Town of Panton Chartered 1761

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Selectboard Budget Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 9th, 2025

In attendance: Selectboard Chairperson Zach Weaver**,** 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, Chuck Kennett, Richard Jackson, Janice Jackson

Via Zoom: None

1. Teresa called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.
2. There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.
3. There was no public comment
4. The Selectboard proceeded into the budget discussion;
    a. Teresa described the method by which public comment would be entertained.
    b. The C/T began discussing the various item on the agenda;
        i. During a project to organize the Town records, particularly regarding surveys, discrepancies were discovered between the Grand List and the Tax Maps. While the tax maps are not official representations of the parcel size, they can indicate issues. Further investigation found a number of parcels where the Grand List was higher than the actual acreage of a parcel, and instances where the Grand List was lower than the actual acreage.
        ii. The C/T has been working closely with the Assessor/Lister and the Town's contracted tax mapper to develop a plan, and that has resulted in an increase to the Assessor budget line item, and the Other Contracted Services budget line item, to provide for further research, and new tax maps in FY27. Approximately a dozen, perhaps more, parcels will receive a change of appraisal notice due to this work.
        iii. The C/T went over the quote from Viking-Civies for a new tandem dump truck. It was noted that the SB can sign an agreement to lock in the price

and get on the schedule without voter approval, as the contract has an opt out condition for the Town should there not be voter approval.

iv. The SB tabled this agreement until Wednesday's SB meeting to make sure the Town Attorney, as well as VLCT had weighed in.

v. The C/T noted that health insurance enrollment ends December 15th, and the SB needs to agree to this budget item, even though it would start in January (FY26).

1. Teresa noted that the change offers savings in a world where there aren't many opportunities to save money. It may not be where the SB lands permanently, but it's a good first step for saving money.
2. Zach noted that Rick and Jeff were in favor, which counted for a lot for him.
3. Teresa motioned to accept the Health Insurance Plan update for FY27, Zach seconded the motion-**VOTE-4 In Favor, 0 Opposed, Reece Abstaining.**

vi. The C/T asked the SB to discuss the Vergennes Commodore Club community service request;

a. Teresa noted that since Panton has the highest attendance, at the Club, it may be worth while to propose a slightly higher amount for the ballot.
b. Reece asked what would happen if the voters in Vergennes voted down buying the building?
    i. The C/T responded the same thing that happened this year to the voter appropriated sum for the Boys and Girls Club. It would have to go back to the Panton voters at the next election to be re-allocated.
    ii. The C/T added that the SB could motion for an article to appear on the ballot that re-allocates these funds in the current FY to the Commodore Club.
    iii. General discussion was held about the logistics and the amount.
    iv. Teresa made a motion to include on the ballot $1500 for the Vergennes Commodore Club for FY27, Reece seconded-**VOTE-All in Favor**
    v. Zach made a motion to include a ballot question to reallocate the $1000 designated for the Boys and Girls Club to the Vergennes Commodore Club in FY26, Kirsten seconded-**VOTE-All in Favor**
c. The SB began to discuss the Addison County Sheriff's contract;

i. Zach reviewed the proposal from Michael Ellmore, and noted that it's going from 16 hours to 10 hours for the same price.
ii. Teresa noted that 12 hours would cost $9260
iii. General discussion was held regarding traffic, the need to continue the contract at some level, and the costs associated with it.
iv. Teresa motioned to sign the contract for 10 hours at $8200, Reece seconded the motion-**VOTE-All in Favor**

d. It was noted that the C/T will receive the 5% salary increase as noted in the budget for FY27.
e. The C/T noted that the overall municipal budget to $961, 207, a $5,308 increase from the prior year, or 1%. The C/T noted that this doesn't included any changes upcoming from further fire contract negotiations with the city of Vergennes, and that will be updated in January at the latest.
f. A general discussion was held about the potential for education tax increases, and the potential for district consolidation.
g. A discussion on the timelines for the elections and warnings was held, with it noted that everything will be finalized before the end of January.
h. Zach made a motion to adjourn at 6:15 p.m., Teresa seconded the motion-**VOTE-All in Favor**