



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

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**3176 Jersey Street, Panton VT 05491-9331**

**802.475.2333, Fax 802.475.2785**

Selectboard Meeting

November 14, 2017

Selectboard Member's present: Chair Howard Hall, Zachary Weaver and Teresa Smith. Also present was Town Treasurer/Clerk Pam Correia, Road Foreman Rick Cloutier, Deborah Hartenstein, John Viskup, Joe Bogan, and Nancy Morgan.

At 6:03pm, Howard Hall called the meeting to order.

2. Teresa Smith moved to accept the October 24, 2017 minutes of the Town Plan Hearing held at 5:30pm, with no corrections. Zachary Weaver seconded. The motion passed. Teresa Smith moved to accept the October 24, 2017 minutes of the regular Selectboard Meeting held at 6pm, with no corrections. Zachary Weaver seconded. The motion passed.

3. Public Comment – Joe Bogan of Arnold Bay Road inquired about the battery pack at the solar farm and which buildings are supplying energy from the battery pack. Howard Hall stated the battery pack services the Town Hall building and the Public Works garage. Joe asked the Board if the battery pack supplied the Water Treatment Plant as well. Howard confirmed the battery packs are scheduled to be installed in June or July. The Board discussed the lines further and Joe wondering about having a generator or battery pack for his own home.

Nancy Morgan updated the Board regarding the Hawley Cemetery and inquired about the follow-up of the Town's responsibility to the cemetery. Nancy stated she would like to work together with the Town and is trying to get some help to maintain the cemetery. She stated her goal is to get some money in the budget for next year. Howard Hall asked if the cemetery was determined to be a private versus Town cemetery. Nancy advised the process was started five years ago with no progress and nothing has been done. She stated there are State statutes that require a town to take care of a cemetery. The Board discussed the maintenance of the cemetery. Howard advised Nancy of the financial state of the cemetery money and explained it has a Commission of two people consisting of Barbara Fleming and Claudia Allen. Nancy stated she believes there should be three people on the Commission if not handled by the Selectboard. Nancy stated it is the job of the Selectboard to preserve the historical parts of Panton and she is trying to correct the situation. Nancy advised she would like to get money put into the budget and move forward. The Board discussed potential volunteers willing to help with the maintenance. Howard advised Nancy to give the Board some time to work through it as it hasn't been on the front long and they are lacking prior knowledge of the history of the cemetery. Teresa Smith stated the Board is happy to look into it as they were not aware it has been in such disrepair and had no knowledge of the situation. Zachary Weaver stated the biggest hurdle is determining if it is a private versus public cemetery. Nancy shared information she has found pertaining to the Hawley Cemetery. Howard advised the Board will

look at the situation after the first of the year as they will have more time to work on it. Teresa asked if Nancy could provide more information from the State Board of Cemeteries. Zachary would like to see more research done to find something actionable. Nancy stated she will continue to work on it.

4. Road Foreman Report – Rick Cloutier advised the Board that the Jackson Road culvert did not get started as planned but would be beginning the next day. Rick advised the Jackson Road residents were all ok with this. Due to the delay, Rick stated he did not want to leave the road closed overnight because there has been a fire in the past and he doesn't want that to happen again. Rick advised he looked at the freightliner today and he will have prices next week. Rick stated the Highway budget for next year is all set. He stated the 2010 freightliner has had \$35,000 in repairs and he is putting \$15,000 in repairs for the new budget. Rick also stated the grader and loader lines are being cut down. Rick advised the Board that the Jersey Street signs for high risk roads have been wiped out on both the North and South ends; these signs are \$3,000 worth of signs that have been damaged. Deborah Hartenstein stated mailboxes are also being run over. Rick advised the Board that on December 4<sup>th</sup>, the plow will be put on the pickup.

