



Town of Panton Chartered 1761

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Selectboard Meeting Agenda Monday, July 25, 2022

In attendance: Selectboard Chair Howard Hall, Selectboard Vice-Chair Teresa Boucher, Selectboard Member Zach Weaver, Clerk-Treasurer Maggie McCormick.

Via Zoom: Emergency Management Coordinator Bob Groff

- 1) Howard called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.
- 2) Additions/deletions to agenda
 - a) Howard moved to add postponing the August 8 Selectboard meeting and bonding for Town employees to the agenda. Teresa seconded. All in favor, the items were added to the agenda.
- 3) Approval of the minutes of the July 11, 2022 Selectboard meeting
 - a) Teresa moved to approve the minutes as written. Zach seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.
- 4) Public Comment—Tabled
 - a) Private property borders
 - i) The Town has no enforcement mandate/capability.
 - ii) Howard will create a draft information sheet for property owners.
- 5) Emergency Management Coordinator's Report
 - a) Covid boosters and vaccines are available and free.
 - i) CDC is watching for possible Covid surges this fall.
 - a) Hot weather is here.
 - a. Watch for cyanobacteria
 - b. The Town will post a cyanobacteria sign at the water on Turkey Lane
- 6) Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) Grant Acceptance
 - a) This grant funds the Town to hire a contractor to update the LHMP. A current LHMP reduces the Town's contribution to disaster recovery costs from 25% to 1%.

- b) Teresa moved that the Town accept the grant. Zach seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.
- 7) Tree warden
- a) State statute requires the Town appoint a Tree Warden.
 - b) The Clerk will check with Rob Barrows, who is civically active in Addison, to see if he is willing to serve as Tree Warden. There is no town residency requirement for Tree Warden.
- 8) ARPA project updates
- a) Building plan for equipment barn
 - i) Clerk called RKI Miles. They could not find a drawing.
 - ii) Clerk called Clover State and is awaiting a return call
 - iii) Howard requested that the road foreman call Clover State
 - iv) It is important to execute this agreement to lock in pricing and installation schedule.
 - b) Cott research station and scanning/indexing capability are live.
- 9) Set 22-23 property tax rate
- a) Teresa was interested in how ANWSD lowered the school tax rate.
 - b) Teresa moved to set the FY23 tax rate at 0.6357. Zach seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.
- 10) Authorize Tax Anticipation Note (TAN)
- a) The clerk is conducting FY22 over-budget expenses for FY22, with some being attributed to the ~30% increase in the cost of materials and petroleum products over the past year. Clerk expects cash flow deficit to be ~ \$150,000, but wants to complete FY22 budget analysis before executing the note.
 - b) It was noted that the TAN is not a loan for additional money, but simply an “advance” on tax revenue that will not be collected until property tax payments are received.
 - c) Teresa moved to authorize the clerk to execute a Tax Anticipation Note not to exceed \$200,000. Howard seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.
- 11) Clerk-Treasurer updates
- a) The Selectboard does want to install a Town notice board at BJs.
 - i) Clerk will ask Robert DeGraaf where on the property the Town should install the board.
 - b) Tutorial for DRB-PC on Office 365
 - i) The Clerk will ask Silloway for an estimate to conduct a training session for the members of the DRB/PC.

12) Bonding employees

- a) Town employees are required to be bonded by state statute.
- b) The Clerk will investigate options through the Vermont League of Cities and Towns Property and Casualty Insurance division.

13) Communications

- a) Zoom meeting technical difficulties
 - i) Silloway is sending new Internet switches that are expected to remedy the internet drop-out causing audio and video gaps.
 - ii) Teresa asked if there was any news on Sheriff Newton.
 - iii) Howard asked about the status of hiring a road crew member.
 - (1) Clerk to provide budget capacity for wages and benefits for a new hire.
 - iv) Fire contract:
 - (1) Clerk to send an email to Ron Redmond on fire contracts
 - v) Howard discussed the ongoing issue of Vergennes city borders with Matt Birong.
 - (1) Vergennes is concerned about the loss of property tax revenue if they give back the acreage they have appropriated over the years.
 - (2) The Selectboard is amenable to a graduated "recapture over five years, provided Vergennes reciprocates consideration to Panton as plans for the by-pass are developed.

14) Selectboard meeting on August 8, 2022.

- a) Due to the primary election on August 9, Teresa moved that the August 8 Selectboard meeting be cancelled. Zach seconded. All in favor; the August 8, 2022 meeting was cancelled.

15) Review/approval of accounts payable warrant, timesheets & payroll warrant

- a) Howard moved to accept the warrants and timesheets. Zach seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.

16) Executive session if needed: Not needed.

17) Adjournment

- a) Zach moved to adjourn. Teresa seconded. All in favor; the meeting was adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maggie McCormick

Clerk-Treasurer