Town of Panton Chartered 1761

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Selectboard Budget Meeting Minutes
Monday, December 2, 2024

In attendance: Selectboard Chair Howard Hall, Selectboard Vice-Chair Teresa Boucher, Assistant Town Clerk Donna Oliver, Kevin Cooke, Kathy Kennett, Charles Kennett, Sharon Ashcraft, M'Lissa Dayton, Jamie Dayton, Richard Jackson, Jeanne Jackson, Cindy Cooke, Steve Weber, Nick Jackson

1. Teresa called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

2. Additions/deletions to the agenda: None.

3. Public Comment
    a. Kathy Kennett asked about the status of a paving grant and why it's not included in the budget. Teresa said it may be an oversight; we usually receive these without question.

4. Working Budget Session
    a. Several items need review by Selectboard, such as recording fees, weight permits, state aid to highways, zoning administration, telephone/internet, COLA increase for road crew, highway health insurance, accounting services.
    b. We have reduced the salary for the new clerk, but this is the negotiated amount for this year. We will need to increase the amount for the FY26 budget. Any anticipated COLA increases should appear in the SB discretionary line.
    c. We need to increase education expenditures for the clerk, assistant clerk and Becky Condon.
    d. Question about service on the heat pumps. They are currently covered under the GMP E-Volve program. When does it end?
    e. Discussion of the number of town reports to print. Suggested 50.

f. We are under contract with VARS for $5,000. They may want an increase, so this has been increased to $10,000, but not $21K.
g. Kathy Kennett believes we signed a contract for legal services regarding the solar field; however, Howard said we didn't. It would have been voted on in a board meeting, probably in April.
h. We need to include the payment for the pickup/dump truck. Discussion of why it is so much over budget. Kevin Cooke reviewed the cost of the new vehicle and sale of the old vehicle, which nets to about $40K over budget. This amount may have come from highway equipment funds. Questions about how this was approved. Did the SB approve it without voter approval?
i. What is the town's philosophy regarding major purchases? Our philosophy is to save ahead.
j. Believing the Selectboard is constantly under attack, Teresa said she was leaving the meeting.

5. Adjournment

Howard declared the meeting over at 6:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Oliver
Assistant Clerk