



Town of Panton Chartered 1761

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Selectboard Meeting Minutes September 12, 2022

In attendance: Selectboard Chair Howard Hall, Selectboard Vice Chair Teresa Boucher, Selectboard Member, Road Foreman Rick Cloutier, Clerk-Treasurer Maggie McCormick, Andrea Renault

Via Zoom: Emergency Management Coordinator Bob Groff, Renaissance Messaging's Dave Munter and Tim Wolfe, GovOffice.com's Michael LeBeau, Revize's Shawn Stewart, John Graham Housing and Services' Susan Whitmore, Addison County Housing Coalition's Heidi Lacey

- 1) Howard called the meeting to order at 5:32.
- 2) Additions/deletions to agenda: Moved Web Wonder to fourth position in item 5.
- 3) 5:32: Approval of the minutes of the August 22, 2022 Selectboard meeting
 - a) Zach moved to accept the minutes as written. Teresa seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.
- 4) Highway
 - a) Road Foreman's Report
 - i) Rick reported that he will be mowing ditches for next two weeks with rented boom mower. Mower rented for 100 hours at a cost of \$6000.
 - (1) The Town has considered purchasing a boom mower in the past and should revisit due to cost and scheduling. Rick wanted mower at the end of October but could only get it in September.
 - ii) Rick has replaced the bed chain sprockets and bearings in the sand spreader.
 - b) Possible Closing of Vergennes Otter Creek Bridge
 - i) Rick reported that a contractor has been hired to repair the bridge piers and it is unlikely to be closed.
 - ii) Howard has been in touch with.
 - c) Speeding remedies discussion
 - i) The Addison County Sheriff will send a radar sign once it is available for deployment to Jersey Street and Hopkins Road.

- ii) Rick has requested that patrol officers use the Rheaume's driveway at 355 Basin Harbor Road to patrol there.
- d) Scheduling Road Crew candidate interviews
 - i) Two candidates to interview.
 - (1) Candidates asking \$30/hour. \$23/hour is average for this position across Vermont.
 - (2) Rick will set up interviews. Selectboard Chair and Clerk will participate.
 - e) Highway Department overtime
 - i) Save overtime hours for winter as much as possible.
 - ii) Use as needed to deal with summer storms, animals, etc.
 - f) Clerk recounted reports of a pile of dead fish left on the shore at Arnold Bay boat launch and a dead beaver in the water.
 - i) Clerk called Fish & Wildlife, but regular warden out due to surgery and back-up warden off.
 - ii) Clerk called VT State Police.
 - g) Clerk also received a report in the afternoon of cars parked on the beach at Arnold Bay. Clerk call Town Constable Jill Harter, who ran the vehicle plates and contacted the identified owner of one vehicle. The second plate was not found in the DMV database. Jill planned to go to Arnold Bay shortly around 5:30 to see if vehicles were still there and ticket them if they were.
 - h) Solar panel installation on the pole barn on Panton Road is expected to begin soon. Rick will provide ditching for the conduit needed. The price of conduit has tripled since 2021.
- 5) Town Website Re-build Proposals
 - a) Renaissance Messaging – Dave Munter, Tim Wolf
 - b) GovOffice.com – Michael Lebeau
 - i) Michael was not present at this time.
 - c) Revize - Shawn Stewart
 - d) Web Wonder Designs – John Godfrey
- 6) Emergency Management Coordinator's Report
 - a) Covid boosters are available at walk-ins and pharmacies.
 - b) There is concern that fall and winter will bring flu and covid surges.
 - i) Flu protection from vaccine diminishes over time, so consider that when scheduling your shot but do not wait too late in the season.
 - c) There is potential that a Covid vaccine will be recommended annually, similar to the flu shot.
 - d) Bob has been in contact with the Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC) about the Vergennes Bridge and there will be a regional response if needed.

