Town of Panton Chartered 1761

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Selectboard Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 11, 2024

In attendance: Selectboard Chair Howard Hall, Emergency Management Coordinator, Town Clerk & Treasurer Maggie McCormick

Via Telephone: Selectboard Vice-Chair Teresa Boucher

1. Howard called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.
2. Swearing in of elected Selectboard member
    a. Teresa took the oath
3. Additions/deletions to agenda: None
4. Approval of the minutes of the February 26, 2024 Selectboard Meeting
    a. Howard moved to approve the minutes as written. Teresa seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.
5. Approval of the March 4, 2024Town Informational Meeting Minutes
    a. Teresa moved to accept the minutes of the Town Meeting. Howard seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.
6. Road Foreman's Report
    a. Grading on Allen today
    b. Will move to Hopkins/ Jackson, then Slang and Turkey.
    c. Adams Ferry will be last because it was graded recently.
7. Emergency Management Coordinator's Report
    a. Approve Local Emergency Management Plan (LEMP)
        i. Howard moved to approve the 2024 LEMP. Teresa seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.
    b. Eclipse planning expected to overload local systems.
    c. Bob presented the selectboard with a flyer about a state emergency notification system
8. Post-Town Meeting Organization
    a. Teresa moved to keep Howard as Chair and Teresa as Vice Chair. Howard seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.
    b. Certificate of Election and Oath of Office
        i. Martha DeGraaf read and signed her oath as elected moderator

ii. Reece Jaring read and signed his oath as elected dog warden.
iii. Martha had no additional info on school budget re-vote yet.

c. Town Meeting debrief
    i. Present a slide to show increases in the budget
    ii. Howard stated that the budget must have placeholders for individual position salaries for three years.
    iii. Martha liked having the state representatives at Town Hall informally before the meeting started.
    iv. Teresa conveyed voter feedback about wanting more visual information on the budget.

d. Appointments to appointed positions
    i. HH moved to have Bob Groff continue at EMC
    ii. The remaining appointments were tabled until the next Selectboard meeting

e. Creation of hybrid office position
    i. Maggie proposed creating a new position that would incorporate the tasks of the zoning administrator, more routine lister tasks such as homestead declaration downloads, current use, and random inquiries, and dedicated election staff as needed. The current contracted Assessor would remain to oversee larger tasks such as lodging the grand list. This will be discussed further at a future selectboard meeting.

9. Garage outdoor internet
    a. Maggie received clarification on service and equipment guarantees. The town will go forward with two repeaters at the garage.
10. MERP Grant
    a. Clerk expressed concerns about reporting, but noted that the application process was straightforward.
    b. Howard signed the grant agreement.
11. Town Borders
    a. Howard spoke with Vergennes Mayor Chris Bearor—Chris is willing to accept whatever boundaries GPS coordinates show.
    b. Howard and Chris will determine next steps at a future meeting.
12. Public comment: None.
13. Communications
    a. Howard will have further conversation with Chris about Town borders
    b. Ambulance
        i. There will be a March 20th meeting with Panton, Addison, Waltham, Vergennes, and Ferrisburgh.

ii. The group will schedule a meeting with VARS to present the combined request.
iii. Waltham wants to get this settled.

14. Solar field proposal on West Road/Slang Road 50 Megawatts (Panton Road is 5 MW) Potential revenue is large. Concern about big gauge wires. An underground cable could also be a possibility. 13,000 homes can be powered by 50 MW.
    a. Dave Hazel joined the meeting via Zoom. He will send information to the Town on the proposed solar field.
15. Review/approval of accounts payable warrant, timesheets & payroll warrant: moved to after executive session.
16. Executive session if needed

Howard moved to enter executive session. Teresa seconded. All in favor, the board entered executive session at 6:09 p.m.

Howard moved to exit executive session. Teresa seconded. All in favor; the board returned to open session at 6:26 p.m.

Howard moved to table signing the warrants and timesheets until the next warned selectboard meeting since only he was in attendance in person. Teresa seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.

17. 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