Town of Panton Chartered 1761

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Selectboard Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 12th, 2026

In attendance:, Selectboard Member Kirsten De La Cruz, Selectboard Member Robert DeGraaf, Clerk/Treasurer Kyle Rowe, Sharon Ashcraft, Kathy Kennett, Chuck Kennett, Richard Jackson, Jeanne Jackson, Janice Moulton

Via Zoom: Selectboard Chair Zach Weaver, "Gerry", "Ipad"

1. Kirsten called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.
2. Additions to the Agenda;
    a. Item 9A-The Vergennes Fire Contract
    b. Item 9B-Delegate to VLCT
3. There was no Public Comment.
4. The SB began to consider the approval of minutes from the 8/12/26 Meeting;
    a. Kirsten motioned to approve the minutes, Robert seconded-**VOTE-ALL IN FAVOR**
5. Road Foreman's Report;
    a. The C/T apologized for the absence of the Road Foreman, who had intended to attend the usual Wednesday meeting, which had been re-scheduled to Tuesday to ensure a quorum.
    b. The C/T stated the Highway Department had been roadside mowing, was planning on pulling the swim platform from Arnold Bay, and working with Addison.
    c. The Town of Panton extends its condolences to the Sterns Family, and to the Town of Addison, and the Addison Volunteer Fire Department at the loss of Phil Sterns. The Highway Department will work hard to support Addison during this time, as they have been supported by Addison over the years.
    d. It was noted that the tractor and mower are back up and running after a coolant line rupture, and that repairs have been made.
6. The C/T provided a report;

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a. The transition to the new website was still scheduled for before the end of the month, and that the Clerk's Office had been reviewing drafts.
b. Tax Bills were mailed at the end of August, and some residents have already begun paying.
c. The Joint Survey Committee is still trying to find a date for its second meeting, but the initial meeting went well.
d. The General Election will be held on November 3rd, and ballots will be mailed to all eligible and active voters by October 1st. The Clerk will have extra's and can provide replacements.
e. There were a few general items to consider as we approach budgeting season, including some expected increased cost centers, as well as a plan to re-allocate the Digitization Fund into a more useful place.

7. The SB began to consider the Highway Capital Projects Fund Expenditure;
    a. The C/T stated that the Highway Department had replaced 9 culverts this summer, of which only 4 or potentially 5 were planned for. Damage and debris had forced the Highway Department to replace them, and as part of the project completion, new fill material and top coat needed to be added. The cost of finalizing the culvert repairs was $20,376, which the Treasurer and Road Foreman are requesting from the Reserve Fund. The fund has a balance of approximately $50k.
    b. Kirsten motioned to approve the project finalization expense from the Highway Capital Project Reserve Fund in the amount of $20,376, Robert seconded-**VOTE-ALL IN FAVOR**
8. The SB began discussion on the hearing for the Vergennes/Panton Boundary Issue;
    a. The C/T stated that the Ad Hoc Committee had met multiple times, and had a tentative agreement/proposal. As part of compliance with the statute, a public hearing has to be held. The Vergennes City Council would be considering the same question tonight, and if both legislative bodies answered favorably, Wednesday, September 16th, at the Vergennes High School Cafeteria at 6:00 p.m. would be the date and time.
    b. There were a number of questions from the public, however the C/T stated that the goal was for everyone to hear the details at the same time, at the hearing.
    c. It was additionally noted that this hearing would be concerned with a statement of principles from both parties, as the agreement itself would take some time and legal work to draft. However it was noted that it would reflect the principle agreed upon by the two parties.
    d. The SB confirmed that they would try to make that date work.
9. The SB began a review of the FY27 Budget and Balance Sheet;
    a. The C/T noted that there were no major changes from the previous month, and reiterated that multiple invoices and bills had been prepaid to take advantage of preferential pricing, or limit expenditure on interest. Overall, the budget stands at

a normal percentage for the time of year, and the balance sheet reflects the relatively healthy financial position of the town.

10. The SB began consideration of Item 9A, the Vergennes Fire Contract;
    a. The C/T stated that due to the City Council in Vergennes utilizing a surplus in the Fire Fund, the bills to the partner towns would be less than the budgeted amount. The SB and voters had approved $75k for the Fire Contract, and the new total would be approximately $60k.
    b. Kirsten asked what would happen with the surplus, and if it would be set aside to help offset future fire contracts
        i. The C/T stated that until the SB created an assigned or committed fund, the surplus would remain in the General Fund, but could be put aside for that purpose.
    c. It was noted that this was already an agreed upon price, and the SB could sign this contract having already approved the expense.
11. The SB began consideration of Item 9B-Nominating a delegate to VLCT
    a. The C/T noted that VLCT's Town Fair was approaching, and that the SB could appoint a member, or the C/T to serve as the voting delegate from Panton. The C/T is already on the Board of Directors of VLCT.
    b. There was discussion amongst the board members as to whom to appoint.
    c. Kirsten motioned to appoint any singular member of the Board (Zach Weaver, Teresa Boucher, Reece Jaring, Kirsten De La Cruz, and Robert DeGraaf) to serve as the delegate, and it no member of the SB was available, the C/T would be authorized to serve as the delegate, Robert seconded-**VOTE-ALL IN FAVOR**
12. The SB began reviewing AP and Payroll Warrants;
    a. All warrants were signed, however a motion was not taken.
13. Robert motioned to go into Executive Session at 6:12 p.m. to address a citizen complaint involving possible disciplinary action against a municipal employee, and potential employment of an employee, Kirsten seconded-**VOTE-ALL IN FAVOR**
    a. The SB came out of Executive Session at 6:39 p.m.
    b. Zach made a motion that the Selectboard take no further action regarding the employee matter considered in executive session, Kirsten seconded-**VOTE-ALL IN FAVOR**
    c. Zach made a motion that the SB provide the citizen a letter that would be included in these minutes (Appendix A), Kirsten seconded-**VOTE-ALL IN FAVOR.**
14. Robert motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m., Kirsten seconded-**VOTE-ALL IN FAVOR**