

**TOWN OF SWANTON**  
**MINUTES**  
**SELECTBOARD REGULAR MEETING**  
**Swanton Town Office Building**  
**1 Academy Street, Swanton, VT 05488**  
***Tuesday, December 4, 2012 @ 7:00 p.m.***

Present: John Lavoie, Selectboard Chairman; Selectmen Dan Billado, Joel Clark, Dick Thompson, and Harold Garrett; David Jescavage, Town Administrator; Cathy Fournier, Town Clerk; Yaasha Wheeler, secretary; Betsy Fournier and Patti Jo Walker of the Swanton Recreation Department; Heather Buczkowski, Channel 15.

A. Call to Order

Mr. Lavoie called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Lavoie led those present in the pledge of allegiance.

C. Meeting Topics:

1. Minutes

a) November 20, 2012 SLB Meeting

Mr. Thompson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Garrett to accept the minutes as printed. Motion carried.

2. Old Business

a) Arena Renovation Project Update

Mr. Lavoie stated that the three Selectboards of Swanton, Highgate, and Franklin had met to discuss the Highgate arena renovation last week. As a Joint Selectboard Committee, they had agreed to pursue the 200 foot ice size. The original cost was estimated to be \$5.1 million, but the Joint Selectboard Committee was looking into ways to lower the price to the range of \$4.5 million. The next Joint Selectboard meeting would be held on 12/20/12 in Highgate at 7 p.m. Mr. Lavoie invited the public to attend.

b) Recreational Budget Discussion

Betsy Fournier and Patti Jo Walker were present. Mrs. Fournier stated that the Recreation Department had fared well in 2012, with exceptional numbers for all sports activities. There were new lights in the rear parking lot, a new equipment shed, and a new soccer field. The department was working with the state on installing a handicapped accessible ramp. There would also be some kitchen renovations. The department was level-funded for the 4<sup>th</sup> year in a row and was asking \$86,100. Mr. Thompson commended the department with its prudent and efficient use of money on behalf of the taxpayers. Mrs. Fournier said that it would not be possible without the knowledgeable staff and the willing volunteers. Mr. Thompson reminded that the budgets would go to print the third week of January, so the recreation budget should be turned in by the first week of January. Mrs. Cathy Fournier requested Mrs. Betsy Fournier to send the completed budget to Mr. Jescavage, but to also CC the town clerks. Mr. Lavoie thanked Mrs. Betsy Fournier and Mrs. Walker for their time.

c) Other Updates

Mr. Jescavage stated that the Comstock Road and Kellogg Road intersection had been paved along the "bad corner."

Mr. Jescavage stated that the speed limit along Route 7 between Missisquoi River and the area near Woodshill would be reduced from 50 mph to 40 mph. The official document would be sent to Mrs. Cathy Fournier and the signs would arrive within a few weeks.

Mr. Jescavage stated that he had spoken with Fairfield about the Sweet Hollow Road project, and the Fairfield road foreman would contact Mr. Garrett. Mr. Jescavage had also called Sheldon about the Woodshill Road project, but had not yet been able to speak with the proper person. He had also e-mailed the Agency of Transportation about whether or not guardrails would be required if the road were raised about 4 feet. Mr. Thompson suspected that guardrails would be required.

Mr. Jescavage stated that he had updated the town directory and would e-mail it to Dianne Day, the Village clerk, to ask her to double-check the village information. He had also phoned Ed Lamothe, the former road foreman, to ask him to return or pay for the coveralls that he had retained.

Mr. Lavoie said that he felt the interlocal contract for the Highgate arena project should be reviewed

by a lawyer, or perhaps even lawyers from each town. Mr. Thompson replied that the contract was not ready for that stage yet. Mr. Lavoie stated that, once the contract was ready, he would like to move things along. Mr. Thompson mentioned that Mr. Jim Barlow was already reviewing the articles.