5. Town Hall Committee – John Viskup stated he has nothing to report and is not happy that there has been no progress. Howard Hall stated the Board has never had an option to share ideas on projects with the Committee. Howard stated the Committee has come to meetings twice and the first time the Board had seen plans from David Raphael was in October. The Board discussed when the stairs and ramp work will be getting done. John stated that the work that needs to get done, needs to get done now and proceed without a special meeting. The Board further discussed the lack of communication between David and the Board to sell the project to the voters. Teresa Smith stated there needs to be accessibility to every member of the community. John stated he does not believe Norman LeBoeuf is getting the job done and the Board needs to take the plans and look for a contractor. Zachary Weaver stated this is the reason Katie Werthmann is helping out to fast track the work and get some other bids. The Board discussed the option of creating a door in the wall which involves moving a 220 panel at an expense of \$5,000. Teresa Smith stated that she does not want the whole Committee to get scrapped and asked how married to this whole plan is the Town Hall Committee. The Board discussed using the plans or the alternate of hiring somebody. The Board stated there has been close to \$10,000 already spent on the plans. John Viskup and Deborah Hartenstein stated they would agree to use the plans to present to the contractor. Howard stated it would be beneficial to walk through the plans together with the Committee and show them what they want the Board to do. The Board discussed the prices of the material used in the plans. Howard stated he has talked with some contractors already and most of them are already booked but there is some interest. The Board thanked John and Deborah for coming and helping them clarify the situation. Howard asked Town Treasurer/Clerk Pam Correia to look at the Town Hall Renovation Fund to see what is available for money. Pam stated she will email the committee with the information. Howard advised that a builder needs to be found that can make the stairs safe if it comes to that. John stated he is in 100 percent agreement to find a builder and make the stairs safe. The Board further discussed the ramp and stated it is not accessible at all at this time. The Board discussed the septic system and noted that permits, etc. need to be documented and a copy given to the Addison County Regional Planning Commission. John stated his concern with the kitchen and that he does not believe anything more can be added to the septic. He advised the Board that he has asked Norman numerous times to address this. Deborah asked the Board if they could be reinstated as a committee. Howard advised he has no problem with what the Committee is and the name is insignificant. Howard stated he wants to get the work done and work together. The Board further discussed the communication problem with the Town Hall Committee. Teresa Smith asked if Katie could be called to see if she has any other names of contractors. Zachary Weaver stated there were 19 contractors contacted. Pertaining to the plans, the Board advised that the Committee was designated to look at the plans with leverage to proceed with the contract. Zachary stated he would really like to have some bids. John stated that a more reasonable time frame would be to get bids for the work to be done next summer when the weather breaks and attract contractors that will actually look at the work to be done. Howard stated he would feel comfortable if Norman, John, and Deborah would come and walk the Board through the plans and show them what they want to do. The Committee agreed to come back to the November 28, 2017 meeting to do so. The Board discussed at length the bid process. John stated the Town Hall Committee dropped the ball and did not get the job done in a timely manner.

Teresa stated she wants to get the stairs shored up for Town Meeting and would like to see the list of the 19 contractors along with the hard numbers. The Board expressed that an explanation of the plans are expected from Norman and David. Deborah and the Board were both in agreement that they need to know who the contractors are before the stairs can be shored up. The Board thanked John and Deborah for coming. Teresa stated the priority is to have safe stairs. John advised he will get right back to the Board with the progress made or will have a date in place.

6. Review of Financials/Timesheets – The list of invoices and timesheets were reviewed.

7. Town Salt Building Grant – Howard Hall stated the Town Salt Building Grant is a Federal grant and they are unbelievably difficult. The Board discussed other towns that have dealt with this grant and how tough the grant process was. Teresa Smith stated they need more information about the grant. The Board stated they would like Rick Cloutier to determine what he needs. Teresa stated she would like a list of grants and their timelines. Howard stated another problem is that the State environmental people want the Towns to cover up the sand and salt piles to prevent run-off into the lake. He stated the Town needs to get a grant to take care of this or it will become a problem. Howard advised the Board that the Town Beach Grant for \$40,000 was sent in for next year. Howard stated the project will start in a couple of weeks getting half of the project done and the other half done for the beach.

8. Communications – Town Treasurer/Clerk Pam Correia advised the Board that she was in receipt of the draft June 30, 2017 Financial Report from Telling & Associates, CPA PC. She advised the Board that the representation letter would need to be signed before Telling could release the final copy.

At 7:35pm, Howard Hall moved to adjourn the meeting. Teresa Smith seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Correia  
Town Treasurer/Clerk