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
Monday, January 8, 2024

In attendance; Selectboard Chair Howard Hall, Selectboard Vice-Chair Teresa Boucher, Road Foreman Rick Cloutier, Town Clerk & Treasurer Maggie McCormick

Via Zoom: Emergency management Coordinator Bob Groff

1. Howard called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

2. Additions/deletions to agenda: None.

3. Approval of the minutes of the December 11, 2023 and December 28, 2023 Selectboard Meeting

Teresea moved to approve both minutes as written. Howard seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.

4. Road Foreman's Report
    a. New pickup truck
        i. Fund via budget line item or warned article
        ii. Discussed balance of equipment fund and how to build a balance for larger purchases, since spending in a year often equals the current voted reserve fund.

The Selectboard determined to have a budget working meeting on Monday, January 15, 2024 at 8:30 a.m. at Town Hall.

5. Emergency Management Coordinator's Report
    a. Panton Community Church will likely become a recognized daytime heating shelter. They have a kitchen and two bathrooms but no overnight facilities. Bob gave the pastor the Red Cross guidance on being shelter host.
    b. Bob will check on the Local hazard Mitigation Plan progress with Addison County Regional Planning Checking with Andrew on Tuesday.

c. Bob will participate in a webinar on spring flood preparedness and response on February 6.
d. Forecast calls for high winds and snow/rain on Tuesday and Wednesday, with another round predicted for Saturday.

6. Liquor License Review - BJ's Farm Supply
   Teresas moved to approve the license renewal. Howard seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.

7. Ordinance Enforcement
   a. An elected or appointed constable needs full VT law enforcement training.
   b. It is challenging for a person with a regular full-time job to "patrol" for parking or other Town ordinance violations.
   c. No one sought election for either constable or dog warden last year.
   d. The Selectboard determined to maintain both constable and dog warden positions for Panton.

8. Town Hall Use Agreement
   a. The board reviewed and approved the revised agreement with minor revisions.
   b. The Town's liability for injuries for third-party events and any event at which alcohol might be served was discussed. Maggie will consult with the Vermont League of Cities and Towns on this.

9. Town Meeting
   a. Teresa expressed support for holding a potluck dinner before the informational meeting again this year. Maggie will see if Eileen Brennan will organize/coordinate.
   b. Teresa suggested a poll for whether people would come to the Informational meeting if childcare were made available and suggested Kirsten De La Cruz and Martha DeGraaf to source babysitters.
   c. Maggie will start recruiting poll workers for Election Day.

10. Town Report
    a. The Selectboard is considering candidates for the dedication.
    b. Anyone wishing to run for a town office must submit their candidate petition and consent of candidate form to the clerk or assistant clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. on Monday, January 29, 2024.

11. Vision Insurance Renewal

a. The cost of coverage for the plan that increases the frame allowance from $150 to $180 will cost the Town $17.64/year.

Howard moved to upgrade the Town vision insurance plan. Teresa seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.

12. Public comment: none

13. Communications
    a. Christina Brace from VARS notified Howard that Justin Soter has moved on to another position.
    b. The January 10 meeting to discuss fire and rescue will include only elected Town officials for Vergennes, Waltham, and Panton. for SB members only
14. Will Senning is leaving the Secretary of State's office and his position as Director of Elections.

15. Review/approval of accounts payable warrant, timesheets & payroll warrant

Teresa moved to approve the timesheets and warrants. Howard seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.

16. Executive session if needed
    a. Not needed

17. Adjournment

Teresa moved to adjourn. Howard seconded. All in favor; the meeting was adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maggie McCormick

Town Clerk & Treasurer