



Town of Panton Chartered 1761

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Town of Panton
Select Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, August 23, 2017

In Attendance:

Select Board:

Howard Hall, Chair
Teresa Smith

Staff:

Diane Merrill

Guests:

Robert Moulton, Panton Fire Warden
Gerard Vorsteveld
Jeff Fritz
Andrew Fritz
Doris Fritz
Paula Moore

Call Meeting to Order – H. Hall called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

T. Smith moved and H. Hall seconded a motion to add Robert Moulton, Fire Warden to the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

Review/Approval of Minutes of August 9, 2017 – The approval was tabled until the September 12th meeting because T. Smith did not attend the August 9th meeting.

Public Comment – Gerard Vorsteveld indicated that their farm was trying to put out the fire on Pease Road. He was surprised that no one had contacted the Vorstevelds directly with their concerns. Gerard Vorsteveld indicated they may have been able to do something about the burning in a timelier manner if they had been contacted directly.

Robert Moulton, Fire Warden - If the town is interested in a burning ordinance, it could be enacted at town meeting day. There are several towns in the state that have burning ordinances with various levels of restrictions such as no burning or burning permitted at certain times of the year or days. He was not interested in enforcing any new ordinances. There is currently no ordinance in Panton, so the state statutes apply. Smaller fires must be extinguished by nightfall. He acknowledged that if the fires had been allowed to burn out rather than extinguishing them as required, it might have minimized the smoke due to the wet wood. The fire warden indicated

that he is doing what he can. The Vorstevelds are working to extinguish the remaining stump fires.

Dog complaint – Zach Weaver met with the dog owner and responded to the neighbor who had contacted the select board. The issue was worked out and no further action is need.

Road Foreman's Report – All of the culverts on Spaulding Road have been replaced. The paving on Pease Road and the graveling of the shoulders have been completed. Three major potholes on Panton Road were repaired, paid for by the Vergennes-Panton Water District. Repairs on Jersey Street were also completed. The radiator in the older dump truck needed to be replaced. This has happened multiple times now.

Allocation of grant funding for the landscape architect proposal – Annie White of Nectar, Inc. has submitted a proposal for design and oversight of the construction for this grant project to stabilize the lakeshore at Arnold Bay. H. Hall indicated his desire to adhere to the provisions of the Vermont Shoreland Protection Act. He recommended approving \$3,900 for her services. This funding is included in the grant budget. H. Hall moved and T. Smith seconded a motion to accept Option #3 in Annie White's proposal for \$3,900 for her services. Motion passed unanimously.

2018 Tax Rate Approval – Diane Merrill reviewed the town's fund balance and the calculations for the new tax rate. She has calculated the new combined tax rate of 0.5516, which is basically the same as the 2017 rate. The school tax rate, which is not controlled by the town, will be 1.5554. T. Smith moved and H. Hall seconded a motion to approve the treasurer's recommended combined municipal /local agreement tax rate of 0.5516. Motion passed unanimously.

Authorization to update signers on bank accounts – With the clerk's resignation, her name needs to be removed from the list of authorized signers. Diane Merrill is willing to stay on as a signer until an assistant is hired, so that two employees are signers. H. Hall moved and T. Smith seconded a motion to remove the clerk's name as a signer on all Town of Panton bank accounts. Motion passed unanimously.

H. Hall moved and T. Smith seconded the motion to add the name of the new Treasurer-Clerk Pam Correia with full rights as a signer on all Town of Panton accounts and retain Diane Merrill as a signer until further notice. Motion passed unanimously.

Review of financials/time sheets – The list of invoices and time sheets were reviewed.

Adjustment of employee benefits – H. Hall moved and T. Smith seconded a motion to standardize the practice of offering benefits at the same level for all employees. Motion passed unanimously.

Town Hall Repairs – The select board discussed its priorities of replacing the stairs, repairing the bathroom in the town office and constructing a new ADA ramp. T. Smith noted the focus is on safety and accessibility. These three items are viewed as necessities while other aspects of renovation are lower priorities.

The select board is concerned about the Town Hall Committee's desire to hold a special town meeting to allocate funds for major renovations to the building before there is extensive discussion with the select board and agreement about the committee's proposed plans. The select board has invited the Town Hall Committee to report at the September 12th select board meeting. The Town Hall Committee has not attended a select board meeting since April.

Communications – The Waltham road foreman has asked about the possibility of storing the town's supply of sand at the Panton town garage. Waltham would not use any Panton equipment in the loading of the materials. The Panton road foreman has no concerns about offering this courtesy to the town of Waltham. There is no formal request at this time.

Adjournment - T. Smith moved and H. Hall seconded a motion to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Paula Moore, Acting Secretary