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, March 25, 2024

In attendance: Selectboard Chair Howard Hall, Selectboard Member Zach Weaver, Clerk-Treasurer Maggie McCormick

Via Zoom: Selectboard Vice-Chair Teresa Boucher, Emergency Management Coordinator Bob Groff, Freepoint Solar Representative David Hazel

1. Howard called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

2. Additions/deletions to agenda; none.

3. Approval of the minutes of the March 11, 2024 Selectboard Meeting

Howard moved to approve the minutes. Zach seconded. All in favor; the motion passed,

4. Emergency Management Coordinator's Report
    a. Solar Eclipse
        i. New estimate of 250,000 tourists for eclipse
        ii. Concern about traffic, accidents, closures on 7, 22A, and Lake as well as other roads
        iii. Services such as ERs, EMS, Fire may be overwhelmed
        iv. Restaurants, Gas Stations, Grocery Stores, Parks, Overlooks, Hotels, B&Bs, will possible be seeing high use.
        v. Middlebury, New Haven, and others holding events
        vi. Cell companies do not expect overuse or outages
        vii. Eclipse Info posted to FPF
    b. Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC) is still working with the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP).
    c. Bob will submit the Local Emergency Management Plan (LEMP) to ACRPC once the selectboard appoints officers at tonight's meeting.

5. Appointments to appointed positions
   Howard read the proposed appointments:
    a. ACRPC: Jamie Dayton
    b. ACSWD: Paul Sokal No alt
    c. Advisor: Sandy Fogg

d. Tree Warden: Diana Raphael
e. 911 Coordinator: Paul Sokal
f. Green Up Day: Louise Giovanella and Paula Moore
g. Transportation Advisory Committee: Howard Hall

Zach moved to appoint the slate of officers as read, Howard seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.

Howard moved to appoint Jill Harter as constable. Zach seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.

6. ANSWD election
    a. School budget revote is set for tomorrow. One poll worker, in addition to the clerk and assistant clerk, will cover 2-hour shifts from 7 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
    b. Paula Moore and Diana Raphael will transport the ballots to the ANSWD offices and assist with counting after polls close on Tuesday.

7. Public comment
    a. Solar Field

    Chuck and Kathy Kennet let the Selectboard know they are not in favor of the proposed 300 acres solar field on both sides of Slang and West Road, stating it is too large, it will ruin the view, once farmland is gone, it will never be regained, and the company involved is out-of-state and plans to sell the power outside of Vermont. They provided a statement to Teresa last Tuesday.

8. Communications:
    a. Maggie advised the board that the State of Vermont has warned the comment period for new above ground storage tank rules.
    b. Howard will meet about the Vergennes/Panton town borders with Jim Gish (PELS liaison), Mary Rudd, Howard Hall, and Vergennes Mayor Chris Bearor on Wednesday at 3:30 p.m. at Town Hall.
    c. The 5-Towns had a meeting last week to draft a contract as a single entity contract with member towns contributing based on per capita
        i. There is a meeting with the %-Towns and VARS on 4/18.
    d. Howard, Maggie, Rick, and Jeff will meet at Town Hall on Wednesday to discuss highway projects, including the old salt shed, building an overhang on the equipment shed, and relocating the fuel tanks.
    e. Dave Hazel of Freepoint Solar is working on responses to the questions from the DRB meeting last week,

9. Review/approval of accounts payable warrant, timesheets & payroll warrant
    a. AP Warrant 24018 $19,945.66
    b. AP warrant 24017 $30,726.34
    c. Payroll Warrant 24018 $8,336.86

d. Payroll Warrant 24019 $7,934.80

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

10. Executive session to discuss retention of counsel for solar development and town staffing requirements

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

Zach moved to exit executive session. Howard seconded. All in favor; the board returned to open at 6:40 p.m.

Howard moved to appoint Leslie A Cadwell as legal counsel for solar development in Panton. Zach seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.

11. Adjournment

Howard moved to adjourn. Zach seconded. All in favor; the meeting was adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Maggie McCormick
Town Clerk & Treasurer