Town of Panton Chartered 1761

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Selectboard Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 28, 2024

In attendance: Selectboard Vice-Chair Teresa Boucher, Selectboard Member Zach Weaver, Emergency Management Coordinator Bob Groff, Town Clerk & Treasurer Maggie McCormick, Chuck Kennett, Sharon Ashcraft, Becky Condon

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

2. Additions/deletions to the agenda: None.

3. Approval of the minutes of the May 13, 2024 Selectboard Meeting

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

4. Emergency Management Coordinator's Report
   a. The Local Emergency Management Plan (LEMP) was resubmitted to the state and has been accepted and posted.
   b. The Local Hazard Mitigation Plane (LHMP) has been resubmitted and is awaiting reply from the state.
   c. Ryan Brown, Panton's other representative to the Regional Emergency Management Committee, will come meet the Selectboard, either in person or via Zoom. Ryan works for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), which requires him to monitor his participation for potential conflicts of interest.
   d. The FEMA floodplain maps are being updated. Bob will advise the Selectboard of changes once they are finalized.
   e. The 2024 hurricane forecast includes a 40 –50% chance of increased temperatures this season.

5. Resident Concerns
   a. Proposed Solar Field Benefit—bike path/lanes
      i. The Selectboard received Collette McNamara's Resident Concern Form suggesting that if the proposed West Road solar field is built, the Town should

ask for a bike lane to be constructed, funded by the solar development company.

b. Speeding on Slang Road
    i. Maggie reported that Gary Norton had expressed his concerns about drag racing on Slang Road and that more police presence/patrols are needed, particularly on nights and weekends.

6. Reappraisal Grievances
    a. Maggie reported that grievance hearings are being scheduled on June 11 and June 12, with four scheduled at this time.

7. Childcare Contribution
    a. Maggie informed the Selectboard of the imposition of a Childcare Contribution by the state effective July 1, 2024. Every employer in Vermont is required to contribute .44% of wages. The employer may deduct a maximum of 11% of the .44% from the employees.

Zach moved that the Town pay the .44%. Teresa seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.

8. Public comment
    a. Chuck Kennett
    b. Asked why no Selectboard members attended the Viridis meeting held on May 22. Zach replied that the Selectboard has no role at a Viridis informational meeting . Teresa stated she plans to attend the June 12 meeting as an interested resident.
    c. Zach asked how the meeting went. Sharon Ashcraft replied that the room was packed and believed that Viridis was not prepared for the amount of opposition expressed.
    d. Chuck asked if there was another big local event also scheduled for June 12 that would prevent locals from attending. Maggie replied that Viridis had scheduled the meetings, so there was no local input as to the dates.
    e. Sharon stated that Adam Lougee of Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC) stated the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) must give deference to the Town Energy Plan. She also stated that DRB/PC Chair Mary Rudd has said that Howard could override DRB/PC. Teresa replied that Howard cannot override the DRB/PC by himself and that is unlikely that the Selectboard would contradict the DRB/PC.
    f. Sharon further stated that Viridis wants 300 acres for profitability but the farmer who owns land within the area designated by the Town Energy plan does

not want to lease his land to solar, which is why Viridis has moved the planned site to West Road.

g. Chuck asked if the Town will install a PA system upstairs and/or fix the acoustics? All acknowledged that the space echoes and it is even harder to hear if participating via Zoom.
h. Sharon: A bike path was considered years ago. DOT needed to get involved and the cost was estimated to be in the hundreds of thousands of dollars.
i. Sharon: Kevin Sullivan has volunteered to mow South Road trail at no cost to the town. The Selectboard agreed he could do so.

9. Communications
    a. A postcard was received that expressed opposition to the solar proposal.
    b. Maggie reported that the State which has provided bound printed copies of the Statutes to each Town Clerk's office would likely start charging the Towns $401.50 annually for the volumes. All statutes are online and in the three plus years Maggie has been clerk, no one has come in to reference the printed statutes. The selectboard determined to discontinue printed statute delivery.

10. Review/approval of accounts payable warrant, timesheets & payroll warrant
    a. Accounts Payable Warrant 24022, $294,662.32
    b. Payroll Warrant 24022, $8,633.70

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

11. Executive session to discuss Town staffing/positions

The Selectboard invited Becky Condon to participate in executive session. Zach moved to enter executive session. Teresa seconded. All in favor; the board entered executive session at 5:59 p.m.

Teresa moved to exit executive session. Zach seconded. All in favor; the board returned to open session at 6:35 p.m.

12. Adjournment

Zach moved to adjourn. Teresa seconded. All in favor; the meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Maggie McCormick
Town Clerk & Treasurer