



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

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### **Selectboard Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, December 28, 2021**

1. Call to order
  - a. Howard called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.
2. Additions/deletions to agenda
  - a. Howard moved to add approval of the minutes of the Special Budget Meeting on December 21, 2021. Zach seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.
3. Approval of the minutes of the December 14, 2021 Selectboard meeting
  - a. Zach moved to approve the minutes as written. Howard seconded. All in favor the motion passed.
4. Approval of the minutes of the Special Budget Meeting on December 21, 2021
  - a. Teresa moved to approve the minutes as written. Howard seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.
5. Emergency Management Coordinator's Report
  - a. Covid 19
    - i. Addison County and Panton cases dropping but concern that holiday gatherings will reverse this trend
    - ii. Panton shows 18 total cases since March 5, 2020
    - iii. Panton has a 50% to 60% vaccination rate, but statistics are based on zip code which might mean Panton residents have been counted in Vergennes.
  - b. First regional EMC meeting was held, officers were elected, and set next the meeting for February
  - c. 2022 Local Emergency Management Plan (LEMP) draft is ready for submission following Town Meeting.
6. Annual Meeting Ballot Mailing Vote
  - a. Cost of postage ~ \$400
  - b. School ballots separate

- i. Town will include a note to voters that they can request school ballots by mail
    - c. Howard moved to mail Town Meeting ballots to Panton registered voters. Teresa seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.
- 7. Ballot question on eliminating auditor and lister positions
  - a. Professional audit firm has been employed for years and the town will continue to engage a professional audit firm.
  - b. The clerk will ascertain the legality of eliminating elected auditors to be replaced with a "Town Financial Oversight" type of position created by the Selectboard, similar to the Town Advisor that replaced the Town Agent when the Legislature eliminated that office.
  - c. The Lister position requires high level of professional training
    - i. The Selectboard goal is to appoint a professional paid assessor
  - d. Teresa moved to reduce the lister position and auditor position to one each if it is legal to do so. Zach seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.
- 8. Public comment
  - a. None
- 9. Communications
  - a. Howard met with Ron Redmond (Vergennes City Manager)
    - i. Ron's goal is to rekindle collaborative relationships with neighboring towns
    - ii. Ferrisburgh unwilling to pay \$86k for fire protection
      - 1. Ron suggested that Panton will be asked to make up the difference
      - 2. Panton paid \$46,000 for the current fire protection contract. The Vergennes Fire Department responded to six fire calls in Panton last year.
    - iii. Ron wants to work together on hiring a shared tax assessor
    - iv. The bypass and Vergennes city boundaries were also discussed
  - b. 2021 Equalization Study
    - i. Panton's Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) 95.18%
      - 1. CLA above 100% or below 85% triggers need for town-wide re-assessment.
    - ii. Panton's Coefficient of Dispersion (COD) 16.9%
      - 1. COD above 20% triggers need for town-wide re-assessment.
  - c. Budget—retreatment budget line down to \$60K okay with Road Foreman
    - i. Re-allocate to other things
    - ii. Use of ARPA funds to offset property tax increases is not recommended by VLCT ARPA's expert, who believes the Final Rule may prohibit it.
- 10. Review/approval of accounts payable warrant, timesheets & payroll warrant
  - a. Howard moved to accept the timesheets and warrants. Teresa seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.

11. Executive session for the purpose of discussing potential litigation, Junk Ordinance enforcement, and personnel policies.
  - a. Bob Groff was asked to participate in executive session in the role of Town Auditor
  - b. Howard moved to enter executive session. Teresa seconded. All in favor; the board entered executive session at 6:04 p.m.
  - c. Teresa moved to exit executive session. Howard seconded. All in favor; the board returned to open session at 6:59 p.m.
  
12. Adjournment
  - a. Teresa moved to adjourn. Howard seconded. All in favor; the meeting was adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Maggie McCormick  
Town Clerk-Treasurer

DRAFT