectboard Meeting

January 14, 2020

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

At 6:34pm, 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 December 26, 2019 Special Selectboard meeting minutes, with no corrections. Zachary Weaver seconded. The motion passed. Teresa Smith moved to approve the December 26, 2019 minutes, with no corrections. Zachary Weaver seconded. The motion passed.
4. Public Comments – Sharon Ashcraft joined the meeting to ask the Board the status of the South Road trail. Howard Hall advised that there will be no tree cutting at this time until the Town can find the definition of the right-of-way and what the measurements are. Howard added that Han's Vorsteveld was given the Right-of-Way Ordinance and was informed not to do anything. Howard advised that going to court over this tree issue would not be beneficial and he would like all parties to come to an agreement. Sharon wondered why the Vorsteveld Farm wants to cut these particular trees on the South Road trail. Howard advised that the farm would like to run drainage tile in their fields without having to go around something and the trees also cause a problem for their corn fields. Howard stated that the Town needs to protect the asset of the community and the trail will have to be surveyed, which takes time. Teresa Smith stated that the Town is currently in a holding pattern regarding the trees on the South Road trail and reiterated that the Vorsteveld's said they aren't going to cut anything. Teresa added that the Vorsteveld's are a big landowner in town and they need to be treated fairly; therefore, the Town will work with the Vorsteveld's while keeping any negotiations in the best interest of the town and their neighbors. Howard added that the trail will need maintenance to become usable. The

Board briefly discussed Sharon's request to consider putting up a sign identifying the South Road trail for tourists.

5. Road Foreman Report – Rick Cloutier was not available.

6. Approval of 2019 Town Road and Bridge Standards – Pam Correia advised the Board that the Town Road and Bridge Standards must be approved by the Town each year in order to continue to be eligible for State share funding on Town Highway Structures and Class 2 Town Highway grants. Teresa Smith questioned whether the Town Road and Bridge Standards document was for 2019 as shown on the agenda or actually for 2020. Pam confirmed that the document is dated June 5, 2019 and is the 2019 Town Road and Bridge Standards State-approved template which the State recommends for adoption. Teresa Smith moved to approve the Town Road and Bridge Standards for 2020, Howard Hall seconded. The motion passed.

7. Approval of 2020 Certificate of Highway Mileage – The 2020 certificate is necessary to determine Panton's share of state aid for town highways for fiscal year 2021. Teresa Smith stated that the 2020 Certificate of Highway Mileage shows 24.225 miles of roads in the town. The Board determined that there were no changes in mileage or highway classification made during this past year. Zachary Weaver moved to approve the Certificate of Highway Mileage, Teresa Smith seconded. The motion passed.

8. Liquor License Renewal – Pam Correia advised the Board that a liquor license renewal application for 2020 was received for BJ's Farm Supply, Inc and would need approval of the Board. Teresa Smith moved to approve BJ's liquor license, Zachary Weaver seconded. The motion passed.

9. Review Town Meeting Warning – After tabling the adoption of the FY2020/21 budget during the previous Special Selectboard meeting, the Board resumed their discussion regarding the adoption of the FY2020/21 budget. Teresa Smith moved to adopt the new FY2020/21 budget, Zachary Weaver seconded. The motion passed. The Board continued with discussion regarding the warning of articles for the March, 2020 Town Meeting. The Board considered including articles regarding the Vergennes Economic Corridor and fog line/speed limit issue but opted to not include them until more information is available. Teresa Smith moved to accept the warning with the changes to include adding a new Article 6 pertaining to the renaming of the Town Hall Restoration Fund to the Town Building Maintenance Reserve Fund, omitting the allocation request for funds from VT Adult Learning if no petition is received by January 16, 2020, and renumbering the articles, Zachary Weaver seconded. The motion passed.

10. Review/Approval of Accounts Payable Warrant and Timesheets – The accounts payable warrant and timesheets were reviewed.

11. Communications – Howard Hall advised the Board that a letter was received from Annie Hopper regarding the Vorsteveld Farm and the cutting of trees along the South Road Trail.

Howard stated that any concerns Annie has should be brought to a Selectboard meeting where they can be discussed. The Board briefly discussed the dedication of this year's Town Report. Pam Correia advised the Board that she, being the authorized contact, had received a letter from Blue Cross/Blue Shield as a result of a request from Howard Hall to verify membership of employees enrolled in the Standard Gold plan effective January 1, 2020.

At 7:25pm, Howard Hall moved to enter executive session to discuss personnel issues under the provisions of 1 VSA § 313(a)(3), Teresa Smith seconded. The motion passed.

Pam Correia exited the meeting.

At 8:05pm, the Board left executive session and adjourned the meeting. No action was taken.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Correia
Town Clerk/Treasurer