Town of Panton Chartered 1761

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Selectboard Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 13, 2023

In attendance: Selectboard Chair Howard Hall, Selectboard Vice Chair Teresa Boucher, Selectboard Member Zach Weaver, Emergency Management Coordinator Bob Groff, DRB/PC Chair Mary Rudd, Panton ANSWD Board Representative and Town Moderator Martha DeGraaf, Addison County Sheriff Michael Elmore, Town Clerk-Treasurer Maggie McCormick

Via Zoom: Town Advisor Sandy Fogg

AGENDA

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

2) Additions/deletions to agenda: Road foreman cannot attend tonight's meeting.

3) Approval of the minutes of the January 23, 2023 Selectboard meeting
   a) Zach moved to approve the minutes as written. Howard seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.

4) Road Foreman's Report; tabled.

5) Addison County Sheriff-elect Michael Elmore
   a) Sheriff Elmore asked for Town law enforcement priorities.
      i) Howard requested a more visible presence versus traffic violations/tickets.
      ii) Additional patrols at Arnold Bay parking lot during the season.
      iii) Change up radar spots.
   b) Zach asked if the Town should increase its current patrol hours (16hours/month). Sheriff Elmore recognized that most of the sheriff's office funding comes from contracts, and suggested at least another 4 hours/month could be helpful for visibility.

6) ANSWD School Board Representative Martha DeGraaf
   a) ANSWD Informational budget at 6:00 this evening.
   b) The legislature has yet to set education tax rates.

c) The proposed budget represents total expenditures down by 1.089%, which includes a surplus from last year offset this year's required funds.
d) Martha expressed her concern over using the current surplus to maintain a lower rate now, since no surplus is expected in the future, which will result in a sharper increase in following years. will drive the rate up higher in the future.
e) Since Martha is Panton's moderator, another ANWSD representative will present school information at Panton's Town meeting.

7) Town Meeting
a) A "rehearsal will be the primary agenda item for the February 27, 2023 Selectboard meeting.

8) Vergennes Corridor Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study—DRB/PC Chair Mary Rudd
a) Mary distributed a draft position statement letter to selectboard members for their review.
b) The goal at the next PELS meeting in March is for members to reach consensus on three proposals to be studied further.
    i) Options
        (1) Leave as is.
        (2) Route truck traffic on Route 7 and Route 17.
        (3) Designate Route 22A for southbound truck traffic and Route 7 for northbound truck traffic.
        (4) Create a new roadway across Otter Creek west of the current bridge and running through southern Panton.
c) The Town of Panton is opposed to any option that includes building a new road west of Route 22A.
d) This topic will be addressed at the Town Meeting under Article 8.
e) The clerk will forward Mary's letter to the town attorney for review.

9) Emergency Manager's Report
a) Bob reported that neighbors appreciated *The Panton Post* newsletter.
b) The Covid infection rate remains low everywhere but Rutland.
c) Meetings to update the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) are in progress.
d) Warm temperatures and the freeze-thaw cycle have made lake ice unreliable. Use extreme caution on all lakes and ponds.
e) Watch for flooding caused by snow melt.
f) Emergency Manager's Report

10) Public comment
   a) Sandy reported that the sign for Lake Road at Pease and Lake is missing and the signs at Spaulding and Lake is bent over at top.

11) Old Business
   a) Traffic signs on Hopkins Road and Adam's Ferry Road
      i) "Watch for children," "Watch for Pedestrians" signs have been installed. Rick has one more sign for Hopkins Road and needs to collaborate with Vergennes for placement.
   b) Radar sign monitoring for Jersey Street and Hopkins Road
      i) The radar sign was on Jersey Street for four weeks.
      ii) The radar sign was on Hopkins Road for three weeks.
   c) Dog waste removal addition to ordinance
      i) The Town has no enforcement capability.
      ii) Residents with a specific problem will be directed to call law enforcement.
   d) Removal of old schoolhouse at garage complex
      i) If demolished by the Town, materials may be hazardous and need to be taken to a qualified waste transfer station.
      ii) Schoolhouse availability to be announced at Town Meeting under Article 8.
      iii) The clerk will post again on Front Porch Forum.
      iv) Rick will be asked to determine disposal needs and costs.
   e) Tree Warden appointment
      i) Diana Raphael has come forward as a candidate for Tree Warden.
      ii) The clerk will send a job description and information about state resources for tree wardens.
   f) DRB/PC member appointment
      i) Diana Raphael has spoken to Michael Morris about the position.
   g) Public notice board installation at BJ's Farm Supply
      i) Rick will be asked to consult with Robert DeGraaf on location and drill holes for installation.
   h) Air BnB regulation
      i) It is problematic to regulate the use of private property and the Town has no enforcement capability. Residents with specific issues should contact law enforcement as needed.

12) BJ's liquor and tobacco license renewal
   a) Sandy and Teresa voiced support and appreciation for BJ's.
   b) Zach moved to approve both license renewals. Teresa seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.

13) Communications
    a) Howard recounted that a yoga participant had gotten their car stuck in snow behind Town Hall because it had not been plowed.
        i) Teresa will communicate Selectboard expectations to the road crew.
    b) Howard noted that a town resident had taken a loader bucket of sand from the garage for private use, which is not acceptable. Town residents may take the equivalent of two 5-gallon buckets of sand for private use.
        i) Teresa will communicate Selectboard expectations to the road crew.
    c) The radiant heating system in the garage is fully functional and the excess moisture problem that existed when it was first installed has been resolved.
    d) The Town Hall meeting space painting and floor refinishing is complete.
        i) Volunteers will paint benches and quarter-round floor molding. The latter will be installed by a contractor.
    e) The Addison County Chamber of Commerce sent a solicitation for donations to construct a new visitor's center at the Vergennes/Ferrisburgh train station.
        i) Zach moved to donate $100.00 of Town funds for the visitor's center. Howard seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.

14) Review/approval of accounts payable warrant, timesheets & payroll warrant
    a) Zach moved to accept the timesheets and warrants. Howard seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.

15) Executive session if needed. Not needed.

16) Teresa moved to adjourn. Zach seconded. All in favor; the meeting was adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Maggie McCormick
Clerk-Treasurer