Town of Panton Chartered 1761

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Selectboard Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2023

In attendance: Selectboard Vice-Chair Teresa Boucher, Selectboard Member Zach Weaver, Road Foreman Rick Cloutier, Clerk & Treasurer Maggie McCormick

1) Teresa called the meeting to order at 5:30.

2) Additions/deletions to agenda: Clerk noted that the executive session was not needed.

3) Approval of the minutes of the October 23, 2023 Selectboard Meeting

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

4) Road Foreman's Report
   a) Trucks are ready for winter.
   b) VTrans has a new app for inventorying road signs
   c) VTrans has indicated that culverts under private driveways will be municipalities' responsibility. Rick will inventory and will repair/replace as many each year as budget allows, beginning with the ones that are most damaged.
   d) Rick and Tree Warden Diana Raphael will do an emerald tree inventory on November 17.
      i) Some trees will need to be removed by a professional tree service due to proximity of power lines.
      ii) Rick proposes using money in the contracted services budget line that will no longer be needed to rent boom mower to pay for tree removal.
   e) All dirt roads were graded on Saturday, November 11.
   f) Gerry Currier has agreed to be on-call for plowing beginning on December 15.

5) Emergency Management Coordinator's Report

   Maggie read the EMC update:

a) GMP Zero Outage Initiative in planning. More hardening of grid and burying of power lines in plan. This is a multi-year effort.
b) LHMP: Spoke to Andrew in person at the REMC meeting on 8 Nov. The LHMP still isn't ready, I'm pressing him on it.
c) Submitted survey from VEM requesting feedback about July and August severe weather.
d) In contact with Harry Schoppmann, new VEM contact for us, on attending an upcoming Select Board meeting for introduction and discussing on survey feedback.
e) Prepping for winter FPF information posted.

6) Public comment: None.

7) Vermont 250th Anniversary Resolution

The Selectboard signed onto the resolution.

8) Lister services price changes
a) As of January 1, 2024, Real Capital Consulting (RCC) will change the monthly email billing from 0.5 hours/week at the hourly rate to a monthly retainer of $150.00. Since the hourly rate is $66.95, this change doesn't change the Town's cost significantly and it may be slightly lower.
b) As of January 1, 2024, Real Capital Consulting (RCC) will change the inflation adjustment to "U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index, All Items Less Food and Energy, Not Seasonally Adjusted" (changed from "Northeast Consumer Price Index") and the 3% cap will removed .

9) Communications
a) November 27 Selectboard meeting will focus on emergency response capacity of mutual aid responders for Panton and surrounding towns.
b) All audit information has been supplied to Telling & Hillman, the Town's professional audit firm.
c) Clerk elected to maintain current vehicle insurance coverage through PACIF at $250K per incident at a premium of ~$60/year versus the new state default of $10M per incident at ~$400/year after speaking with PACIF representative who said they have very rarely seen a claim in excess of $250K since 1997.

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

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

11) Executive session to discuss employee compensation and benefits. Not needed.

12) Adjournment

Zach moved to adjourn. Teresa seconded. All in favor; the meeting was adjourned at 5:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Maggie McCormick
Clerk & Treasurer