### 3. Law Enforcement & Fire Department

- a) Swanton Village Police Chief Report (postponed to 12/18 meeting)
- b) Swanton Village Fire Chief Report (postponed)

### 4. Highway Department

#### a) Road Foreman Hiring Announcement

Mr. Lavoie thanked the ten applicants who had applied for the road foreman position. He stated that the Selectboard had narrowed the applicants to three, whom they interviewed. At the end of the interviews, the Selectboard had unanimously decided to present the position to Harold Garrett, the Selectman who had been the interim road foreman. Mr. Garrett would now be the new Swanton Road Foreman. He brought a lot of experience to the road crew and, having been a Selectman, knew what sort of things to watch out for. Mr. Garrett thanked the Selectboard for selecting him, recalling that it had taken them until midnight to convince him to be the interim road foreman. He said that he felt that he and the crew worked well together, and he noted that the road crew worked hard. He added that his Selectboard tenure ended at midnight on 03/04/13. He stated that he was proud to have served on the Swanton Selectboard for 12 years and to watch it go from a small town to the second largest community in Franklin County. Mr. Thompson added that he felt Mr. Garrett's addition to the road crew created a "well rounded team." Mr. Lavoie thanked Mr. Garrett for his service to the town.

#### b) Other Updates

Mr. Jescavage stated that Amanda from Fairfield had requested the Swanton highway crew to dump a load of sand next to French Hill Road in which the turtles could burrow and lay their eggs. Mr. Garrett said that he had spoken with her and agreed to bring a ton-truck load of sand. He had also explained Swanton's plans for Sweet Hollow Road and she had felt that the Fairfield Selectboard would agree to help to haul stone and pay for their share of stone if Swanton would do the grading.

Mr. Garrett stated that he was waiting to hear back from Sheldon, but he planned to meet the road foreman on Woodshill Road to discuss the upcoming project. He wanted to raise the road 3 or 4 feet, to take the "sags" out and meet the hill better. Mr. Lavoie recommended that the Selectboard do a site visit, perhaps with the Sheldon Selectboard. Mr. Garrett explained that he was willing to use Swanton's equipment for the project if Sheldon would help to haul the stone.

Mr. Garrett stated that Dave McWilliams from PermaSign had told him that the two yield signs that Swanton needed would be \$45 each. Mr. Garrett needed to know the footage from the railroad on each side, so that he could call Dig Safe. Mr. Jescavage agreed to check with Jeff Cota about that. Mr. Garrett asked whether to order the signs now or in 2013, and the Selectboard instructed him to order the signs now. Mr. Thompson said that there should be a municipal uniform traffic device (MUTD) to show the side road on a yellow rectangular sign. Mr. Garrett mentioned that the sign was missing at the County Road/Beebe Road intersection. Mr. Thompson asked to know the status of the hazardous/high-risk road grant of South River County and Mr. Jescavage said that he had been told that it would be worked on in 2013.

Mr. Jescavage stated that he had checked with Mr. Ron Kilburn about the Town Office's leaky chimney and that Mr. Kilburn had felt that removing the chimney would not damage the building's historic character. Mr. Lavoie said that the chimney should be removed to fix the roof problem, perhaps with the aid of the village.

Mr. Garrett asked the board to have Mr. Jescavage send a thank you note to Mr. Reginald Beliveau and Mr. Mike Menard for letting the highway crew use the village chipper. Mr. Jescavage said that he had already sent a thank you note, assuming that they were discussing the same incident.

Mr. Billado arrived at 7:33 p.m.

