PANTON
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1761

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Selectboard Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 10th, 2026

In attendance: Selectboard Chair Zach Weaver, Selectboard Vice Chair Teresa Boucher, Selectboard Member Reece Jaring, Selectboard Member Kirsten De La Cruz, Selectboard Member Robert DeGraaf, Clerk/Treasurer Kyle Rowe, Kathy Kennett, Chuck Kennett, Sharon Ashcraft, Armando Martinez

Via Zoom: Lorraine Keyser

1. Zach called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.
2. Item 9a-Discussion and action on the ACRPC Mutual Aid Agreement and Item 10a-Discussion and Action on the Rural Investment Project Grant Application were added to the agenda.
3. Public Comment;
    a. Armando Martinez asked if the SB had received the email he sent regarding minutes from the previous SB meeting.
    b. Zach stated they had, and asked the C/T for input;
        i. The C/T responded that he felt the minutes were an accurate reflection, and that the lack of specificity in the minutes of the issues Mr. Martinez raised at the 5/13/26 meeting had been covered at much great length at previous meetings and reflected in previous minutes.
    c. Zach stated that the SB would like members of the public providing comment to be respectful of the time, and try to limit their remarks.
    d. Mr. Martinez again raised the issues he had discussed at previous meetings;
        i. Complaint of conduct by town officials
        ii. Clarification about the Zoning Administrator with regard to his property and conflicts of interest
        iii. Settlement with the town in the zoning matter.

e. He noted that the appointment of an assistant ZA/AO was done without the SB ever saying their was a conflict on interest, and that it had been previously stated that the SB hadn't discussed it.
f. Zach stated that the goal of the SB was to prevent even potential conflicts of interest, and that generally, they understood that neighbors shouldn't necessarily be handling zoning matters for neighbors. He further added that the appointment of an assistant put everyone in a better position.
g. Teresa added that subsequent changes and discussions by the SB on this issue don't necessarily change minutes from previous meetings.
h. Mr. Martinez wanted it reflected in the minutes that he again raised the issue of misconduct by Town officials. He asked who he should be in contact with regarding zoning issue.
    i. The C/T stated that as Zoning Supervisor, he has assigned David Austin to handle any further zoning matters Mr. Martinez had.
    ii. Brief discussion was held as to a new permit denial, the SB reiterated that that was the DRBs purview, and to bring those issues to them.
i. Sharon Ashcraft asked when the areas of Jersey St that received new culverts would be paved?
    i. The C/T stated that he would provide more information on that during the Road Foreman's Report Item.

4. The SB began discussion of the minutes from 5/13/26;
    a. Teresa motioned to table consideration till the July meeting, Reece seconded- **VOTE-ALL IN FAVOR**
5. The C/T provided report on the town roads as the Road Foreman was not present;
    a. 4 Culverts were replaced on Jersey St, and 1 more is planned. 2 culverts will be replaced on Lake St soon.
    b. Repaving of those sections should be relatively soon, the paving contractor is working a local job, and will pave over the areas dug up when they finish their job.
    c. Panton hosted the Road Foreman's meeting in May, and had an excellent turnout, with multiple presentations and vendors present.
    d. The Town did not receive the state FY27 Paving Grant, however D & F paving has said that the rate per ton will be $3 more per ton.
    e. Reece stated that a member of the Highway Department should be present.
6. The C/T provided his report;
    a. Preparing for the end of the fiscal year
    b. Town staff attended a tax billing seminar that was informative
    c. The C/T was asked to serve on a committee related to changes in state law and policies surrounding tax mapping, and there will be more to share later, as Panton is a test community for some of those changes.

