



Town of Panton Chartered 1761

3176 Jersey Street • Panton, VT 05491-9331

Ph: 802.475.2333 • Fax: 802.475.2785

Selectboard Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 11, 2022

In attendance: Selectboard Chair Howard Hall, Selectboard Member Teresa Smith, Road Foreman Rick Cloutier, Clerk-Treasurer, Maggie McCormick, Assistant Clerk Suzanne Snyder.

Via Zoom: Selectboard Member Zac Weaver, Town Advisor Sandy Fogg, Emergency Management Coordinator Bob Groff

1. Call to order
 - a. Howard called the meeting at 5:32 p.m.
2. Additions/deletions to agenda
 - a. Appoint Chris Morris to the Appraisal Research Committee (ARC)
 - i. Howard moved to add this to the agenda. Teresa seconded. All in favor the motion passed
3. Approval of the minutes of the December 28, 2021 Selectboard meeting
 - a. Teresa moved to approve the minutes as written. Howard seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.
4. Road Foreman's Report
 - a. Most recent storms have required the use of a lot of salt. Because Panton adds beet juice the salt goes farther and is more effective. Panton only needed to salt once. Other towns salted twice.
 - i. Town has a good salt supply.
 - b. Road crew is rebuilding loader bucket.
 - c. Road Foreman recommends selling the loader (sale value \$10000 + joystick) and backhoe (sale value \$20,000 – \$23,000)
 - i. This will allow the Town to acquire a boom mower in partnership with Addison. Cost is ~ \$64,000. Current mower is not capable of getting the ditches. Memorandum of Understanding will be created and signed.
 - ii. Addison will share their first pass mower with Panton
 - iii. Excavator can be used to load salt if the loader is sold.
 - d. Crack Sealer Mutual Aid Equipment Purchase
 - i. Meeting tomorrow to solidify agreement for five towns.

- ii. Pantan share is \$10,500.
 - iii. Pantan spent that on renting a crack sealer in 2021.
 - e. Howard moved that the Town go in with to purchase a crack sealer on a trailer, with Pantan's share is not to exceed \$15,000. Teresa seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.
 - f. Howard moved that the Town sell the backhoe and loader and use proceeds toward new equipment purchases. Teresa seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.
 - g. Replacement options for the International were discussed. No inventory available to purchase. Three-year lead time on new truck. Current trade-in value is ~\$80,000. Three years from now, it will be about \$45,000.
 - h. Selectboard signed the Road Inventory certificate.
 - i. The Town has claim to the island at the corner of Arnold Bay and Pease Road.
 - j. The possible use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds was discussed:
 - i. for stormwater runoff expenses such as culvert replacement
 - 1. culvert on Lake Road near Shadow Glen is unstable.
 - ii. for improving Internet security/Wi-Fi access at the Town Garage.
 - iii. to add a camera at the garage.
5. Emergency Management Coordinator's Report
 - a. High covid case rate.
 - i. Omicron variant is not as lethal but has a lot of breakthrough capacity.
 - b. Addison County has a high transmission rate.
 - c. Legislature considering provision for completely remote Town Meeting.
 - i. All municipal meetings may also be allowed to be fully remote.
 - d. Masks recommended for all indoor public gathering.
 - i. N-95 or KN-95 recommended. Masks should have at least two layers.
 - e. Influenza is also circulating. Recommends getting flu vaccine.
 - f. Bob will virtually attend Spring Flood Management training on May 26, 2022.
6. Appointment of Town Moderator
 - a. Howard moved to appoint Jason Fearon as moderator, Zach seconded. All in favor; Jason Fearon was appointed as Town Moderator for the 2022 Town Meeting.
7. Appointment of new member of the Appraisal Research Committee (ARC)
 - a. Howard moved to Town Lister, Chris Morris to the ARC. Teresa seconded. All in favor, Chris Morris was appointed to the ARC.
8. Articles for Town Meeting Ballot
 - a. Elimination of elected Listers
 - i. The Town is seeking a professional appraiser to replace the Lister function, but this will not be achieved in time for the 22-23 Grand List. Elimination of elected listers will not be on this year's ballot.
 - b. Elimination of elected Auditors
 - i. Town Auditor Bob Groff stated that he believes the elimination of the elected auditor position will not adversely affect the Town.

- ii. The Town will appoint an “audit advisor” for resident oversight on financial operations. Appointed position? As back up
- iii. Teresa moved to add an article to eliminate the position of Auditor to the 2022 Town Meeting ballot. Howard seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.

9. FY23 Budget Finalization

- a. Maggie and Teresa reviewed the budget again last week. Projected tax increase is 5.50 % even though the Town Budget has been reduced by 0.5%. This reflects deep cuts to the road paving budget line.
- b. Tax rates with the retreatment budget line item at \$60,000, \$100,000, and \$130,000 were reviewed.
- c. The group discussed whether the budget and tax rate should be presented in two segments; one that shows the town operating budget and resultant tax rate and one that shows the discretionary appropriations and the tax rate if the voters approved those articles. Budget will be presented as a whole, since Panton voters have historically approved discretionary appropriations.
- d. Public comment: none.
- e. Teresa moved that the budget with the retreatment budget line item at \$60,000 be adopted and presented for vote at Town Meeting. Zach seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.
- f. The Selectboard recognized and thanked Road Foreman Rick Cloutier for his cooperation and flexibility on the retreatment budget.

10. Public Comment: none.

11. Communications

- a. Appraisal Research Committee recommendations:
 - i. Zoning Administrator (ZA) to review and close out any outstanding 2020 permits.
 - ii. Create a separate section on the Town website for the ZA reports.
 - iii. Put the grand list on the Town’s website.
- b. Clerk to ask the Vergennes-Panton Water District (VPWD) for their annual report for inclusion in the Panton Town Report.
- c. Potential uses of ARPA funds
 - i. Grant to VPWD
 - 1. To replace water main on Panton Road
 - 2. To provide for mapping of private water lines in Panton
 - ii. Culverts
 - iii. Cybersecurity and Town computer system redundancy
- d. The Selectboard signed the Maple Broadband agreement/contract for ARPA funds previously awarded and funded.

12. Review/approval of accounts payable warrant, timesheets & payroll warrant

- a. Teresa moved to approve the timesheets and the accounts payable and payroll warrants. Howard seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.
13. Executive session for the purpose of discussing potential litigation
 - a. Howard moved to enter executive session. Teresa seconded. All in favor; the board entered executive session at 6:44 p.m.
 - b. Teresa moved to exit executive session. Howard seconded. All in favor; the board returned to open session at 7:00 p.m.
 14. Teresa moved to amend the Town Personnel Policy to clarify that overtime at a rate of 1.5x hourly rate is paid only for hours worked beyond 40 actually worked. PTO and holiday time do not count toward the 40. Work on the actual day of a holiday will be compensated at 2x hourly rate. Zach seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.
 15. Teresa and Zach announced that this year's annual report will be dedicated to Howard Hall.
 16. Adjournment
 - a. Teresa moved to adjourn the meeting. Howard seconded. All in favor; the meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Maggie McCormick
Town Clerk-Treasurer