Town of Panton Chartered 1761

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Selectboard Meeting Minutes
September 11, 2023

In attendance: Selectboard Chair Howard Hall, Selectboard Vice Chair Teresa Boucher Selectboard Member Zach Weaver, Road Foreman Rick Cloutier, Town Clerk & Treasurer Maggie McCormick, DRB/PC Vice Chair Bob Hartenstein, DRB/PC Member Gretchen Bailey, DRB/PC Member Annie Hopper, Christine Erickson

Via Zoom: Emergency Management Coordinator Bob Groff, DRB/PC Chair Mary Rudd

1) Howard called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.
2) Additions/deletions to agenda: None
3) Approval of the minutes of the August 28, 2023 Selectboard meeting.

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

4) Road Foreman's report
   a) Spaulding Road regrading is finished. This work was done through a state grant of $12,500.
   b) Mowing is ongoing
   c) Rick will remove brush/trees in town rights of way when help is available from a neighboring town
   d) Road crew hiring
      i) Clerk contacted Patricia Hannaford Career Center co-operative education lead Len Schmidt, ProDriver CDL (commercial Driver's License) training company, and Mount Abraham Unison School District CDL training program director to find possible candidates and to determine training timelines if the town hires a candidate who needs to earn a CDL.
      ii) Already posted to Vermont League of Cities and Towns classifieds and the Vermont Agency of transportation listserv.
      iii) Will run an advertisement in Seven Days and The Burlington Free Press.
      iv) Teresa suggested contacting the tech centers in Burlington and Essex.
   e) Boom tractor

i) Possible co-purchase with Addison--$55000 total
ii) Tractor has 1400 hours and allows mowing behind guardrails and in ditches
iii) The town spent $6500 renting a boom mower in 2022 and will spend $3351.18 for rental in 2023.
iv) Chipper won't work with new boom mower
v) Keep both tractors we already have
vi) Boom tractor will be stored in Addison in winter.
vii) A memorandum of Understand will be created to detail the conditions of the agreement between Panton and Addison.

Zach moved to co-purchase the boom tractor for the amount up to $55,000 upon treasurer confirmation of available funds . Teresa seconded. All in favor; the motion passed. ZW, TB

f) Dump truck
i) The frame is expected to be delivered at the start of the year. Body should be complete a month later.
ii) Anticipated trade-in value of current dump truck is $65,000.

5) Emergency Management Coordinator's report
a) Addison Country Regional Planning staff have had Covid, resulting in delay of the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP).
b) Arnold Bay swimming/boating area separation designation has also been delayed due to ACRPC staff having Covid.
c) Bob will attend the state Emergency Management conference on 9/20 and 9/21.

6) Vergennes Bypass discussion
a) Any "western" route will involve a platform bridge with a deck height of 50 feet because Otter Creek is a federal waterway and must be navigable up to the falls.
i) Visual and noise impact of a bridge that tall is a major concern.
b) Howard has suggested that all truck traffic be routed to Route 17 through the installation of signs.
c) The borders of the City or Vergennes are in question. Borders were potentially "expanded" in the 1980's to generate more revenue for Vergennes. Land records research is needed to gain additional information. If Panton/Vergennes border is more southerly than currently mapped, the southern terminus of a western route would be fully in Panton.
d) The explosion of a LPG truck on Route 7 in Ferrisburgh this summer highlights the danger of the current truck traffic through Vergennes.
e) Jim Gish, who was a community liaison on the downtown Middlebury project is now working on the PEL Study as a project liaison. Part of the Middlebury project

directive was to improve railroad infrastructure to increase rail freight. To date, this aspect of the project has not been accomplished.

f) Mary will contact Town attorney Benj Putnam to ensure the Town of Panton takes all actions needed to protect the Town's legal rights. The Town Plan is a legal document and does not include a truck bypass.
g) The project lead will attend the November Panton DRB/PC meeting.

7) Fire Protection Contract: Tabled.

8) Public comment: None

9) Communications
   a) Audit with Telling and Hillman cost would not change if the Town had no printed financial statements or contracted with Telling and Hillman for multiple years.

10) Review/approval of accounts payable warrant, timesheets & payroll warrant

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

11) Executive session if needed

Howard moved to enter executive session. Zach second4ed. All in favor; the board entered executive session at 6:33 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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Maggie McCormick

Clerk & Treasurer