    d. The C/T discussed a property fraud prevention service offered by COTTS that would alert participating property owners if documents were filed related to their parcels. He asked if that was something the SB wanted him to investigate further, the SB generally agreed that he should, and find out the cost and more information.
    e. The C/T stated that the office will be closed in the afternoon on June 18th next week, and will post on FPF to remind folks early in the week.
7. The SB began discussion of the Event Permit from Ghosthouse;
    a. The C/T stated that per the policy the SB set up, Kirsten signed off on this permit, and was being presented as information to the full SB. No vote was necessary.
8. The SB began discussion of the Fireworks Policy Amendment;
    a. The C/T stated that he was made aware of lack of clarity in the policy surrounding the SB's approval, and that a competent operator is conducting the display. It was noted that the applicants will have to indicate who is performing the fireworks display.
    b. Reece motioned to accept the amendments to the Fireworks Policy, Teresa seconded-**VOTE-ALL IN FAVOR**
9. The SB began consideration of the Addison County Sheriff's Contract;
    a. The C/T stated that the SB had already discussed this during budget preparation, and this contract reflects their rate increase. The Town will inform the department of the amount we have budgeted for services, and they will bill us accordingly.
    b. There was discussion surrounding how many hours of service that our budget will translate into.
    c. Teresa made a motion to approve the FY27 Addison County Sheriff's Contract, Kirsten seconded-**VOTE-ALL IN FAVOR**
10. The SB began discussion of the ACRPC Mutual Aid Agreement;
    a. The C/T stated that the mutual aid agreement was the same as it has been for previous year, and is mostly focused on emergency services as day to day operations are handled by the Road Foreman. It helps allow ACRPC to be a clearinghouse for coordinating emergency response.
    b. Zach motioned to approve the Mutual Aid Agreement, Reece seconded-**VOTE-ALL IN FAVOR**
11. The SB began discussion on the formation of a Joint Survey Committee for potential Municipal Union District;
    a. The C/T explained some background on what a Joint Survey Committee is, and the level of authority and commitment is has. It was noted that Vergennes City Council is enthusiastic about supporting these discussions.
    b. The C/T stated that the increasing costs associated with emergency services, and the lack of input that the towns have on the budgetary process in Vergennes all

lead to this idea, that all the served municipalities have an interest in managing this system with an eye toward future growth, and better representation.

c. A discussion of the historical purpose of Vergennes was had, as well as the goals of the Joint Survey Committee, namely that the issues need to be discussed.
d. Additionally, it was noted that some group discussions could be had on the boundary situation, that was integrally connected to the future of Vergennes and intermunicipal relationships.
e. Item 10a was discussed as well, which is a grant from the Rural Investment Project to provide funs for regional collaboration and intermunicipal relationships. The grant funds would be used to provide for a survey of Vergennes and legal services associated with the formation of any regional governmental entity that the Joint Survey Committee found proper.
f. Teresa made a motion to call for the formation of a Joint Survey Committee, and to appoint a member of the Selectboard and the C/T to represent Panton to the surrounding towns to invite them to join as well, Reece seconded-**VOTE-ALL IN FAVOR**
g. Kathy Kennett stated that she feels that the boundary dispute is between Panton and Vergennes, not the other towns.
    i. It was noted that it might not be solved by the Joint Survey Committee, but might be part of the discussion.
h. Sharon Ashcraft asked what happens with the current survey?
    i. It was noted that the document produced by Tim Cowan wasn't an official municipal boundary survey, and that municipal boundary surveys require specific items.
i. General discussion was held on the process, and it was noted that the SB will nominate one person and an alternate to serve.

12. The SB began discussion of the Rural Investment Project Grant;
    a. The C/T discussed the grant-$50k total project costs, $10k in administrative in-kind costs, and $40k for services, no local match. It was added that the funders wanted one of the participating municipalities to write the grant, and that Panton would write it on behalf of the group. It was noted that the funders thought the project would be a strong contender.
    b. Teresa motioned to have the C/T submit that grant, Kirsten seconded-**VOTE-ALL IN FAVOR**
13. The SB began FY26 Budget and Balance Sheet Review;
    a. The C/T reviewed the Balance sheet, noting that the property tax overpayment line item had been fixed after some significant research, and was now reflective of the actual amount of property tax credits owed to residents. It was also noted that every line item on the balance sheet was now an accurate reflection of the towns financial position.

b. The C/T discussed the current year Fund Balance, and is still cautiously optimistic that we will end the fiscal year with a six figure surplus.
c. The C/T discussed the State Grant Fund and noted that we have an outstanding grant receivable from the state, and are expecting to get that money before the end of the fiscal year.
d. In discussing the budget, revenues were noted as 20% of projected revenues.
e. Expenses were noted as at or slightly above and below expectations, and revenues minus expenses indicate a significant fund balance.
f. The SB expressed satisfaction at the budget status.

14. The SB began reviewing the AP/Payroll Warrants;
    a. General discussion on the Arnold Bay Project, and other non pertinent items was held during the review of warrants.
    b. Reece made a motion to approve the AP/Payroll Warrants as presented, Robert seconded-**VOTE-ALL IN FAVOR**
15. Teresa made a motion to enter Executive Session at 6:43 p.m. to discuss ongoing litigation and perform employee performance reviews, inviting the C/T, Robert seconded-**VOTE-ALL IN FAVOR**
    a. Zach motioned to come out of Executive Session at 7:08 p.m., Kirsten seconded-**VOTE-ALL IN FAVOR**
    b. Zach motioned to approve the annual review of the Clerk/Treasurer Kyle Rowe, and to include in his personnel file, Reece seconded-**VOTE-ALL IN FAVOR**
16. Robert motioned to adjourn at 6:43, Reece seconded-**VOTE-ALL IN FAVOR**