

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 5, 2013**

The annual meeting of the Town of Panton was called to order at 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, March 5, 2013 by John Viskup.

ARTICLE 1: To elect all Town Officers as required by law.

Moderator for a term of one (1) year – J. Douglas Dows was nominated by Louise Giovanella. The nominations cease and the Clerk cast one ballot for J. Douglas Dows. Doug then led the Pledge of Allegiance and read the names of Panton residents who died in 2012.

Selectboard for a term of three (3) years – Wendy Knight was nominated by Diane Raphael. Ronald Childers was nominated by Barbara Fleming. The Selectboard passed out ballots for the vote. Wendy received 18. Ron received 15. Wendy Knight was elected to the Selectboard.

Board of Listers for a term of three (3) years – As there were no nominations J. Douglas Dows moved that nominations cease.

Board of Auditors for a term of three (3) years – As there were no nominations J. Douglas Dows moved that nomination cease.

Constable for a term of one (1) year – Rejean LaFleche was nominated by J. Paul Sokal. The nominations ceased and the Clerk cast one ballot for Rejean LaFleche.

Dog Warden for a term of one (1) year – Brenda Blacklock was nominated by Meddie Perry. The nominations cease and the Clerk cast one ballot for Brenda Blacklock.

Town Grand Juror for a term of one (1) year – As there were no nominations J. Douglas Dows moved that the nominations cease.

Town Agent for a term of one (1) year – Ted Boelens was nominated by Bradford Howe. The nominations cease and the Clerk cast one ballot for Ted Boelens.

VUHS Board of Directors for a term of two (2) years – Karrie Bebee was nominated by Louise Giovanella. The nominations cease and the Clerk cast one ballot for Karrie Bebee.

Water District Commissioner for a term of three (3) years – Christopher Cook was nominated by Meddie Perry. The nominations cease and the Clerk cast one vote for Christopher Cook.

ARTICLE 2: Shall the Town accept and adopt the Town Officers report?

J. Douglas Dows stated at this time if anyone wanted to do a presentation of the any of the Town Officers reports or if there were any questions now was the time to do so.

David Raphael wanted to make a correction to the Planning Commission's report that Michael Hermann died in 2012 not 2011.

Auditors Report - J. Douglas Dows stated that the Town Auditors have been taking a more active role in auditing the Town records. He thanked J. Paul Sokal and Chris Cook for the active work they have been doing to achieve this task. They have met with Barb Fleming, Delinquent Tax Collector and have made great progress. The Delinquent Tax Collector now has a policy in place to guide the collection of delinquent taxes. In previous years the Delinquent Tax Collector did not furnish reports. This year one was given. J. Douglas Dows said the Auditors Report was written before the report from the Delinquent Tax Collector was given to them and that they had not had time to verify the information. He also state that he would nominate Barb if she was to run for another term when this term was up.

ARTICLE 3: Shall the Town vote to collect the taxes through the Treasurer as provided by law? - David Raphael moved to accept that taxes be collected by the Treasurer. Paulette Bogan 2nd. The Article was voted and passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 4: Shall the Town authorize the transfer of \$40,000 from the June 30, 2012 undesignated fund balance of the General Fund to the Highway Capital Equipment Fund?

David Raphael opened with a question about ARTICLE 5: Highway Capital Project Fund. It was explained that were two (2) separate funds.

Diane Raphael asked what was going to happen to the cupola. She wondered if the money could be used for to replace/restore the cupola. Bill Lanning explained that the Town now had a Town Hall Committee and they were working on a long range plan and nothing had been decided at this time about the cupola. Ben Chamberlain, who is on the Town Hall Committee said that they had contacted Norm LeBoeuf. LeBoeuf's had a much more favorable report on the cupola then the Town had previously gotten and the Committee would be getting back to the Selectboard with the report from LeBoeuf's.

Caroline Bitler wanted to know if there was an urgent need for the money to be put in this fund was there any reason the money couldn't stay where it was and not be designated to any particular fund so it could be used whenever or for whatever might come up. Bill Lanning explained that the Selectboard was trying to plan for future needs of the Town. Debra Brace wanted it to stay where it is. David Raphael said he understood that the Selectboard was trying to plan ahead for purchases that would be needed. John Viskup asked that the Town not to straddle the efforts of the Selectboard. They were trying to work on a plan so the Town would not be financially strapped when it came time to making a major purchase of equipment. Highway Capital Equipment is very expensive and needed to be planned for.

Wendy Knight wanted to know if the amount could be amended and a different amount be placed in the fund. J. Douglas Dows told her that it could only be amended 10%.

J. Douglas Dows asked for a voice vote on the article. The Article was voted and passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 5: Shall the Town establish a Highway Capital Project Fund pursuant to the provision of 24 VSA § 2804, said fund to be expended for major highway improvement projects? – J. Paul Sokal moved and James Dayton 2nd. Bill Lanning passed out a hand out to help explain the process. Some monies come from grants but the Town always pays a portion of these projects. This fund is to help establish that the money is available when these projects come up. Money will be requested every year for this fund.

