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, April 8, 2024

In attendance: Selectboard Chair Howard Hall, Selectboard Vice-Chair Teresa Boucher, Town Clerk & Treasurer Maggie McCormick

Via Zoom Emergency Management Coordinator Bob Groff, FreePoint Solar representative Dave Hazel

1. Howard called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

2. Additions/deletions to agenda: None.

3. Approval of the minutes of the March 25, 2024 Selectboard Meeting

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

4. Road Foreman's Report
    a. Rick was not in attendance due to his mother's passing.
    b. 2024 Paving Grant
        i. Howard moved to submit the 2024 state paving grant application. Teresa seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.
    c. Dump truck agreement to purchase
        i. The Town as a signed agreement to purchase the 2105 International dump truck from LaPete Equipment
        ii. Ownership should transfer to LaPete as soon as possible.
        iii. The proceeds from the sale of the dump truck will be the downpayment on the new dump truck.
    d. New dump truck financing
        i. A loan proposal was received from National Bank of Middlebury for 5 years at 5.25% interest.

ii. A loan proposal was received from Community Bank for 5 years at 5.25% interest.
iii. Maggie plans to move the Town's banking to Community Bank due to more favorable services and lower fees for checking and money market accounts.

Teresa moved to accept the Community Bank loan proposal to finance $227,185 or less. Howard seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.

5. Emergency Management Coordinator's Report
    a. The State has accepted the Local Emergency Management Plan (LEMP).
    b. Bob has requested a status update from Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC) on the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) submission.
    c. Bob posted seasonal information for spring to Front Porch Forum.

6. ACRPC Grant for Panton/Vergennes boundaries survey
    a. Jim Gish of the Vergennes PEL Study notified the Town that ACRPC had $75,000 of grants available on March 27th.
    b. Panton submitted a letter of application for a $10, 000 grant to perform a boundary survey in conjunction with Vergennes. Vergennes also applied for a $10, 000 grant. and received notice of award.
    c. Panton received notice that the Town was awarded the grant and is awaiting award letter/grant contract from ACRPC.
    d. Maggie noted that this grant money was all allocated by April 3rd, so it was fortunate the board did not delay its letter of application.

Teresa moved to accept the ACRPC grant award. Howard seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.

7. Municipal Energy Resilience Program (MERP) Grant
    a. The Selectboard signed the grant agreement. The board voted to apply for this grant at the February 12, 2024 Selectboard meeting.

8. Tree Committee

Teresa moved to establish the tree committee with Tree Warden Diana Raphael as chair and granting her the authority to establish membership as she sees fit, Howard seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.

9. Selectboard meeting schedule
    a. Maggie asked to move Selectboard meetings back to Tuesdays.
    b. Selectboard meetings will remain on Mondays.

10. Town Hall personnel and hours
    a. Suzanne's last day as assistant clerk is April 10, 2024.
    b. Maggie has previously scheduled appointments during times the outgoing assistant clerk was scheduled. The Selectboard agreed Maggie could close Town Hall as needed as long as changes were posted at least 48-hours in advance on the Town website, Front Porch Forum, and sent to the town residents email list.

11. Resident concern/complaint procedure
    a. Maggie created a form for residents to complete in order to submit concerns to the Selectboard.

12. Public comment: None

13. Communications
    a. Howard reported that a resident called him to express they are not in favor of the solar field and suggested that Howard is in collusion with the developer.
    b. Howard expressed that the Selectboard does not have a position on this solar field and will hear all comments.
    c. A meeting is scheduled for April 18 at Vergennes City Hall with board members of the five towns and VARS.
        i. Howard and Teresa from Panton
        ii. Rhonda Williams and Brett Newton from Waltham
        iii. Walter Reed from Ferrisburgh
        iv. Peter Briggs from Addison

14. Review/approval of accounts payable warrant, timesheets & payroll warrant
Teresa moved to approve the accounts payable warrant in the amount of $62,463.64 and the payroll warrant in the amount of $10,026.19. Howard seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.

15. Executive session to discuss personnel
Howard moved to enter executive session. Teresa seconded. all in favor; the board entered executive session at 6:13 p.m.
Teresa moved to exit executive session. Howard seconded. All in favor; the board returned to open session at 6:59 p.m.

16. Adjournment

Teresa moved to adjourn. Howard seconded. All in favor; the meeting was adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Maggie McCormick
Town Clerk & Treasurer