



Town of Panton Chartered 1761

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Selectboard Meeting Minutes Tuesday, May 10, 2022

In attendance: Selectboard Member, Teresa Boucher, Road Foreman, Rick Cloutier, Adams-Kent Cemetery Association Members Barbara Fleming and Claudia Allen, Ian Phair and Ben Door representing Vermont Solar, LLC

Via Zoom: Selectboard Chair Howard Hall, Selectboard Member Zach Weaver; Bob Groff, and Sharon Ashcraft

- 1) Howard called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.
 - 2) Additions/deletions to agenda: None
 - 3) Approval of the minutes of the April 26, 2022, Selectboard meeting
 - a) Zach moved to accept the minutes as written. Howard seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.
 - 4) Town's role in cemetery management
 - a) The A-KCA stated they want to retain responsibility for the cemeteries. They plan to check on the Town's maintenance cost last year and they will hire a mower/landscaper to maintain the grounds. They plan to draft a letter requesting funds at next year's Town Meeting. They left the meeting at 5:46pm.
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- 1) ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) ARPA Funds project discussion
 - b) Vermont Solar, LLC
 - i) The proposal is to attach solar panels to the Town Garage using something similar to the Acorn energy structure.
 - ii) Vermont Solar, LLC spoke with their lawyer and CPA on legalities and ways to save the Town money. The original project requires two owners. This entity is then required to file a tax return each year. The Town of Panton, as a tax-exempt entity cannot use tax credits. A slight twist to the proposal with Vermont Solar LLC accepting all risk, is for VT Solar, LLC to be the sole owner of the panels on the Town garage. This should avoid an IRS audit and no tax credits claimed by the Town of Panton. This also saves the Town from tax fees of \$1500 a year (a

\$10K total savings). To follow IRS guidelines, the Town of Panton would then expect to buy the solar panels over time and accept no risk on their part.

- iii) The panels are built in series, standard string installation, no shading issues with more panels on the west side. 46 panels total -12 on east side, 34 on west. It will then run under the garage and connect near the panel. Only need, is to have the Town's Road Foreman dig a 36" trench to run the conduits.
- iv) Timeline Expectation is to have work started by end of summer depending on CPG approvals and shipping of materials.
- v) Howard confirmed with Teresa, Zach, and Rick that they all agree the solar array is a sound investment and will discuss at the Executive Meeting.

c) Digitization

- i) Howard stated the Town should move forward with the Digitization by Cott Systems if the money is now available.

5) Road Foreman's Report

- a) Gravel prices have increased substantially. Rick will retrieve as much as possible before July to get the better pricing.
- b) Rick plans to have the backhoe inspected by Ben Turner before placing for sale to assure quality listing.
- c) Have 15K to purchase the Articulating Mower, need 32K total if we split cost with Addison.
- d) Sold salt spreader for \$500.

6) Emergency Management Coordinator's Report

- a) Bob reported Covid infection rates are climbing, the lowest transference is reported in Essex and Windham. All precautions are encouraged.
- b) The CDC is reviewing vaccinations for children, 6 months to 4-year-old.

7) Green Up Day

- a) A thank you to all who participated. It was a huge success with much participation and filling of one dump truck.

8) ARPA Funds

- a) Discussion to be tabled until Maggie is available. Howard requested confirmation that funds were available for both the Cott Digitization and the Solar Array. Expect to have a short meeting with Maggie to be ready for May 24th meeting.

9) Public comment

- a) Sharon
 - i) Trail by Palmers needs mowing. Sharon has offered to mow this area and asked the Selectboard for a letter of permission. The trail is under Town's authority,

and they plan to have the property lines surveyed. Howard will talk with Hans Vorsteveld and get back with Sharon.

- ii) Drainage on west side of Spaulding
 - (a) The Road Foreman has talked with the State of Vermont, and they are sending someone on site. There is no set date.

10) Communications

- i) There is no news to report on Communications.

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

- a) Theresa moved to approve the timesheet and warrants. Howard seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.

12) Executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters

- a) Zach moved to enter executive session. Howard seconded. All in favor, the board entered executive session at 6:28 p.m.
- b) Teresa moved to exit executive session. Zach seconded. All in favor; the board returned to open session at 6:31 p.m.

13) Theresa moved to accept Vermont Solar LLC's proposal. Zach seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.

14) Adjournment

- a) Howard moved to adjourn. Teresa seconded. All in favor; the meeting adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Snyder
Assistant Town Clerk