



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

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**3176 Jersey Street, Panton VT 05491-9331  
802.475.2333, Fax 802.475.2785**

Selectboard Meeting

February 11, 2020

Selectboard Member's present: Chair Howard Hall, Teresa Smith and Zachary Weaver, Road Foreman Rick Cloutier, Town Clerk/Treasurer Pam Correia, Captain Brent Newton, Detective Alex Newton, Gerard Vorsteveld, and Sharon Ashcraft.

At 6:29pm, 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 January 28, 2020 minutes, with no corrections. Howard Hall seconded. The motion passed.
4. Public Comments – There were no public comments currently.
5. Road Foreman Report – Rick Cloutier advised the Board that all the work done through the recent ice storm went well but a lot of fuel was used. Rick stated that he switched from Northeast Airgas to Haus Gas at a lease rate of \$42 per tank resulting in a 50% savings. Rick advised the Board that the FY21 Town Highway Class II Paving Grant is now available and he would like to apply for Panton Road. He added that with the paving grant he would pave from the bridge on Panton Road to the Vergennes line. There was further discussion regarding the replacement of culverts, paving to Whispering Pines in the Spring, and the paving of Class 3 roads which could be done all at once. Rick believes that East Road can get through another year for paving. Rick inquired about the use of the Highway Capital Project Fund to fund \$185,000 that would also be needed in order to complete the needed paving the right way without using a band aid. Rick advised that he turned in the connective road segment on behalf of the Town. Teresa Smith moved to approve the writing of the highway grant for \$175,000, Howard Hall seconded. The motion passed. The Board requested that pictures of the salt shed, Town beach, and any additional pictures of Panton projects be forward to Teresa Smith for the

Town Meeting Day presentation and thanked Rick for all his hard work.

6. ACSD Deputy Report – Brent Newton of the Addison County Sheriff’s Department joined the Board and advised that the Department would like to start meeting with the Selectboard on a monthly basis and will send deputies each month to give the Town updates of their services. Howard Hall stated that he does not believe a monthly update is needed but will let the Sheriff’s Department be the judge. The Board briefly discussed monthly versus quarterly updates. Zachary Weaver stated that he would like to leave it to the discretion of the Sheriff’s Department and supports them if they believe a monthly update is needed. Teresa Smith stated that she would like to start the monthly updates with the Sheriff’s Department and leave the option open to adjust their updates to the Selectboard if needed. Brent introduced Alex Newton as a new domestic violence investigator in the Addison County State’s Attorney’s Office and noted he will conduct some investigations through the Vermont State Police for what they don’t have time for. Brent gave the Board a synopsis of what the year 2019 looked like for the Town of Panton to include 10 crashes, with one injury; one untimely; no burglaries; a relatively safe town; the busiest day for traffic is Tuesday afternoon; the busiest agency called to Panton is Fish and Wildlife; \$16,547 was written in tickets and \$3,798 was received by the Town but the percentage should have been higher; and traffic enforcement is going very well. Brent stated that the bottom line is that Panton is doing well. Brief discussion followed regarding painting fog lines to keep the speed limit at 40mph. In conclusion, Zachary Weaver stated that he likes the idea of the monthly updates from the Sheriff’s Department and would like to try it out and see how it goes. Additionally, Teresa Smith expressed that she thinks it’s a great idea and worth their while.

7. Approval of FY21 Town Highway Class II Grant – The Board moved to approve the FY21 Town Highway Class II Grant as noted in the Road Foreman’s Report.

8. Review/Approval of Accounts Payable Warrant and Timesheets – The accounts payable warrant and timesheets were reviewed. Pam Correia advised the Board that the January 28, 2020 Accounts Payable warrant included a payment to R. J. Turner in the amount of \$600 for the additional expense of the new mapping project. The Board previously had discussed and agreed to cover the \$600 payment to R. J. Turner from the Restoration and Preservation Reserve Fund. Teresa Smith moved to take from the fund, Howard Hall seconded. The motion passed.

9. Communications – Gerard Vorsteveld joined the Board and explained that he was asked to come back to the Board after January 14, 2020 and again conveyed that he would like to take all the trees out but wondered if some of the trees can be trimmed back and if they are within a right-of-way. Gerard stated that he owns both sides of the South Road Trail on the top and bottom half. Howard Hall inquired if Gerard is thinking that he would be going up to the width of the trail and trim the trees. Teresa Smith stated she is concerned that people use the trail. Gerard expressed his concern that it is a lot more wooded than it has ever been. Teresa wondered what is included in the Town’s right-of-way. Howard stated that the Town is probably going to have to get a survey done of the South Road Trail and talk to the Town attorney. He added that he is concerned about setting a precedence. Gerard stressed that those are his trees even though

they are in the right-of-way and added that a rite of passage is why it is called a right-of-way and cannot stop the Town from using it. The Board advised that they need to clarify what is in the Town right-of-way and protect everyone's property rights while also honoring the rest of the people in the Town. Gerard stated that nobody maintains the trees and the hedgerow and brush are all overgrown. He added that they used to have cows out there keeping the growth back but do not pasture the cows any longer. Howard stated that the Town must take responsibility or relinquish altogether. Further discussion followed that if the trail was not going to be maintained and taken care of, the Town would be impeding the Vorsteveld's from doing what they would like to do with their trees. Gerard asked the Board what the time frame is they are looking at as he needs to get the hedgerows cleaned out or it would not be worth the time or hassle for the Burlington company. Sharon Ashcraft wondered what the purpose of cutting the trees is. Gerard explained that they need to farm the land and the tree roots cause problems in plugging them up. The Board agreed that the first step is to find out what the trail right-of-way is. Teresa Smith moved to get the Town trail on South Road surveyed, Zachary Weaver seconded. The motion passed.

Pam Correia conveyed to the Board that she received a request for records pursuant to the Vermont Public Records Act 1 V.S.A. § 315 from Attorney James C. Foley Jr. of which she responded to and emailed the letter to Attorney Foley within the three business day response requirement.

Pam Correia advised the Board that she was asked to convert the Lister's voice mailbox to a ringing line. Pam stated that the conversion would increase the monthly billing which she contacted Champlain Valley Telecom to inquire about but was unable to acquire the information prior to the meeting. Howard Hall moved to get another phone line for Dave for the lister line if under \$100 a month. Teresa Smith seconded. The motion passed.

Pam Correia exited the meeting.

The Board entered executive session for the purpose of reviewing job performance under the provisions of 1 VSA § 313(a)(3).

Teresa Smith moved to leave executive session, Howard Hall seconded. No action was taken.

At 8:10pm, Zachary Weaver moved to adjourn the meeting, Teresa Smith seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Correia  
Town Clerk/Treasurer