



## *Town of Panton Chartered 1761*

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Town of Panton  
Select Board Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, July 26, 2017

**In Attendance:**

**Select Board:**

Howard Hall, Chair  
Teresa Smith  
Zachary Weaver

**Administration:**

Diane Merrill, Treasurer

**Guests:**

Dennis Hopper  
Paula Moore

Call Meeting to Order – H. Hall called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Review/Approval of Minutes of June 27, 2017 & July 11, 2017 - T. Smith moved and H. Hall seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the June 27, 2017 select board meeting as presented. Z. Weaver abstained, and the motion passed.

Z. Weaver moved and T. Smith seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the July 11, 2017 special board meeting/public hearing on zoning regulations. T. Smith abstained, and the motion passed. Z. Weaver moved and T. Smith seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the July 11, 2017 select board meeting as presented. T. Smith abstained, and the motion passed

Citizens' Comments – Dennis Hopper asked if there had been any comments or concerns about the improvements to his property along Adams Ferry Road. At the request of the town, he moved his cyclone fence even further back from the right of way. He reported that he is planning on investing \$1,500 in plantings from Green Haven Nursery to enhance the area.

Sheriff's Contract – Diane reported that the town was underexpended for sheriff's department patrolling charges in the past fiscal year. There is \$6,100 budgeted in FY 2018 for sheriff expenses, and she felt that was sufficient to cover the increase in the hourly rate to \$27.00/hour for patrolling in Panton. Z. Weaver moved and T. Smith seconded the motion to approve the

Addison County Sheriff's Department contract effective August 1, 2017. The motion passed unanimously. Diane will retain the original and send the copy back.

DRB Appointments- Three people have indicated their interest in serving on this board. H. Hall indicated his intent to resign his position from the DRB. This creates two openings and one alternate position on that board. He indicated that he was recusing himself from voting since he is still a member of the DRB/Planning Commission. Z. Weaver offered to contact the VLCT about his question about a quorum on an issue before the board when there are multiple abutters on the DRB. Z. Weaver moved and T. Smith seconded to motion to appoint Bob Hartenstein and Annie Hopper to the DRB and Ashlee Morris as the alternate. H. Hall abstained, and the motion passed.

Review/Approval of Bills and Time Sheets – The bills and time sheets were reviewed and approved.

Pay increase authorizations were signed for three employees based on select board approval at its June 27, 2017 meeting.

H. Hall reported that due to time constraints, the road foreman recommended not participating in the Municipal Roads Grants-in-Aid Pilot Project from the Addison County Regional Planning Commission.

D. Merrill asked which account she should use for assigning the eVolve Panton energy improvement expenses. She was directed to charge the Town Hall Restoration fund for this fiscal year. The select board needs to make a note to create a budget line in the FY 2019 budget for the eVolve expenses.

The treasurer reviewed the FY2017 budget report. The final review will be tabled until the August 23<sup>rd</sup> select board meeting.

2018 Tax Rate – The land use for one parcel of land is still being resolved, so the rate still cannot be set. D. Merrill will be presenting the tax rate at the August 23<sup>rd</sup> select board meeting.

Scheduling Meetings for Interviews, BCA, BOA – The Board of Civil Authority will not meet until after a new treasurer-clerk is hired. The Board of Abatement meeting may be necessary to resolve small amounts of taxes, amounts under \$1.00, still due on some accounts.

Correspondence – T. Smith reported on her Department of Environmental Conservation research regarding water runoff. If there is a problem with water discharge and its effect on lake water quality, she explained that it is the land owner's responsibility for compliance. She spoke with both Jeff Carter, UVM Extension and Laura DiPietro, of the Department of Agriculture's water quality enforcement. Investigation by the Department of Agriculture is initiated by citizen complaint-driven and does not involve a select board. Farms are inspected once a year and Ms. Di Pietro noted that Panton farms are under compliance. T. Smith will follow up this fall with Ms. DiPietro. Residents will be advised to submit their complaints to Laura DiPietro, Department of Agriculture.

H. Hall reported on an email from resident Angie Preston regarding the back of the Panton Town Hall and the enforcement of the junk ordinance. This includes the cupola, the carriage barn and general condition of the property. The road foreman sought the select board's permission to dispose of the surplus snow fence stored behind town hall. He is also planning to start cleaning out the carriage barn. Z. Weaver moved and T. Smith seconded to offer the surplus fencing to town residents under the direction of Rick Cloutier. Motion passed unanimously.

H. Hall moved and T. Smith seconded a motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel issues. The motion passed unanimously. The select board went into executive session at 7:02 p.m.

T. Smith moved and Z. Weaver seconded a motion to return to open session. The motion passed unanimously, and the select board reconvened in open session at 7:40 p.m.

There were no motions from the executive session.

Adjournment - Z. Weaver moved and T. Smith seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Paula Moore, Acting Secretary