



Town of Panton Chartered 1761

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Panton Selectboard Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, August 25, 2020, 6:30 pm
Panton Town Hall and Via Zoom

Selectboard members present: Howard Hall and Teresa Smith. Zoom participants: Zach Weaver; Bethanie Brady Farrell; Bob Groff. In person: Dave Sullivan, Gerard Vorsteveld and Paula Moore

1. Howard Hall called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm
2. Additions, removals or adjustments to the agenda – Howard Hall requested that two items be added to the agenda, Town Hall Repair and Communications. Teresa Smith moved and Howard seconded the motion to add the two items. All in favor; the motion passed.
3. Teresa moved to accept the minutes of the August 12, 2020 meeting as written and Zach Weaver seconded the motion. All in favor; the motion passed. Teresa moved to accept the minutes of the August 17, 2020 special meeting as written and seconded by Howard. All in favor; the motion passed.
4. Public Comments – Gerard Vorsteveld asked about the status of the South Road right-of-way and the planned survey. The selectboard explained that the town agent is working on the right-of-way issue. Gerard asked about the time frame and Howard responded that they did not have one due to the current vacancies in the town office. Howard stated that he would be in touch with the town's attorney on the issue.
5. Appointment to the DRB/PC – Bethanie Brady Farrell introduced herself. The selectboard reviewed the letter of application she wrote to the chair of the DRB/PC, David Raphael. Zach moved and Teresa seconded the motion to appoint Bethanie Brady Farrell to the DRB/PC. All in favor; the motion passed. Bethanie thanked the selectboard and said she was excited to be able to participate.
6. Update from the Search Committee – Howard reported that the search committee has received seventeen applications to date. The search committee met on August 24, 2020 to review resumes and discuss interview questions. Howard asked for permission to purchase advertising if necessary, and the selectboard indicated its agreement.

7. Revision of School Tax Rate – Lister Dave Sullivan received a correction for the school tax rate this morning. The previous information from the state, provided at the special selectboard meeting on August 17, was incorrect. The homestead school rate, set by the state, was reduced to 1.9005, a savings of .10 per \$100 assessed value.

The new calculated homestead tax rate for Pantton, which combines the municipal tax rate with the school tax rate, is 2.5093, an increase of 5.72%. The non-residential rate is 2.3546, an increase of 5.81%. Howard moved and Teresa seconded the motion to set the homestead tax rate for June 30, 2021 at 2.5093 and the non-residential rate at 2.3546. All in favor; the motion passed.

Dave reported that he and Lisa Truchon, representing NEMRC, will be preparing the tax bills after the August 31 tax report comes from the state with updated homestead exemptions. The target is to issue the tax bills the second week in September.

8. Update from the Assistant Clerk – Linda was instructed to contact the Secretary of State to replace the town’s election notebook, which is missing. In order to provide training for Linda, Teresa moved to contact Diane Merrill to provide eight hours of training and Howard seconded the motion. All in favor; the motion passed. Linda was asked to document the procedures as part of her training.

Dave Sullivan reported that eleven accounts have been changed at the National Bank of Middlebury, but there is still one form remaining to be signed by the person designated as secretary and a selectboard officer. The selectboard also needs to set the levels of authority on the accounts. Teresa moved and Howard seconded the motion to authorize Linda Devino to exercise all powers related to the accounts and to designate her as secretary and to grant Dave Sullivan limited authorization on the bank accounts. All in favor; the motion passed.

9. Dead Creek Bridge Repairs – Howard reported that while the bridge itself is fine, the abutment on the eastern side has sunk and needs to be repaired. The town will be either seeking an emergency road repair grant or requesting that the state cover the repair costs.
10. Jackman Fuels Price Protection Agreement – Teresa moved to pre-buy 1,000 gallons of heating oil at \$1.99/gallon and Zach seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.
11. Town Hall Repair – Howard reported the upstairs ceiling fans need to be replaced because they are a safety hazard. He also indicated that the ceiling light bulbs need to be upgraded to provide better lighting. Howard will work with the town’s electrician to complete the work. The town volunteer gardeners have re-graded the front of the garden and divided plants. Howard commended their efforts and thanked them.
12. Zoning Administrator Position – The selectboard discussed placing an ad in the VLCT job postings and in the Addison Independent. Interim zoning administrator Dave Sullivan suggested that desirable skills are good communication skills, surveying experience and prompt follow-through. He reported that he is working 30 hours/ month. He offered to help review resumes.
13. Review of warrants – The selectboard completed the review.
14. Communications – Bob Groff reported that a supply of masks for use in the town office has been received. Howard thanked the people who built the Arnold Bay boat ramp and noted their volunteer commitment and that of the town gardeners as examples of Pantton’s great community spirit. Teresa also commended the residents who worked at the primary election and counted ballots.

15. Executive Session for the Purpose of Discussing Potential Litigation – The selectboard determined that the executive session was not needed.
16. Adjournment - Teresa moved and Zach seconded the motion to adjourn. All in favor; the motion passed. The meeting ended at 7:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Moore
Minutes Taker