



Town of Panton Chartered 1761

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

Selectboard Zoom Meeting

July 28, 2020

Selectboard Member's present: Howard Hall, Teresa Smith, and Zachary Weaver. Also present was Town Clerk/Treasurer Pam Correia, Assistant Town Clerk Linda Devino, Maggie Catillaz, Paul Sokal, Kareena Vorsteveld, Jamie Dayton, Gary DiBlasio, Bob Groff, Dave Sullivan, Sandy Fogg, and Kevin Cooke.

At 6:02pm, Howard Hall called the meeting to order. The Board met at the Town Highway Garage to discuss the drive-thru voting for the August 11th Primary which is planned to be held at the highway garage.

3. Additions, removals, or adjustments to the agenda – Howard Hall stated that he would like to add a discussion regarding the hours of work for Chris Dion and Rick Cloutier.

4. Teresa Smith moved to accept the July 14, 2020 minutes as written, Howard Hall seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

5. Public Comment – Kevin Cooke stated that he has three lots currently under contract and according to the original deed of his father's 240-acre farm, 20 acres have been identified as so-called perpetual lease land. Kevin further explained that title companies would not issue title insurance to any buyer or property if there are any lease lands associated with the property without the municipality releasing their rights to leased land. Kevin added that he is in attendance to request that the lease land be released. Kevin stated that this is the same issue the State addressed and on January 1st, they got rid of the lease land rights for all towns and municipalities unless towns and municipalities chose to retain them. His understanding is that Panton chose to retain them, which is now contributing to the issue Kevin is having. Howard Hall stated that the Town will need to have a conversation with the Town attorney and go from there. The Board gave Pam the authority to talk with Attorney Benjamin Putnam regarding the quitclaim deed and Kevin should contact her the following day to get the process moving. Teresa Smith reassured Kevin that the Board will get this done for him.

6. New Flags at Town Hall – Howard Hall advised that it would cost \$86 for two new flags. With no further discussion, Teresa Smith moved to spend approximately \$86 to buy a new American flag and State of Vermont flag for Town hall, Zachary Weaver seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

7. PayData Payroll Service – Howard Hall asked if PayData is something that would be beneficial to the Town. Pam wondered that given there are not many employees, if the cost would outweigh the time it takes to do payroll. The Board advised that the cost would be \$43 bi-weekly or approximately \$90 per month. Howard stated that he will make phone calls to some other municipalities to see how they handle this. Zachary Weaver noted that it would be worth looking at for conditional approval. Teresa Smith moved to table this and evaluate PayData at the next meeting, Zachary Weaver seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

8. Review/Approval of Accounts Payable Warrant, Timesheets, & June Financials – The accounts payable warrant, timesheets, and June financials were reviewed.

Howard Hall stated that Rick and Chris took vacation time on Wednesday and Thursday to work on the boat ramp at the Town Beach and would like to give them back their vacation time for the amount of time and effort they put into it. The Board agreed that it is a lot of work and a huge asset and benefit to the Town. Teresa Smith moved to give back Rick & Chris' hours for July 22nd, 23rd, and on the 24th they get paid for those three days, Zachary Weaver seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

9. Communications – The Board briefly discussed Dave Sullivan's rate of pay as the Interim Zoning Administrator and determined that he should be paid the exact same hourly rate that Kris Perlee was being paid when he left plus mileage.

Pam Correia informed the Board of an unauthorized charge on the Town credit card of \$9.99 to Spotify USA of which she disputed and cancelled the card. After reissuing the card, this month's bill again showed the same charge. Pam advised that she put a merchant blocker on the card this time instead of cancelling card and is looking for guidance asking if the Board wants her to pursue Spotify USA directly or wait to see if the merchant blocker will do its job. The Board suggested that Pam wait and watch the bill next month.

Dave Sullivan advised the Board that the deadline for homestead declarations was July 15th and when he ran a report there were 15 parcels that had a homestead declaration last year but not this year. Dave added that if the taxpayer pays on paper instead of online, the State is having a problem keeping up with the volume and might need another whole month to send towns information and could delay the issuing of tax bills. Dave is seeking guidance from the Board to determine reporting the parcels to the State and have them reach out to the owners letting them know the Town has not received a homestead declaration for them. The Board agrees that Dave should submit the list to the State. Pam added that if someone is a late filer, a tax bill can be

reprinted and the owner will receive a revised tax bill. The Board also exempted the late penalty this year until April of next year.

Howard noted that an ad for Zoning Administrator will be set up soon. The Board briefly discussed sharing Zoning Administrators across other towns. He added that the gardeners are just about done, some dirt still needs to be put in on the north end of the walkway, and he will get a hold of David Raphael to work on signs.

At 7:43pm, Teresa Smith moved to enter executive session for the purpose of pending litigation under the provisions of 1 VSA § 313(a) (1) and for the purpose of evaluating job performance under the provisions of 1 VSA § 313 (a) (3), Howard Hall seconded. All in favor, the motion passed. Teresa Smith moved to revisit at next Selectboard meeting, which is to be determined, Howard Hall seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

At 8:26, the Board returned to open session. Zachary Weaver moved to adjourn the meeting, Teresa Smith seconded. All in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Correia
Town Clerk/Treasurer