



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

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### **Selectboard Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, December 8, 2020  
5:30 pm**

**All attendees via Zoom:** Selectboard Chair Howard Hall, Selectboard Member Teresa Smith, Selectboard member Zachary Weaver, Town Agent Sandy Fogg, Town Emergency Management Coordinator Bob Groff, Road Foreman, Rick Cloutier; DRB/PC Chair David Raphael, Clerk-Treasurer Maggie McCormick, Town Legal Counsel Benjamin Putnam, Sharon Ashcraft, and Gerard Vorsteveld.

1. Howard called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.
2. Additions/deletions to agenda: None
3. Approval of the minutes of the October 28, 2020 and November 24, 2020 meeting
  - a. Teresa moved to approve the minutes of October 28, 2020 as written. Howard seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.
  - b. Teresa moved to approve the minutes of November 24, 2020 as written. Zach seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.
4. Public comments:
  - a. Sharon Ashcraft in attendance to discuss cutting along the South Road Trail. Howard informed all that this would be discussed later in meeting.
  - b. Sharon Ashcraft informed the Selectboard that there is a tree down in the ROW north of schoolhouse and requested permission to remove. Tree Warden David Raphael granted Sharon permission to take care of the tree.
5. Highway Foreman's report:
  - a. The decking has been removed from the new trailer so that it can be painted.
  - b. The solar light has been installed at the Park and Ride.
  - c. The loader brakes are not working. Rick troubleshooting after hours.
  - d. There are three dead elm trees intertwined with the power lines on Hopkins Road near Todd Preston's property. Rick contacted GMP and they will not remove the trees. Ben Whalen will remove all three for approximately \$400.00. Howard moved to contract Ben to remove the three dead elms on Hopkins road for no more than \$500.00. Zach seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.
  - e. East Road and Hopkins Road were plowed this morning
  - f. Culvert prices continue to increase quickly. Rick looking for budget numbers to plan for costs. Maggie to provide.

- g. There will be a meeting among road foreman on 12/9 at 1:00 p.m. to discuss Memo of Understanding for mutual aid to mitigate the possible loss of personnel due to Covid-19. Emergency Management Coordinator Bob Groff will also participate in the meeting.
- h. David Raphael asked Rick for GMP's position on trees threatening power lines. GMP stated that if the tree is alive, it is the responsibility of the property owner and if it is dead, it is the Town's responsibility.
- 6. Fire Warden proposed burn ordinance
  - a. The Selectboard acknowledged the resignation of Bob Mouton and the need to identify a new Fire Warden
- ~~7. South Road walk debrief, path forward- Removed before meeting due to walk cancellation.~~
- 8. Clerk-treasurer's report
  - a. The Town's primary laptop computer is with Silloway for a new hard drive
  - a. Zoning administrator position update
    - i. The Town Clerk, and DRB Chair and Vice Chair interviewed David Martini on Tuesday morning. He is a strong candidate.
  - b. Audit
    - i. The FY20 Audit is scheduled with Samantha Hillman of Telling and Hillman for 12/14/20 at 8:30 a.m.
  - c. Town Meeting deadlines
    - i. Town Meeting Day is Tuesday, March 2, 2021.
    - ii. The last day to post warnings is Sunday, January 31, 2021.
    - iii. The auditors annual financial report must be distributed by Saturday, February 20, 2021, unless the town has voted to give notice of the report's availability.
  - d. Budget meeting schedule
    - i. Howard motion to hold the first 21-22 budget meeting on 12/16/2020 at 4:00 p.m. Teresa seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.
    - ii. Howard motion to hold the second 21-22 budget meeting on 12/28/2020 at 4:00 p.m. Zach seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.
  - e. Town report dedication
    - i. To be discussed another time.
  - f. Communications
    - i. South Road:
 

Although a survey of South Road was discussed earlier in the year, the cost is prohibitive and a survey will not be commissioned.

Gerard Vorsteveld expressed his desire to work with the Town and the Tree Warden, specifically to determine a mutually satisfactory plan for reclaiming both the trail and the farm fields. All acknowledged Sharon Ashcraft's objection to clear cutting and the value of the hedgerow. David noted that there are many dead and diseased trees, particularly in the eastern third length of the trail closest to the dam.

David and Gerard will meet to determine first steps. David will subsequently share the proposed plan with Sharon. The Selectboard will vote on the proposed plan at the next selectboard meeting

Howard proposed the Town budget to set aside approximately \$5000.00/year to begin improving the trail. David agrees that it's a good plan and suggested there may be grant money available for the effort.

The Town will work with the Vorstevelds and interested Pantton residents to establish and document the South Road Trail location and boundaries without a survey

ii. Emergency Management

Howard requested that Bob Groff document the hours he has devoted to his role as EMC this year and last year for grant planning purposes  
GMP solar field landscaping

David reported that GMP is willing to improve the landscaping around the solar field and will accomplish this by planting more trees and shrubs and monitor landscape maintenance more carefully and invite the public to view the site in April to review the condition and discuss future plantings.

David reported that, as Pantton's representative to the Transportation Advisory Committee for the Economic Corridor, Pantton's interest in the corridor development will be heard. David is also an advisor to the technical committee and a member of the search committee for a consultant company for the project. David reported that Pantton was asked to appoint a representative for policy committee and suggested Mary Rudd for the role. Howard motioned that Mary Rudd—HH ZW 2 AIF.

Jackson Road; farm equipment being moved out of ROW.

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

- a. Timesheets ZW TH 2<sup>nd</sup> AIF
- b. AP Warrant TS accept, ZW 2<sup>nd</sup> AIF
- c. MM to initial for

10. Executive session for the purpose of discussing potential litigation HH motion TS second at 6:26

- a. Benj filed motion because we need to answer to avoid summary judgment.
- b. Class 3 means town must keep passable and open to vehicles—perhaps keep Class 3 until grant work complete, then reclass as 4
- c. Advocate for settlement to avoid Town losing the ROW; end legal fees
- d. 3 rods, class 4, no tractor
- e. Moulton quit because of Wyckoff: Ryley Laberge Ryan Sheehan, Bob Groff

Motion to return to open session TS, ZW AIF 7:12 p.m.

11. Adjournment ZW TS AIF at 7:13 pm.