A question was raised about weight permits, with all the money that is being spent on the roads to maintain them. It was noted that Agriculture (anyone using Ag plates on equipment) does not have weight permits. They have no restrictions. Harold Neel would like to see gravel placed where the agriculture equipment enters the roadways to help stop the debris that gets on the road. Debra Brace agreed but feels that the people who haul manure for the farmers are businesses and should not be

considered agriculture. Bill Lanning explained that these were all State Laws that it was not anything that the Selectboard could do. It was DOT that enforces these laws. A couple of people stated that they were willing to deal with a little dirt on the road as opposed to subdivisions.

Paulette Bogan asked where Adams Ferry Road fitted in the plan. Adams Ferry Road is a class 3 road. Rick Cloutier said that it was planned to be resurfaced this summer.

David Raphael asked if the Town could get engineering assistance to help evaluate the sub base of the roads so that the Town would not have to keep repairing these roads due to the additional weight. David also asked if the Town would consider putting wider shoulders on the roads due to more pedestrian and bicycle use.

Doug asked for a voice vote. The Article was voted and passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 6: Shall the Town vote to appropriate the following sums (raised by taxes) to be placed in Town Reserve Fund accounts as noted:

<u>Reserve fund:</u>	<u>Amount:</u>
Highway Capital Equipment Fund	\$20,000
Town Hall Restoration Fund	\$15,000
Grader Tire Fund	\$ 2,000
Digitization Fund	\$ 2,000
Reappraisal Fund	\$ 1,000
Highway Capital Project Fund	<u>\$20,000</u>
	\$60,000

Wendy Knight moved and Debra Brace 2nd. David Raphael wanted to know what the digitization fund was for. Bill Lanning explained that it is for preserving the Town record that are stored in the vault. David Raphael asked if the \$20,000 in the Highway Capital Project Fund was in addition to the \$40,000 from Article 4. It is. Doug asked for a voice vote. The Article was voted and passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 7: Shall the Town vote to adopt the proposed 2013 – 2014 fiscal year General Fund Operating Budget in the amount of \$601,931, of which \$473,649 shall be raised by taxes and \$128,282 by non-tax revenues?

So moved by J. Paul Sokal and James Dayton 2nd. Beth Tarallo reviewed the budget.

Judy Fisher asked about delinquent taxes in regards to the budget. The Treasurer, M'Lissa Dayton told her that the Town does not adjust for the differences in delinquent taxes because it stays about the same percent every year and that all delinquent taxes were not collected in one year it could take several.

Paulette Bogan asked about the library in regards to the budget. Beth told her it was now a line item in the budget.

Beth pointed out that the Town had hired the Sheriff's Dept. to patrol Pantou due to increased break-ins and suspicious activities in the area. Harold Neel was concerned with the arrest of criminals but upset about how soon they were released.

Nancy Morgan was asking questions about the budget for the cemeteries. Bill Lanning explained that the Selectboard was working on a plan for the cemeteries.

It was asked why chloride was being used on the roads. This is used to harden the dirt roads and keep the dust down.

Why isn't snow fence being placed in some of the fields as the Town had in the past? Rick said that we are not getting the snow fall that we use to and it was not worth putting it up.

Wendy wanted to know why the Town used chloride instead of water. Rick told her that water dried out too quickly.

Article 7 was voted and passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 8 through ARTICLE 22: These Articles are being voted on by Australian ballot.

David Raphael opened the Articles Caroline Bitler 2nd.

David Raphael spoke for the Counseling Service of Addison Count.

Louise Giovanella spoke for WomanSafe.

Brenda Blacklock spoke for Addison County Humane Society.

Other people spoke in support of Hospice, Addison County Transit Resources, and the Vergennes Opera House.

ARTICLE 23: Shall the Town vote to provide notice of the Auditor’s Report in lieu of mailing or distributing the report itself. The notice of availability must be provided at least 30 days before the annual meeting. Upon request, the auditors must mail or distribute a copy of the report to a voter or resident of the Town. Notice of availability will be posted at 3 sites in Town and the Town’s Web Site.

Paulette Bogan moved the Article. Brad Howe 2nd. A discussion was held whether to mail the Town Report or not. Some people were in favor of still mailing or sending out a postcard to let people know that the reports were available at the Town Office.

Article 23 was voted and passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 24: Shall the Town transact any other business which may legally come before the Town?

James Dayton moved and Debra Brace 2nd. Debra Brace wanted to thank the Selectboard and all other Town Officials for the work that they have done for the Town.

M’Lissa Dayton announced that she was resigning from the Treasurer’s position and hoped that someone would step forward to apply.

David Raphael wanted to let the Town know that on March 14th, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. there would be a meeting with Suncommon that the Planning Commission had agreed to host. Suncommon will explain the programs. It is a lease to own solar collectors.

Front Porch Forum was brought up to see if the residents were interested in joining. Heidi Mahoney gave a brief description of the forum. There was a non-binding voice vote to support Front Porch Forum.

Chris Cook made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:00 p.m.

Attest: _____ Dated _____

John Viskup, Selectboard Chair

_____ Dated _____

Beth Tarallo

A True Record: _____ Dated _____

Jean Miller, Clerk