



Town of Panton Chartered 1761

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Selectboard Minutes Tuesday, February 9, 2021

All attendees via Zoom: Selectboard Chair Howard Hall, Selectboard Member Teresa Smith, Town Emergency Management Coordinator Bob Groff, Town Agent Sandy Fogg, Road Foreman Rick Cloutier, Town Clerk-Treasurer Maggie McCormick, Panton ANWSD Representative Kirsten De La Cruz, ANWSD Board Chair John Stroup.

1. Howard called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.
2. Additions/deletions to agenda: None
3. Approval of minutes.
 - a. Approval of the minutes of the January 26, 2021 Selectboard meeting. Tabled to the February 22, 2021 meeting
 - b. Teresa moved to approve the minutes of the January 29, 2021 Emergency Selectboard meeting. Howard seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.
4. Public comments: None
5. Road Foreman's Report
 - a. Rick reported that the water pump had been re-installed on the loader Water pump and ___ back on loader.
 - b. Rick reported the Town's salt supply is in good shape even with the numerous recent storms.
6. ANWSD budget presentation
 - a. Kirsten De La Cruz introduced herself as Panton's recently-appointed representative to the ANWSD and stated she has attended two school board meetings and is working to learn more about the board's work and processes.
 - b. John Stroup introduced himself as the chair of the ANWSD board and a Vergennes resident. He thanked the Selectboard for the opportunity to share ANWSD information and their work in conducting elections.
 - c. John proceeded to provide the following information on the articles of the ANWSD 2021 ballot:
 - i. The first six (6) items are usually voted from the floor and involve electing a moderator, stipends for board members, and the requirement for TAN.
 - ii. Article 7 is the budget: Declining enrollment puts pressure on finances. This is the first year for a decrease in overall budget and a decrease in per-pupil spending.

- iii. Article 8 Educations Stabilization Reserve Fund to prevent future large tax increases, maintain existing programs, and buffer against potential demand from increased numbers of special education students
 - iv. Article 9: Capital Improvements Fund for maintenance and improvement of district buildings, particularly Vergennes High School
 - v. Article 10: Funding for mold mitigation at the Ferrisburgh Central School.
 - d. John further explaining that ANWSD is a low-debt district and that increasing the district's debt prevents ANWSD from going over tax penalty threshold.
 - e. John concluded by informing the Selectboard that the ANWSD Informational Meeting will be held on February 22, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. Further details, as well as information on how the school board budget was developed are available on the ANWSD website.
 - f. Howard thanked Kirsten for stepping in to represent Panton on the ANWSD board and for running for election. Kirsten's availability for the Town Informational Meeting on March 1 was discussed and she will participate and answer ANWSD questions to the best of her ability and with the possible assistance of former Panton ANWSD representative Brad Dewey.
7. Local Emergency Management Plan (LEMP) and Mutual Aid Agreement
 - a. Bob Groff inquired about Panton's list of equipment in support of the mutual aid agreement and Rick replied that the assistant clerk has a current list.
 - b. Bob thanked the Selectboard for ongoing practices that keep people safe during this pandemic.
 - c. The LEMP is almost complete and he will present it to the Selectboard once he receives permission to do so.
 - d. Panton needs to designate tow (2) contacts for the ACRPA Mutual Aid Agreement. Bob recommends the Town designate Howard Hall and Teresa Smith with the understanding that the Road Foreman and the EMC are de-facto incident commanders and would be consulted before requesting or approving mutual aid.
 - e. Bob thanked Rick and Linda for putting the MAA together.
8. BJ's Farm Supply liquor and tobacco license renewal
 - a. Teresa moved to approve the renewal of BJ's Farm Supply's liquor and tobacco licenses. Howard seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.
9. Clerk Access to Social Security Admin (SSA) Business Services Online
 - a. The Town Clerk informed the Selectboard that she had requested and received access to SSA online services for payroll reporting and payments.
10. Town Work Plan 2021-2023
 - a. Howard presented a draft Town Work Plan that outlines Panton priorities for the next two (2) years. Teresa supports the Work Plan and will make additions to it.
11. Town Meeting
 - a. The Selectboard acknowledged that Article 4 as originally published had been updated on February 1 to add a line for the Highway Capital Project Fund.
 - b. The Selectboard discussed the merits of postage-paid return envelopes for voters to return their Town Meeting Ballots. While the board wants to encourage voter participation, and the State has funds to reimburse municipalities for the cost, the likelihood of many of those envelopes going unused would be an unnecessary expenditure of public funds, as Panton voters have many opportunities to drop their

ballots off up to and on Town Meeting Day. Howard moved that the Town not provide postage-paid envelopes. Teresa seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

12. Communications

- a. The Selectboard reviewed Town website policy that allows links to resources that Town residents are likely to find useful and agreed that a link to SeniorHousingNet shall be placed on the Town's website.

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

- a. Teresa moved to approve the AP warrant. Howard seconded. All in favor; the motion passed. S Motion to approve AP
- b. Teresa moved to approve the timesheets and payroll warrant. Howard seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.
- c. Howard asked about the purchase of a new laptop to support Town business. Maggie responded that she was in the early stages of choosing the right option.
- d. Howard also asked Maggie about the use of re-formatted Excel spreadsheets she created and was told they would be implemented for the pay period that began on February 6, 2021.

14. Howard moved that the Selectboard go into executive session for the purpose of discussing potential litigation. Teresa seconded. All in favor, the Selectboard entered executive session at 6:03 p.m.

15. Howard moved that the Selectboard leave executive session. Teresa seconded. All in favor, the Selectboard left executive session at 6:13 p.m.

- a. There were no actions to be taken following executive session.

16. Howard moved to adjourn the meeting. Teresa seconded. All in favor, the meeting adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Maggie McCormick
Town Clerk-Treasurer