Town of Panton Chartered 1761

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Special Informational Town Meeting
May 14, 2025, 7:00 pm

Present: Zach Weaver, Martha DeGraaf, Reece Jaring, Kathy Kennett, Charles Kennett, Sharon Ashcraft, Debbie Brace, Janice Moulton, Barb Fleming, Julie Rheaume, David Rheaume, Kristen de la Cruz, Robert DeGraaf, Sharon O'Daniel

Via Zoom: Robin Herbick

Martha called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss two articles on the ballot. Polls will be open tomorrow from 7 am to 7 pm. She read the articles to be voted. Article I is to fill two seats on the Selectboard; a two-year seat and a one-year seat. There are two candidates for each position. One person is running for both seats. She also read the full text of Article 2, which allows the removal of a selectboard member.

Candidates for the positions were given the opportunity to speak. Kirsten de la Cruz, a candidate for the two-year position, explained that she has been on the DRB and has participated in many aspects of town business said she will do her best for town. Robert DeGraaf, a candidate for the 1-year term, said he is doing his duty as a resident of the town. Debbie Brace, who is running for both 1-year and 2-year terms, said she wants to make sure people are heard and thinks we need to watch our money more closely.

Attendees were then invited to speak on Article 2. Debbie Brace said she knows that many people are not in favor of her being on the Selectboard and could use this legislation to try to force her off. If that happens, she will resign. She is not in favor of the article. Kristen de la Cruz said she was in favor of majority rules. It should not be linked to the number of votes you had when you were first elected. Sharon Ashcraft said that when this legislation was first submitted by several residents, the bar was lower. This legislation has set the bar too high. We are not improving our charter by doing this. She will not vote for this.

Sharon O'Daniel said that she didn't see point of the article. Is there any other way to get rid of a selectboard member? In her opinion this will hurt the democratic process.

With no other comments, Martha tabled the articles until the next day when voting will occur.
The meeting ended at 7:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Oliver

DRAFT