

**TOWN OF SWANTON
MINUTES
SELECTBOARD SPECIAL MEETING
Swanton Town Office Building
1 Academy Street, Swanton, VT 05488
*Monday, January 21, 2013 @ 7:00 p.m.***

Present: John Lavoie, Selectboard Chair; Dan Billado, Selectboard Vice Chair; Joel Clark, Dick Thompson, and Harold Garrett, Selectmen; David Jescavage, Town Administrator; Cathy Fournier, Town Clerk; Channel 15.

A. Call to Order

Mr. Lavoie called the hearing to order at 7:00 p.m.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

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

C. Budget - General

Mrs. Fournier explained that the final budget was ready for review. Mr. Lavoie noted that there was an overall increase of 2.10% for the 2013 budget, and added that the freeze in the budget at the end of 2012 had helped them to pay off a large portion of their internal loan. Mr. Thompson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Clark, to accept the general budget as written. Motion carried. It was noted that there would be a \$32,559.50 carryover into 2013.

D. Budget – Highway

Mr. Lavoie summed up that the budget represented a minor increase of 1.02%. It was noted that upcoming expenses for the 2013 year involved a tool upgrade, including a blacktop saw that needed to be purchased. Mr. Billado made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thompson, to accept the Highway budget as written. Motion carried. Mr. Garrett abstained.

E. Public Comment

Mr. Thompson suggested that public comment be placed at the beginning of a meeting and at the end of a meeting as well, with each member of the public being allowed three minutes to speak. In this way, public comment would be taken in a timely manner.

Mr. Billado stated for the record that he felt that Mr. Clark did an excellent job running the Tri-Selectboard as chair, and that the criticism of him at the latest meeting was uncalled for.

F. Liquor Licenses

The Selectboard signed liquor license renewals for the Swanton Jolley station and for the Hannaford Supermarket.

G. Other Necessary Business

It was noted that there was no financial information from the school yet. Mr. Billado wanted to make it clear that he was not in favor of tearing up the paved roads and turning them into dirt roads as some people had misunderstood at the last meeting. Mr. Clark asked Mrs. Fournier to clarify the tax increase related to the proposed bond for the Highgate arena.

The Selectboard reviewed the following proposed timeline from Peter Cross of Cross Consulting Engineers:

1/22/13 – Mr. Cross and Mr. Jescavage would check the insurance relating to the project.

2/4/13 – The new Town garage project would go out to bid.

2/15/13 – There would be a walk-through of the site at 9 a.m.

2/22/13 – The bids would be opened at 2 p.m.

It was suggested that Andy Leduc and H. D. Campbell should be added to Mr. Cross's list of potential contractors for the garage.

Mr. Jescavage stated that he had worked with Mrs. Bethany Remmers of the Northwest

Regional Planning Commission and also with Reginald Beliveau, Village Manager, to submit a grant application for a sidewalk feasibility study; the application had been submitted.

Mr. Jescavage was instructed to add the changes suggested by Dick Thompson, to be included in the Selectboard report for the 2012 Town Report. The report would incorporate Kim Gates' report, the Selectboard report, and a brief biography of Ronald Kilburn.

H. Adjournment

Mr. Billado made a motion, seconded by Mr. Clark, to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 p.m. Motion carried.

Minutes by Yaasha Wheeler
Based on handwritten minutes taken by David Jescavage
Typed on January 22, 2013

Received and filed by:

Cathy Fournier, Swanton Town Clerk

Date