### 5. Public Comments – None.

### 6. Correspondence

Mr. Jescavage explained the Route 7 speed limit change, stating that a resident who lived on Route 7 had told the Selectboard that he had been almost killed near Woodshill Road and requested the Selectboard to reduce the speed limit from 50 mph to 40 mph in that area. Mr. Jescavage, Mr. Thompson, Chief "Joey" Stell of the Swanton Village Police Department, and Mr. Garrett had met with the Agency of Transportation traffic committee to request the change, based on studies of accidents in that area. The traffic committee had agreed to lower the region between the Missisquoi River and Woodshill Road from 50 mph to 40 mph, and official documentation would be sent to Cathy Fournier, Swanton Town Clerk. The new signs would also arrive in a few weeks. Another study would be done in the spring of 2013 to consider reducing the speed from 50 mph to 40 mph from Chase Auto the St. Albans town line.

#### 7. Any Other Necessary Business

Mr. Thompson stated that he went to CCR to find a mower. He had looked at a Kioti, 3 cylinder diesel with 24-horsepower and a small chassis. It came with a loader and a 60 inch mid-mount mower, with the capability to add on a 50 inch snow blower, for a year-end special total of \$18,850. There was a municipal discount of 15% that would not apply with the year-end special. After January 1<sup>st</sup>, the tractor would be \$14,200, with \$1850 for the mower and \$3500 for the snowblower. That would bring the price down to \$16,500 or perhaps \$13,600 if they decided not to have a snowblower. The tractor would come with a 4-year warrantee, with the possibility of a 5<sup>th</sup> year if the tractor was bought during the special year-end sale. The salesman had stated that the small chassis with the larger horsepower was probably more applicable for the Town's needs. There was also a Massey-Ferguson available for \$600 less, with a 3-year warrantee.

Mr. Lavoie suggested that the 3-point hitch for the brush-hog would be useful. Mr. Garrett asked if the municipal discount would apply to the \$18,850 and Mr. Thompson said it would not apply to the \$13,500 for the tractor. Mr. Garrett said that he felt the snowblower was not necessary. Mr. Billado and Mr. Thompson recommended that Mr. Garrett price out John Deere and Fournier's tractors as well. Mr. Garrett and Mr. Thompson agreed to price out the available tractors.

Mr. Billado asked what would be done with the old tractor and Mr. Garrett said that he would send it to an auction to hopefully bring in a few hundred. It did not run.

Mr. Lavoie mentioned that the Selectboard should eventually reevaluate the portions that Mr. Brian Thompson mowed for the town, since some sections might not need as much attention as they had been receiving. Mr. Lavoie asked if the trailer would work well with a new tractor and Mr. Garrett said that it would. Mr. Billado suggested that Mr. Kevin LaPan of the highway crew could build a blade for the tractor to plow the sidewalks and Mr. Garrett added that a little tractor would be handy to do the road shoulders after doing the blacktop, instead of using the one-ton truck.

#### 8. Upcoming Events

- a) Town Clerk's Office Closed for a clerks' meeting @ noon on December 5, 2012
- b) Planning Commission Meeting @ 7 p.m. on December 12, 2012
- c) Selectboard Meeting @ 7 p.m. on December 18, 2012
- d) DRB Meeting @ 7 p.m. on December 20, 2012
- e) MVR Contract at 6:30 w/ Highgate SLB, then 3 Selectboards Meeting in Highgate Town Office @ 7 p.m. on December 20, 2012

Mr. Billado noted that, although the agenda stated "MVR contract," there was no contract, only an understanding.

Mr. Thompsom asked if the Town would hold a Christmas party for Town employees and, if so, when. The Selectboard agreed to hold a Christmas party after Christmas. Mr. Lavoie asked Mrs. Fournier to ask for the availability of all Town employees.

#### 9. Executive Session (personnel)

Mr. Thompson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Billado, to go into executive session at 7:53 p.m. for personnel. Motion carried.

Mr. Billado made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thompson, to come out of executive session at 8:35 p.m. Motion carried. No action taken.

#### 10. Adjournment

Mr. Lavoie made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thompson, to adjourn at 8:36 p.m. Motion carried.

Typed on December 5, 2012  
Minutes by Yaasha Wheeler  
Received and filed by:

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Cathy Fournier, Swanton Town Clerk

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Date