



Town of Panton Chartered 1761

3176 Jersey Street • Panton, VT 05491-9331

Ph: 802.475.2333 • Fax: 802.475.2785

Selectboard Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 27, 2021

1. Howard called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.
2. Additions/deletions to agenda: None
3. Approval of the minutes of the July 13, 2021 Selectboard meeting
 - a. Zach moved to accept the minutes as written. Howard seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.
4. Emergency Management Coordinator's Report
 - a. Covid increasing; raw numbers more informative than percentages since if there were only two cases, a 50% increase is only four cases.
 - b. Bob encouraged all to stay vigilant.
 - i. Howard moved to post signs at Town Hall mandating that visitors who are not vaccinated wear masks. Zac seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.
 - c. Emergency Management meetings will now be held quarterly, but not yet scheduled
 - d. Bob will attend the Vermont Emergency Preparedness conference from 9/14 – 9/16.
5. Set Tax Rate
 - a. After a review of the budget numbers and the tax rate calculations, Zach moved to set the tax rate at 0.6005. Teresa seconded. All in favor: the tax rate was set at 0.6005.
6. Vergennes Fire Department (FD) contract review and approval
 - a. The board discussed other neighboring town's firefighting capabilities. Addison could also provide fire services, but not respond any faster or more effectively.
 - b. The selectboard may consider the possibility of contracting with Addison or Ferrisburgh in the future.
 - c. Zach moved to adopt the Vergennes FD contract for FY22. Howard seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.
7. Tax Anticipation Note
 - a. As approved at the July 13 Selectboard meeting, a tax anticipation note (TAN) in the amount of \$150,000.00 was requested from National Bank of Middlebury. Howard explained that a TAN provides funds to cover operating expenses coverage until taxes are collected.

8. Vergennes-Panton Water Department (VPWD) funding request
 - a. VPWD requested half of Panton's anticipated American Rescue Plan Act funds
 - b. Teresa stated that supporting VPWD is a good infrastructure investment. Howard and Zach agreed, provided there are well-defined expectations and outcomes.
 - c. Howard stated that he expected the Addison County Sheriff's Department is expected to request some of the Town's ARPA funds.
 - d. The use of ARPA funds to digitize Town land and vital records was also discussed.
 - e. The board acknowledged Maple Broadband has already requested half of Panton's ARPA funds.
 - f. The board will review and weigh investment of ARPA funds in these projects.
 - g. Teresa proposed line-item budget funding for digitization as an alternative to using ARPA funds for that.
9. Communications
 - a. The clerk reported that the salt shed ship date is currently August 19`with arrival anticipated on August 24., The build-out is expected to take about 10 days.
 - i. A spill kit will be maintained in the new equipment shed
 - b. Fuel tanks will be placed in an enclosure with a built in drain and catchment tank below.
 - c. The clerk reported that the software the Town uses to bill and collect property taxes can be set up to allow property owners to pay their taxes automatically through their bank. If National Bank of Middlebury can accommodate receipt of these electronic payments to the Town, the Clerk will set it up and include sign-up information with tax bills when they are mailed.
 - d. Time Magazine published a story on the Panton Solar Microgrid. The Clerk will post a link to the article on the Town to go on website.
 - e. Clerk noted that the new notice board is installed at the intersection of Hopkins and Jackson Road.
10. Public comments
 - a. Sandy asked who was appointed as the third Panton VPWD representative
 - i. Sean Willerford
 - b. Remote meeting system
 - i. The Town has received a donated screen, computer, camera, moving stand outside speaker and microphone. Howard expects to be able to complete a working system for under \$500.00.
11. Review/approval of accounts payable warrant, timesheets & payroll warrant
 - a. Zach moved to accept the time sheets, payroll, and accounts payable warrants. Teresa seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.
12. Executive session for the purpose of discussing potential litigation and Junk Ordinance enforcement
 - a. Howard moved to go into executive session. Zach seconded. All in favor; the board entered executive session at 6:17 p.m.
 - b. Teresa moved to exit executive session. Zach seconded. All in favor; the board returned to open session at 6:50 p.m.
 - c. Zach moved that the Clerk attempt to telephone Charles Beach and Robert "Moose" Porter on July 28 to let them both know that documents the Town sent via certified

mail had been returned as undeliverable and the Town would give him until 5:00 p.m. Thursday to pick up the documents. If he did not, the Town would request the AC Sheriff Department serve the documents to him and his response must be received by: August 6 or the board would pursue issuance of a civil ticket. Howard seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.

13. Zack moved to adjourn the meeting. Teresa seconded. All in favor; the meeting adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maggie McCormick,
Clerk-Treasurer