Town of Panton Chartered 1761

3176 Jersey Street • Panton, VT 05491-9331
Ph: 802.475.2333 • Fax: 802.475.2785

www.pantonvt.us

Selectboard Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 30th, 2025

In attendance: Selectboard Vice Chair Teresa Boucher, Selectboard Member Robert T. DeGraaf, Selectboard Member Kirsten De La Cruz, Selectboard Member Reece Jaring, Town Clerk/Treasurer Kyle Rowe, Kathy Kennett, Chuck Kennett, Mary Rudd Jamie Dayton, M'Lissa Dayton

Via Zoom: None

1. Teresa called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m
2. Two Items were added to the Agenda
    a. An Update to the Municipal Planning Grant was added to the agenda.
3. Public Comment
    a. Kathy Kennett asked for public comment after each line item of the budget. She also asked for an update on the boundary issue at the next SB meeting
4. The Selectboard began discussing the FY27 Budget, particularly the revenue.
    a. It was noted by the C/T that the Delinquent Tax Collector Penalty and Interest are not included in the revenue, as they are difficult to budget and rely on for a revenue offset. It was also noted that the costs associated with the FICA/Medicare are budgeted using an average of the DTC "salary" from years past.
    b. The C/T noted that most of the "interest income" in FY26s budget was actually the reserve funds, and that FY27 would be more realistic of General Fund interest revenue.
    c. The C/T noted that the zoning and DRB revenue has increased due to rate adjustments, and have been updated.
    d. It was noted by the C/T he was being more cautious in his non-tax revenue projections.
    e. The C/T noted that previous year Fund Balance could be used to offset tax revenue for budget line items, but that it would make sense to wait till closer to the end of the year to make that determination.

f. M'Lissa Dayton noted that the costs of the Sherriff are offset by the Ticket revenues. The C/T review the specific amounts, and discussed the traffic study that was conducted on West Road during the detour for the culvert project.
g. The SB discussed the contract for the Sherriff's Department, with it being noted that the ACSD sticks pretty close to their budgeted amount in Panton, and that some months are lower than others, and others are higher. The C/T noted that the current budget item of $8200 would cover 12 hours in the new budget structure, as opposed to the 16 hours currently.
h. The total budget amounts were discussed, with it noting that a 1% increase was noted from FY26.
i. M'Lissa Dayton asked about expenses related to animal control;
    i. Reece noted that $450 in animal control could be removed, as the pet owners will assume the costs of kenneling their dogs.
j. A general discussion was held on community service appropriations.
    i. The Commodore Club in Vergennes was discussed, with more discussion to occur later, after the meeting with the Mayor of Vergennes.
    ii. Kathy Kennett asked for them to be voted on individually instead of lump sum. It was noted that with the tabulator it may make it easier than hand counting all those items. The cost of the ballots themselves were discussed, with the additional need for ballot sheets adds costs.
    iii. Mary Rudd suggested that any new item need to be voted on separeately.
    iv. M'Lissa Dayton suggested a straw poll to see what tax payers would want to support.
    v. Kathy Kennett stated that voters want to exercise the right to say no.
    vi. The SB will continue to discuss this issue.
k. Jamie Dayton asked about the highway department hours during the wintertime, and suggested they could more from 4 10 Hour Days to 5 8 Hour Days.
    i. It was generally noted by the C/T and the SB that they try to flex their time to be mindful of timing during winter events, but that a further conversation could be held.
l. Future budget meetings were generally discussed, and it was noted that the budget will be on the next regular SB meeting, and further discussions will be held on the whole budget, and items like Health Insurance in particular.
m. Additional discussion was had surrounding the pension program, and the net pension liability to the Town. A number of options were discussed, including IRAs, 401ks, and issues surrounding pensions generally.
n. It was noted by the members of the public that the SB should examine the benefits package themselves, without the aid or presence of the employees with an eye on the financial benefit to the Town itself and the tax payers. It was noted that the

Town should make sure to haver a plan for new employees and a policy in place for them.

5. The Selectboard discussed the proposals by the Reserve Fund Planning Committee:
    a. The proposed definitions were discussed, specific mention of the updates and the proposals for elimination. The special revenue and reserve funds were reviewed, along with the changes.
    b. The C/T presented a document detailing how the proposed changes would change the funds, as well as pay down the loan for the 2024 International Truck, which was one of the proposals by the RFPC.
    c. The Highway Projects fund was specifically discussed, with mention made of the need to repair/rehabilitate the bridge of over Dead Creek. The C/T noted that it would mostly need a bond or major loan to help do that work, which would place the burden of paying for it on the taxpayers currently using it, rather than those over previous years. It was also noted that it would be difficult to raise anywhere near the amount of money that it would cost simply from taxes.
    d. The SB decided to continue this discussion of these definitions and the potential for inclusion at the next regular SB meeting in November.
6. Teresa made a motion to make a finding that premature general knowledge of a contract would put the town at substantial disadvantage, Reece seconded-**VOTE-All in Favor**
    a. Teresa made a motion to enter executive session, inviting the C/T, Reece seconded-**VOTE-All in Favor**
    b. Teresa motioned to come out of Executive Session at 7:26 p.m., Robert seconded-**VOTE-All in Favor**
    c. **There was no action take in Executive Session**
7. Reece motioned to adjourn at 7:26 p.m., Robert seconded**-VOTE-ALL In Favor**