



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

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Selectboard Meeting

October 24, 2017

Selectboard Member's present: Zachary Weaver and Teresa Smith. Also present was Town Treasurer/Clerk Pam Correia, David Raphael, Robert Hartenstein, Deborah Hartenstein, Norman LeBoeuf, and John Viskup.

At 6:00pm, Zachary Weaver called the meeting to order.

Following the Public Hearing, Teresa Smith moved to adopt the Town Plan as written. Zachary Weaver seconded. The motion passed. Zachary Weaver authorized David Raphael to submit the Town Plan and forward it to the Regional Planning Commission for regional approval.

2. Teresa Smith moved to accept the October 10, 2017 minutes, with no corrections. Zachary Weaver seconded. The motion passed.

David Raphael briefly summarized the status of the contested house site application between the Holmes' and the Puschel's on Lake Road. He advised the Puschel's and the Holmes' are in agreement that they could accept the six inches being contested and the Puschel's are willing to accept a waiver agreement from the setback rule with conditions attached. The Puschel's have asked for some plantings where the building is next to their property line. David advised the DRB will be voting on the waiver at the November meeting.

3. Public Comment – John Viskup stated that he believes the time change of the Selectboard meetings was not a convenient time and hard for public participation.

4. Review of Financials/Timesheets – The list of invoices, timesheets, and September financials were reviewed. Zachary Weaver moved to accept the September financials. Teresa Smith seconded. The motion passed.

5. Town Hall Initiative - David Raphael discussed the disbanding of the Town Hall Committee and the vote that occurred at Town Meeting to use funds from Green Mountain Power to defray the Town Hall expenses. David stated the Town Hall Committee was to come back to the townspeople with plans of the proposed work. He also discussed the upgrades and improving Town Hall as a whole with functions to be held upstairs. He stated the Town Hall Committee was about more than just the cupola; it was recognition of a valuable facility to the people. John Viskup talked about the history of the grant from the Green Mountain Power stimulus package. John stated the townspeople never had a place to meet and stated his concern that we do not have the ability to do that and bring the town together as a community. John stated there is a goal to restore and renovate Town Hall with no out-of-pocket expense to the townspeople.

David stated he was upset and disconcerted about the change in the Town Hall Committee. David stated he does not feel this is about repairs and stated he does not understand how Katie Werthmann replaces Norman LeBoeuf, a professional architect. David stated that all the work done was disregarded. David stated that the process was to get the whole project bid and get prices on it then come back with numbers at a special Town meeting and present it. David discussed fundraising for the cupola and stated there is overwhelming support to return the cupola to the top and to hold functions upstairs. He stated he believes the townspeople will support it with Town funds. David respectfully asked the Selectboard to reconsider this approach. He stated he recognizes that it has taken a long time. Zachary Weaver thanked David Raphael, John Viskup, Norman LeBoeuf, and Robert and Deborah Hartenstein for coming and explained that email interpretation is not always right. David stated he believes the citizens are being pushed back and rejected. Zachary stated that nothing has evaporated with any of the work the Board wants done and nothing has been disbanded. Zachary stated that the disconnect is a timing issue. Zachary stated that the stairs and ramp have to be done before Town Meeting and that is what is driving this change. Zachary stated that without evaporating ideas, what needs to happen is how the work can get done. David stated he believes a discussion would have been more appropriate before the Selectboard made the change. Teresa Smith stated as the timing got longer and longer, the impetus for the shift was to really get the work done before Town meeting. Robert Hartenstein asked why the Selectboard wouldn't go back to the committee. John Viskup stated they are not here to find fault. The Board discussed having a committee member be at one out of the two monthly meetings to help along. John stated he believes the change to pulling Katie Werthmann in was wrong. A brief discussion followed about the townspeople voting again to take solar funds so there won't be additional costs to the taxpayers. Teresa again stressed the importance of getting the ramp and stairs done. John stated that the Board and Committee should have talked and hopes the Board will rescind the decision. The Board briefly discussed moving the time of the Selectboard meetings back a half hour if that helps. Deborah Hartenstein asked the Board if they were in a position to disband tonight. Zachary stated that the Board would like to be in a position to move forward. Zachary stated he wants to discuss with Howard Hall an appropriate way to rescind the decision. David stated that he wants to be clear that he would be moving to get competitive bids the next day and he is ready to commit and move forward. Discussion followed about the cost of the ramp. David stated his agreement that the Committee can move the work around to what needs to be done first. The Board stated they are looking for three bids. Norman LeBoeuf explained his thoughts on the bid

process. The Board discussed the priorities set forward in sequence of the funding available. The Board as well as the Committee shared the time frustration; they all want to work together. Zachary stated he is prudent to looking at the bids without the big picture. Norman LeBoeuf stated he thinks that would be a mistake. The Board discussed at length the process of getting the bids submitted, getting a contractor started and working within the next three weeks. David stated a full set of plans are needed and bid documents put together. He is asking for authorization from the Board. John stated he is looking for a timeframe. Teresa stated she can authorize and Zachary stated he wants someone to prioritize. David advised he has listed Pam as the contact for the bids and he will contact the bid list and email them tomorrow morning. Zachary Weaver moved to authorize David Raphael and the Committee to put bids out. Teresa Smith seconded. Motion passed. Zach stated the Board will look into rescinding the naming of the committee when Howard gets back. Teresa noted her appreciation to the Committee.

6. Town Hall Bid List – The Board discussed potential contractors to proceed to send the bid out to in addition to the Committee’s bid list.

7. Communications – Pam Correia advised the Board that she spoke with Steve Spatz of Efficiency VT about the money for the Incentive Program. Steve advised her that the \$18,000 went directly to Green Mountain Power since they covered all of the costs.

At 7:05pm, Zachary Weaver moved to adjourn the meeting. Teresa Smith seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Correia  
Town Treasurer/Clerk