



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

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### **Selectboard Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, January 12, 2021**

In attendance: Selectboard Chair Howard Hall, Selectboard Member Teresa Smith, Highway Foreman Rick Cloutier, Town Clerk-Treasurer Maggie McCormick.

Via Zoom: Selectboard Member Zachary Weaver, Town Emergency Management Coordinator Bob Groff, Town Agent Sandy Fogg, Town Tree Warden David Raphael, Sharon Ashcraft, Gerard Vorsteveld.

Howard called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

1. Additions/deletions to agenda
  - a) Howard moved to add the Certification of Highway Mileage to the agenda. Zach seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.
2. Approval of the minutes of the December 22, 2020 Selectboard meeting
  - i) Howard moved to accept the December 22, 2020 meetings as written. Zach seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.
3. Public comments
  - i) None.
4. Highway Foreman's report
  - a) The trailer the town acquired at the end of October has been painted and lumber ordered.
  - b) The winds that accompanied recent winter storms required continuous road treatment.
  - c) Current quotes for the construction of a salt shed and an equipment shed are only good for 60 days.
5. South Road Tree Warden recommendation
  - a) David Raphael provided an annotated aerial map of South Road and made the following recommendations:
    - (a) Preserve Section 1

- (b) Remove more trees in Section 2 as needed to make the trail passable.
      - (c) Improve the drainage in Section 2.
      - (d) Section 3 will require more evaluation to determine which trees are healthy and which are not and can be removed.
    - ii) Howard proposed the creation of a fund to improve the trail so that it is passable at four feet (4') wide. David was in favor, particularly for drainage improvement.
    - iii) Howard also proposed the Town solicit estimates for tree removal.
    - iv) Sharon Ashcraft asked if the Vorsteveld's were planning to tile adjacent to the trail and voiced concern over field runoff into Dead Creek.
    - v) Gerard stated that the Town had lost its rights to South Road Trail and that his attorney had communicated this to the Selectboard previously. He also noted that approximately nine (9) acres of farmland has been lost to encroachment by the vegetation of the South Road Trail.
  - b) The Selectboard authorized David to work with Gerard to proceed on tree/vegetation removal that David and Gerard have already discussed and agreed upon. David will keep the Selectboard apprised of progress and developments.
6. Appointment of new fire warden
  - a) Teresa moved to appoint Matt Fraley to the Panton Fire Warden position. Zach seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.
7. Appointment of PELS Policy Committee Representative
  - a) Teresa moved to appoint Mary Rudd as Panton's representative to the Vergennes Economic Corridor Planning and Environmental Linkages Study (PELS) position. Howard seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.
8. ANWSD Representative
  - a) Teresa moved to appoint Kirsten de la Cruz as Panton's interim representative to the Addison Norwest School District (ANSWD) to serve at least until the next election. Zach seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.
9. FY22 Budget
  - a) Teresa stated that the FY22 budget is strong and solid.
  - b) The Selectboard discussed how to set the FY22 tax rate increase.
    - i) Teresa moved to raise the current tax rate by .75% (0.0075) percent. Zach seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.
    - ii) Teresa moved to accept the FY22 budget. Zach seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.
10. Town Meeting format and preparations
  - a) Legislative Act H48 allowing the option to postpone Town Meeting 2021 due to Covid was discussed.
    - i) Teresa, the chair of the Board of Civil Authority (BCA), will schedule a BCA meeting.
11. Clerk-treasurer's report

- a) Year to date revenues and expenses are in line with expectations for the mid-point of the fiscal year.
- b) Audit
  - i) Howard stated that Sam Hillman of Telling and Hillman reported favorably on the Audit of FY2020. The audit shows solid accounting practices and a favorable financial position.
  - ii) Teresa moved to accept Telling and Hillman's FY 2020 audit and financial statements. Howard seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.

12. Communications

- i) The Town has received formal thanks for appropriations to Elderly Services, Open Door Clinic, and Age Well
- ii) VT Transportation has announced the availability of grants for the improvement of bicycle and pedestrian corridors. The Clerk will review the grant guidelines to determine if South Road Trail improvements qualify.

13. Review/approval of accounts payable warrant, timesheets & payroll warrant

- a) Howard moved to accept the accounts payable warrant, time sheets, and payroll warrant. Teresa seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.

14. Howard moved the Selectboard begin an executive session for the purpose of discussing potential litigation. Zach seconded. All in favor; the Selectboard went into executive session at 6:38 p.m.

15. Zach motioned to leave executive session. Teresa seconded. All in favor; the Selectboard returned to open session at 6:54 pm.

16. Teresa moved that the Town adopt the following position on Turkey Lane:

- a) Turkey Lane will remain a Class 3 highway with a minimum width of three (3) rods the entire length on the lane from Lake Road to the high-water line of Lake Champlain.
- b) Vehicular traffic is prohibited by the public and adjacent landowners except for emergency vehicles.
- c) The Town of Panton will place appropriate signage.
- d) No gates or barriers will be installed.

Howard seconded. All in favor; the motion passed. HH second AIF

17. Zach moved to adjourn the meeting. Howard seconded. All in favor; the meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m.