



Town of Panton Chartered 1761

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Selectboard Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 14, 2021

In attendance: In attendance: Selectboard Chair Howard Hall, Selectboard Member Teresa Smith, Emergency Management Coordinator Bob Groff, Road Foreman Rick Cloutier, Clerk-Treasurer Maggie McCormick.

Via Zoom: Selectboard Member Zach Weaver

1. Howard called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.
2. Additions/deletions to agenda
 - a. Teresa moved to add a report from the Appraisal Research Committee (ARC) and approval of the August 10, 2021 Selectboard meeting minutes to the agenda. Howard seconded. All in favor, the agenda additions were made.
3. Approval of the minutes of the August 24, 2021 Selectboard meeting
 - a. Teresa moved to accept the minutes as written. Howard seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.
4. Approval of August 10, 2021
 - a. Howard moved to accept the minutes as written. Zach seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.
5. Road Foreman's Report
 - a. ClearSpan contractors will return on Wednesday, 9/15 and expect to complete the salt shed in less than a week. When the crew was here a couple of weeks ago, they worked until 9:00 p.m. and on weekends.
 - b. Lack of moisture in the roads has caused the delay of road grading.
 - c. Currently mowing roadsides and rights-of-way.
 - d. Dead and dying trees along roadways
 - i. Rick and Chris cannot remove trees without a bucket truck.
 - ii. Rental of a manlift is \$3500/week.
 - iii. Mcdurfee Tree Service bill at \$125/hour. Work estimated at 30 hours for \$3700.

1. Mcdurfee will be contracted for tree removal and will be paid from the Contracted Services budget line.
 - e. Howard confirmed that the down is getting the larger door for salt shed.
 - f. Doors for equipment shed are expected before winter. Priority to get equipment under cover has been accomplished.
 - g. Rick and Chris ran conduit for compressed air to the equipment shed.
 - h. Rick is getting pricing on fuel tanks and will wait until both buildings are complete so that electrician can perform all installations at once.
6. ARC:
- a. Research: What we have learned for website for “as it has been.”
 - i. No documentation from last assessor.
 - ii. ARC needs Selectboard to charge the ARC if they are to do RFP and create selection committee.
 1. Teresa requested the ARC create an assessor “job description” and qualifications
 - b. Assessment value tables used to be provided by State and now come from NEMRC. The tables are problematic because values in them can be changed.
 - i. The Town does not currently use all 65 tables, but they should be “installed” for potential future use.
 - ii. Prior neighborhood multiplier designation determination/rationale unclear.
 - c. Ultimately and ideally, the ARC would create an online tool that property owners could use to see the assessment criteria and how their property tracks with those criteria.
 - d. Other factors discussed:
 - i. Building permit duration of 5 years could be problematic.
 - ii. No assessment has been done in Panton in 10 years. There is no specific time frame mandated by statute.
 - iii. Selectboard is burdened to call for a Town-wide reassessment.
 - iv. ARC recommends reassessment and that the NEMRC table values are refreshed prior to reassessment.
 - e. ARC’s initial goal was to examine and explain values on Grand List and how they were determined.
 - f. ARC will create a “parking lot” for ARC recommendations to the Selectboard.
 - g. ARC recommends more regular reassessments
 - h. Howard moved that the Selectboard ask the ARC to create and issue and Request for Proposal (RFP) from Panton to the list of state-approved assessors and ask the ARC to embody an assessor selection committee, interview candidates, and make a recommendation to the Selectboard. Teresa seconded. All in favor; the Selectboard made those charges to the ARC.
7. Emergency Management Coordinator’s Report
- a. State Health Department asking for stronger Covid protocols.
 - i. Governor reticent because doing so requires an executive order.
 - ii. Masks have been mandated at the State House.
 - iii. Panton still has only 12 Covid cases overall. Vergennes has five more cases. Vergennes up to 178, five more in the past week. The shared zip code

between Addison, Vergennes, and Panton makes it unclear which town the new cases are in.

- iv. FEMA Local Emergency Management Plan (LEMP) training scheduled for September 9 and 10 was postponed due to current hurricane damage in southern states.
 - v. Bob attended Emergency Management conference and reported a lot of focus on Hurricane Irene response and lessons learned. Another focus was how to create messages for different audiences.
 - vi. Andrew L'Roe has scheduled a meeting on 9/22 to talk about the state taking over Emergency Management meetings from the Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC). Meeting will be quarterly rather than monthly.
8. Cannabis Survey
 - a. Selectboard determined the survey is not relevant to Panton at this time.
 9. Clerk-Treasurer Update
 - a. Clerk and assistant clerk preparing for Telling and Hillman audit.
 - b. Clerk requested Selectboard signature on Telling and Hillman contract
 - c. Town Hall will be closed on 9/29 for clerk to attend VLCT training.
 - d. Howard requested the Town have a tabulator in time for Town Meeting. Will Senning sent email saying the Secretary of State plans to deploy new tabulators and provide training in advance of Town Meeting.
 10. Public comments: none.
 11. Review/approval of accounts payable warrant, timesheets & payroll warrant
 12. Teresa moved to accept the timesheets and payroll and AP warrants. Howard seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.
 13. Executive session for the purpose of discussing potential litigation and Junk Ordinance enforcement.
 - a. Teresa moved to go into executive session. Howard seconded. All in favor, the board went into executive session at 6:33 p.m.
 - b. Teresa moved to exit executive session. Zach seconded. All in favor; the board returned to open session at 6:47 p.m.
 14. Teresa moved to adjourn the meeting. Howard seconded. All in favor, the meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.