

Town of Panton  
Selectboard Meeting  
November 11, 2013/6:30 P.M.  
Minutes

In Attendance:

Selectboard:	Administration:	Guests:
John Viskup, Chair	Diane Merrill, Treasurer	Mel Hawley, Vergennes City Manager
Beth Tarallo	Jean Miller, Clerk	Dave Miner
	Rick Cloutier, Road Foreman	Brad Howe, Bixby Library Trustee
	Cheryl McEwan, Lister	
	Barb Fleming, Delinquent Tax Collector, Phone	

John Viskup called the meeting to order at 6:32 P.M.

Brad Howe/Bixby Library – Brad gave an update on the some of the restoration that has been done at the Library. During the months of November and December at various dates and times, Bixby Library will have certified navigators to answer questions about Affordable Care Act and how health care coverage is changing in Vermont. The navigators will help people apply for health insurance. Bixby Library will not ask for an increase in funding from Panton this year.

Public Comment – There is concern about the littering on Lake and Slang Road. An officer from Addison County Sheriff’s Dept. has said he will prosecute anyone that is caught illegally dumping.

A letter was sent to the Select Board requesting funding for ACEDC (Addison County Economic Development Corporation) sent out by Mel Hawley and Bill Connelly. While Mel Hawley was here he verbally request the Town fund ACEDC. ACEDC is requesting funding from all Municipalities in the county hoping to fund their budget.

Cheryl McEwan/Lister Report – The most control that Panton is going to have regarding taxes is over the CLA (Common Level of Appraisal) and making sure that the Grand List (accessed values of properties) stays as accurate as possible in relation to market value. Otherwise, it will impact taxes. Mel Hawley explained how the CLA works and how it affects taxes. Sales figures will come out in December and Mel will go over them with Cheryl to see how Panton’s CLA is affected.

The listers want to be notified when a sale comes in so they can see how close the sales price is to the assessed value. If the prices are not close the listers need to find out and verify why there is a discrepancy.

Assessor Contract –The Assessor Contract is a verbal contract. Cheryl McEwan will contact the Assessors and ask for a job description on what they do on a month to month basis. Cheryl will report back to the Select Board.

Follow Up W/Barb Fleming/Delinquent Taxes/Kevin Brennan – Barb was called during the Select Board Meeting. Kevin Brennan has not given Barb an update regarding the progress on Aunchman’s delinquent taxes. She will come to the meeting on November 26<sup>th</sup> and give an update on the delinquent taxes.

Road Foreman Report – Discussion around residents’ concerns about the ditching on Panton Road. He felt that it was unnecessary and that it could be a hazard being as deep as it is. If someone went off the road, they might roll over. His opinion was that drainage pipe should have been put in and covered over with rock and that it should not have been done at the Town’s expense.

The Road Foreman explained Vorsteveld Farm was given permission to put in a culvert on Panton Road and do some additional ditching. This was done at their expense, not the Town’s.

Rick checked into cedar fencing to go around Hawley Cemetery. The cost would be around \$2500. He recommended an alternate approach using American wire fence, the cost being between \$100 - \$200 a roll. Metal fence posts that were used for snow fencing can be used to install the fence.

The trucks are ready for winter.

David Chase advised the Town that the picnic tables at the park are in need of repair or replacement. One had been stolen, one needed to be replaced and the third was still usable. David Raphael original built the tables. They have metal frames. David Raphael will get a price on replacing the tables. Rick will figure it in his budget for next year. The Park area across from the Panton store is now owned by Vorsteveld Farm. They have concerns regarding liability issues that might arise. A call will be made to VLCT regarding what the Town would need to do to have the Park area covered by liability insurance not being owners of the land.

Road Foreman has been working on the Highway budget. M'Lissa Dayton will help with the preparation of the rest of the budget for the Town.

Tires are needed for the pickup. It now has summer tires that need replacing. Purchasing 17" tires through the State contract will cost \$569.

Highway financials were reviewed.

Review/Approve Bills – Bills were reviewed and approved.

Renewal of Property & Casualty Insurance – Insurance for buildings and vehicles. VLCT had the Town property reappraised this year by UYS. The last appraisal was in 2008 by driving by thus giving a lower appraisal value. The new values placed on the buildings by UYS are higher than the appraised value that the Town has on the property. A call will be made to VLCT to see why their appraisal values are so much higher. The current insurance policy is for guaranteed replacement cost of all property. There is a questionnaire that has to be filled out for the insurance. Diane is asking the Select Board for their input on some of the questions. Premiums are unknown. The premiums will be figured after the questionnaire is returned. Prices for different levels of coverage can be obtained at that time. Another insurance company will be called to get comparisons on prices.

Sheriff Patrols/Contract – A resident has complained about speeding on Lake Road. The Select Board will address the Sheriff Patrols when they do the budget for the next fiscal year.

Charter Amendment Draft – Beth Tarallo sent amended draft of the Charter to Jim Barlow. She is waiting for his reply. Jim Barlow is leaving VLCT the middle of November. Beth has asked him to let her know who is going to take over for him. She will call him tomorrow.

Sick/Bereavement – Tabled

Digitization Fund/Micro Film – The digitization fund was established to allow researchers remote access to the Land Records. There would be less wear and tear on the records. This fund has not been used.

The Town of Panton requested that the VT State Archives send an updated copy of what they had in storage at the Archives for Panton. The updated was received and it agrees with our records.

Correspondence – Select Board signed a letter of approval for the Planning Commission to apply for a Grant from the Lake Champlain Basin Program for 2013 Local Implementation Grant.

The Road Foreman gave the Select Board a copy of the quotes he had received for upgrading Spaulding Road regarding the proposed subdivision. David Raphael/DRB has been emailed copies.

Mary Rudd sent a letter requesting she be considered for the vacant position on the DRB.

John Viskup made a motion to appoint Mary Rudd to fill the vacant seat on the DRB. Beth 2<sup>nd</sup>. All approved.

Beth made a motion to accept the minutes of October 22, 2013 with revisions made as requested. John 2<sup>nd</sup>. All approved.

Beth made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:24 P.M. John 2<sup>nd</sup>. All approved.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jean Miller, Clerk