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, May 13, 2024

In attendance: Selectboard Chari Howard Hall, Selectboard Vice Chair Teresa Boucher, Selectboard Member Zach Weaver, Emergency Management Coordinator Bob Groff, Road Foreman Rick Cloutier, Town Clerk & Treasurer Maggie McCormick, Kathy Kennett, Chuck Kennett, M'Lissa Dayton

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 April 22, 2024 Selectboard Meeting

Tereas moved to accept the minutes as written. Howard seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.

4. Highway Foreman's Report
    a. West Road ditching is in progress. The ditch will be lined with stone.
        i. Gary Norton and Jim McBride are taking loads of dirt
    b. Building equipment barn lean-to and re-siding old salt shed
        i. Clover State
            1. siding $19500
            2. lean-to $28,900
        ii. Cornerstone
            1. siding $8847
            2. lean-to $17,951
    c. Fixing the sod in front of 579 Panton Road
        i. The ground has been leveled and grass will be planted
        ii. Rick will bill contractor responsible for the damage for time and materials
    d. Dismantling existing fuel area
        i. This will only be done once a replacement is built.

e. Sign new dump truck Loan note
    i. Maggie noted that the application for the Municipal Equipment Fund Loan for $110, 000 is still pending.

Teresa made a motion to take out loan from Community Bank in the amount of $227,185.00 for the purchase of the new dump truck. Howard seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.

5. Emergency Management Coordinator's Report
    a. Both the Local emergency Management Plan (LEMP) and the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) were returned for additional information/corrections. Bob has made the changes and both are ready to be resubmitted.

6. Review/approve revised Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP)

Teresa moved to accept the revised LHMP. Zach seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.

7. Appoint Maple Broadband Representative

Teresa nominated Howard as the Maple Broadband representative. Zach seconded. Teresa aye, Zach aye. Howard nay. The motion passed.

8. Review/Sign ACRPC Boundaries Grant Contract—moved to the warrants section of the agenda.

9. Inclusivity Declaration

Zach moved to adopt the Vermont Declaration of Inclusion. Teresa seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.

10. Assistant Treasurer/Clerk search
    a. Maggie has interviewed two candidates. Staffing needs will be discussed in executive session.

11. Reappraisal Notice Mailing
    a. Will contain an information sheet, a grievance form, and the grand list showing 2012 values and current values.
    b. Will be mailed on Friday, May 17, 2024.

12. Zoning Certificate of Occupancy/Compliance

a. The Zoning Administrator noted an increase in realtor requests for "certificates of compliance" with zoning regulations. Because these are "ad hoc" requests not related to a current zoning permit, the ZA suggested a higher fee for these certificates of compliance, which are defined in the zoning regulations. Maggie and David will research similar certificates in other towns and the associated fees.

13. Rescheduling the Monday, May 27 Selectboard meeting.
    a. Due to the Memorial Day holiday, the next Selectboard meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 28 at 5:30 p.m.

14. Public comment
    a. Kathy Kennett: town hiring of Leslie Caldwell appears to be conflict of interest because she's worked for the solar company
    b. Howard answered he has spoken with her and she's a bulldog, has recommended a higher allowance for the Town's legal fees. He feels confident that she is looking out for our best interests. Her name came from Ben Marks, the lawyer who did the Town's legal work for the Panton Road solar installation.
    c. Kathy asked if there was discussion outside of the executive session.
    d. Howard answered that there's no requirement to discuss legal or hiring items in open session.
    e. Chuck Kennett asked how many lawyers were interviewed. Answer one—there are not a lot of qualified solar legal experts.
    f. Current solar field benefits—Green Mountain Power
        i. Lights
        ii. Heating
        iii. Insulation
        iv. Garage upgrades
        v. Meeting with Mary Powell and there was a presentation at the town meeting that year.
        vi. Battery backup is available to Town Hall and Town Garage
        vii. Green Lantern had the lease, and it was purchased by GMP so they could produce power, rather than buying hydro from Canada.

15. Communications
    a. Tree Committee

i. Maggie noted that the Tree Committee is a town committee subject to Open Meeting Law rules and meeting minutes would need to be taken and published.

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

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

17. Review/Sign ACRPC Boundaries Grant Contract

Teresa moved to accept the ACRPC for $10,000 to formally establish the southern and western boundaries between Panton and Vergennes. Zach seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.

18. Executive session to discuss Town staffing/positions

The Selectboard invited M'Lissa Dayton to join the executive session.

Howard moved to enter executive session at 6:21. Teresa seconded. All in favor; the board entered executive session.

Teresa moved to exit executive session. Zach seconded. All in favor; the board returned to open session at 7:55 p.m.

19. Adjournment

Zach moved to adjourn. Teresa seconded. All in favor; the meeting was adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Maggie McCormick
Town Clerk & Treasurer