



Town of Panton Chartered 1761

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Selectboard Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 14, 2021

In Attendance In attendance: Selectboard Chair Howard Hall, Selectboard Member Zac Weaver, Town Advisor Sandy Fogg, Road Foreman Rick Cloutier, Mary Metcalf

Via Zoom: Emergency Management Coordinator Bob Groff, Clerk-Treasurer Maggie McCormick, Chris Morris, Heather Rice, Tom Herbick

1. Call to order
 - a. Howard called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.
2. Additions/deletions to agenda: None
3. Approval of the minutes of the November 23, 2021 Selectboard meeting
 - a. Zach moved to approve the minutes as written. Howard seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.
4. Road Foreman's Report
 - a. All Town equipment in good working order
 - b. Road Foreman working with Addison on mutual aid for mowing
 - i. Fund these purchases through sale of unused backhoe will yield ~ \$10,000. And sale of bucket loader for ~ \$8,000.
 - ii. Panton will acquire boom mower and Addison will have use of it in exchange for Panton's use of Addison's area mower.
 - iii. The Selectboard requested that a maintenance schedule and agreement on who is responsible for any damage be created and signed.
 - c. Crack sealing machine mutual aid purchase agreement
 - i. Panton, Weybridge, Addison, Bridport, and Shoreham to participate
 - ii. Will reduce equipment rental expenses
 - iii. Selectboard expressed concern that sale of the tractor would leave only the loader available for loading salt. Road Foreman replied that the excavator could be used.

5. Public comment
 - a. Mary Metcalf
 - i. Spoke about respect for diversity and that diversity includes individual health care choice.
 - ii. Recounted her experience of isolation and exclusion due to inability to wear a mask.
 - iii. She asked the board to consider the ill-effects of mask mandates and not impose a mandate in Pantton.
 - b. Heather Rice
 - i. Identified herself as Mary Metcalf's doctor.
 - ii. Asked board to consider the effect of isolation due to masks mandates.
 - iii. Asked board to consider severity of cases versus number of cases.
 - iv. Stated that masks may not be as effective as touted.
 - v. Asked the board to review the scientific information provided Mary.
 - vi. Howard asked about number of visits of Mary and any individual townsperson to Town Hall and reiterated that Town services would be made available to accommodate anyone who cannot wear a mask.
 - c. Tom Herbick
 - i. Asking for any recruitment advice for the AgraMark plant in Middlebury, which buys milk from Vorsteveld Farm.
 1. Suggestions were advertising in Front Porch Forum, Addison Independent, Indeed
6. Emergency Management Coordinator's (EMC) Report
 - a. Addison County up ~400 cases in the past two weeks.
 - b. Medical community sent a written request to the Governor asking:
 - i. Impose indoor mask mandate.
 - ii. Provide/subsidize masks in all public places.
 - c. Bob will attend the Regional EMC meeting on Wednesday at noon.
 - d. Local Hazard Management Plan (LHMP) funding is in the pipeline.
7. Appointment of two designees to the AC Regional Emergency Management Committee
 - a. Zach moved that Bob Groff and Howard Hall be appointed. Howard seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.
 - b. Bob noted that votes could be done by proxy.
8. Working Budget Report & Schedule
 - a. Next meeting Tuesday, December 21, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. at Town Hall, second floor.
9. Annual Meeting Ballot Mailing Vote
 - a. Zach moved that Pantton does not mail ballots to all registered voters for Town Meeting 2022. Howard seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.
 - b. Per statute, an early or absentee ballot will be mailed to any Pantton registered voter who requests one.

10. Mask mandate for Town buildings
 - a. EMC supports
 - b. Safety of Town employees paramount
 - c. Zach moved that the Town require masks in Town-owned buildings. Howard seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.

11. Clerk-Treasurer
 - a. New assistant clerk, Suzanne Snyder, will start on December 20, 2021.
 - b. Professional auditors will return on January 6 to complete audit.

12. Communications: None.

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

14. Executive session for the purpose of discussing potential litigation, Junk Ordinance enforcement, and personnel policies
 - a. Howard moved to enter executive session. Zach seconded. All in favor the board entered executive session at 6:35 p.m.
 - b. Zach moved to exit executive session. Howard seconded. All in favor; the board returned to open session at 7:02 p.m.

15. Adjournment
 - a. Howard moved to adjourn the meeting. Zach seconded. All in favor; the meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Maggie McCormick
Town Clerk-Treasurer