



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

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### **Selectboard Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, December 22, 2020  
5:30 pm**

In attendance: Selectboard Chair Howard Hall, Selectboard member Teresa Smith, Town Clerk-Treasurer Maggie McCormick

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

1. Howard Hall called the meeting to orders at 5:35 p.m.
2. Additions/deletions to agenda: None
3. Approval of the minutes of the December 8, 2020 meeting
4. Zach motioned to approve the December 8, 2020 meeting minutes as written. Teresa seconded. All in favor: the motion passed.
5. Public comments
  - South Road Right of Way (ROW)
  - a) Sharon Ashcroft stated that the Town is required to post notice of plans to cut trees and hold a hearing on the plan. on tree cutting notice and hearing, not on agenda, request for visual
  - b) Tree Warden David Raphael clarified that trees to be cut must be posted and abutters can request a hearing. David also noted that unless the trees in question were planted by the Town, has maintained the trees, or has a tree preservation plan, the Selectboard has the final authority to determine whether trees are cut. He also noted that the trees in the South Road ROW do not fit into any of these categories.
  - c) Tree Warden recommendations:
    1. Maintain pathway for length of trail, which may require cutting to make the trail passable.
    2. Maintain tree line immediately along the trail
    3. Remove dead trees along the length of the ROW
    4. Remove trees and scrub where there are already clearings across the ROW between the adjacent farm fields.

5. Remove trees that encroach on adjacent fields along the first 3500 feet of the western end of the trail.
  - d) Gerard Vorsteveld suggested he would be willing to complete some of the grading and site work as appropriate.
  - e) The Selectboard agreed that South Road will be on the agenda of the regular Selectboard meeting on January 12.
6. Appointing new Fire Warden: Matt Fraley is considering the position and will let the Clerk know prior to the January 12 Selectboard meeting.
7. The Town Clerk proposed the Town hire David Martini for the Zoning Administrator position. Howard made a motion to approve the hire. Teresa seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.
8. Town Agent Sandy Fogg reported she had no new information on Turkey Lane or other legal matters.
9. Howard reported that the Town is still seeking an ANWSD representative.
10. Addison County Communication Union District is now Maple Broadband. Howard is Pantons' representative to Maple Broadband and will attend the monthly meeting.
11. Road Crew Mutual Aid Agreement
  - a. With the threat of Covid-19 potentially leaving towns without road crews during winter weather, Town Emergency Management Coordinator Bob Groff reviewed the Agreement, deemed it well-written and thorough and recommended the Selectboard adopt the agreement that includes Addison, Bridport, and Bristol.
  - b. Howard made a motion for Pantons to sign the mutual aid agreement. Teresa seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.
12. Budget
  - a. The Selectboard reviewed the working draft of the budget. Teresa noted that the budget numbers looked good for keeping the FY22 increase under 3% for FY22 looked promising. Teresa motioned that a budget working meeting be held on Tuesday, December 29 at 8:30 a.m. at Town Hall and via Zoom. Howard seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.
13. Clerk-treasurer's report
  - a. Telling and Hillman finished the audit process on December 17 and is compiling the report. Sam Hillman will be invited to present the audit results at the January 12 meeting.
14. Communications
  - a. Development Review Board Chair David Raphael is in discussion with the State about FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) funding to use the Pantons Solar Field to "island" power around Town.

"Pantons Island Expansion. This scoping exercise would evaluate the equipment needed and associated cost to expand a planned microgrid in Pantons, as well as estimate the benefits of such an expansion. Green Mountain Power has received approval from the

Public Utility Commission to add islanding capability to an existing solar + storage facility in Panton, VT (Case #17-2813-PET). As configured, this microgrid will support 51 customers, including the Panton Town Hall and Town Garage. The potential exists to expand the island and support several hundred additional customers during power outages, including the town water pumping station, currently omitted from the scope of the project due primarily to the anticipated complexity of islanding a large pump load with only inverter-based resources (solar + storage). Estimated funding request: \$18,750 with private match of \$6,250.”

David will keep the Selectboard apprised of developments on this project.

- b. The Clerk reported that the Town had received a request for donation from the Preservation Trust of Vermont and the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Green Mountain Conservation Camp. She will respond to both organizations that they may submit a petition for funding to be included in the Town Meeting vote.
15. Review/approval of accounts payable warrant, timesheets & payroll warrant.
    - a. Teresa moved to accept the timesheets and payroll warrant as presented. Zach seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.
    - b. Zach moved to accept the accounts payable warrant as presented. Howard seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.
  16. Executive session for the purpose of discussing potential litigation: none needed.
  17. Teresa motioned to adjourn the meeting. Howard seconded. All in favor; the motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 6:32 p.m.