- e) Bob submitted the hot weather plan to the Selectboard for review. IF there are no comments, he will submit it for incorporation into the Local Emergency Management Plan (LEMP).
 - f) Teresa asked if Bob knew of any current Addison County pop-ups. Bob advised to check the Vergennes Area Rescue Squad and local pharmacies.
- 7) ARPA Funding Requests
- a) John Graham Shelter & Housing (JGHS)
 - i) Susan Whitmore, who has been director for two years, spoke about the lack of local housing that has people camping in the woods of every town in Addison County.
 - ii) The JGHS request is specifically to support appropriate staffing of their facilities in the amount of \$3252.00.
 - iii) Howard asked if other towns have committed ARPA funds to JGHS.
 - (1) Some towns have already committed all their ARPA Funds.
 - (2) No towns have yet awarded ARPA funds to JGHS.
 - (3) JGHS is on the Selectboard meeting agenda in North Ferrisburgh and Starksboro and will keep the Panton board informed of results.
 - b) Addison County Housing Coalition (ACHC)
 - i) Heidi Lacey spoke on behalf of ACHC.
 - ii) A larger number of Addison County residents are at risk of homelessness.
 - iii) Requesting \$3000.00 for discretionary funds to support operations for member social services organizations.
- 8) Due to agenda time typo, the Board re-opened the discussion on speeding in Panton.
- i) Andrea Renault told the board that two of her peacocks have been struck and killed on Jersey Street in the past two weeks and expressed her fear that someone could strike a child, pedestrian, or pet.
 - ii) The possibility of installing speed bumps was discussed.
 - (1) Road foreman concerned about the challenges of plowing over permanent speed bumps.
 - (2) Temporary speed bumps require bolts into the existing pavement, creating a hole that allows for increased and accelerated degradation of the road surface.
- 9) Vergennes Area Rescue Squad (VARS) Contract Renewal
- a) Selectboard requests that a representative of VARS make a presentation to the board on the VARS budget and expenditures prior to the board approving payment of the contract invoice.

- 10) Fire Protection Contract Renewal/Price Structure
 - a) Vergennes has identified a consultant for regionalization
 - b) Clerk conveyed Ron Redmond's request that Panton present a pricing structure that the board endorses. Vergennes will not be developing a pricing structure for Panton.

- 11) Selectboard Meeting on Monday, October 10, Indigenous Peoples Day
 - a) The meeting will be held as regularly scheduled.
 - b) Per Town Personnel Policy, the Clerk will be paid double time for work on a holiday and will work only time required for the meeting.

- 12) Clerk-Treasurer updates
 - a) Telling & Hillman have the starting point documents for the annual audit and the remainder of the "prepared by client" documents will be sent via Zip file this week.
 - i) Telling & Hillman will start the annual audit as soon as their schedule allows.
 - b) Clerk presented the budget report for review.
 - i) Teresa noted that the Town Office Expense line shows 122% expended. Clerk noted that the Salt Shed Principal line shows -\$27,000 and will be fixed. Clerk still learning the NEMRC budget and fund accounting system.
 - ii) Clerk will create a starting point budget for presentation at the October 10, 2022 Selectboard meeting.

- 13) Communications
 - a) Constable Guidelines/Requirement from VT Criminal Justice Council
 - b) Vermont Bond Bank Flexible Fund
 - c) FOI requests for 2020 election records
 - d) Turkey Lane and South Road Surveys
 - e) Howard talked to Wales Floors for refinishing the TH upstairs floors—
 - i) Approximate cost \$8000, including five coats of varnish.
 - ii) Could complete before November election

- 14) Sign ACRCP Mutual Aid Agreement
 - a) Agreement approved previously ACRCP following up on documentation.

- 15) Review/approval of accounts payable warrant, timesheets & payroll warrant
 - a) Teresa moved to approve the timesheets and warrants. Zach seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.

- 16) Executive session
 - a) Teresa moved to enter executive session. Zach seconded. All in favor, the board entered executive session at 7:11 p.m.

b) Teresa moved to exit executive session. Zach seconded. All in favor, the board returned to open session 7:11 p.m.

- Teresa moved to award \$3252.00 of Town ARPA funds to JGHS and \$3000.00 of Town ARPA funds to ACHS. Zach seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.
- Teresa moved to contract Revize to build a new Town of Panton website. Howard seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.
- Howard stated that VT Public will be doing a story on the solar microgrid, visiting the site on Thursday, 9/15.
- Howard stated that Hescocock Painting said they will visit Town Hall and provide an estimate for painting the upstairs interior.
- The TV used for Zoom meetings stopped working. A new 55" TV can be bought for about \$450.00.
 - Teresa moved to purchase a new screen for Zoom meetings not to exceed TB \$500 Zach seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.

17) Adjournment

- a) Howard moved to adjourn the meeting. Zach seconded. All in favor; the meeting was adjourned at 7:29 p.m.