

TOWN OF SWANTON
MINUTES
SPECIAL SELECTBOARD MEETING
FINANCE MEETING
Swanton Town Office Building
1 Academy Street, Swanton, VT 05488
Tuesday, September 17, 2013 @ 6:30 p.m.

Present: John Lavoie, Selectboard Chair; Dan Billado, Selectboard Vice Chair; Kathy Lavoie, Dick Thompson, and Joel Clark, Selectmen; Cathy Fournier, Town Clerk; David Jescavage, Town Administrator; and Yaasha Wheeler, Secretary.

A. Call to Order

John Lavoie opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

B. Quarterly Budget Discussion

General

Mrs. Fournier stated that the general budget was on target, although it would be overbudget on the Town Office maintenance, because \$3500 of that budget had to be rolled over into the next year's purchase of a new rolling cabinet for the vault, and because there had been some incidental expenses, such as \$6000 for the lawn mower, repair of the A/C unit, and other such repairs. Mrs. Fournier noted that some people were now requesting their appropriations now that the tax money had come in.

Mr. Thompson emphasized that he felt that tax credits which exceeded liabilities should zero out, so that the Town did not have to pay people to live in Swanton. Mrs. Lavoie added that the cemetery maintenance issue should be discussed and Mr. Jescavage was instructed to touch base with them and invite them to a future meeting. Mr. Clark noted that the electric bill had increased and John Lavoie replied that that was because the electric rates had gone up.

Highway

Mrs. Fournier noted that the new garage budget was at 65% currently. Mr. Garrett added that the Woods Hill project \$12,200 balance on stone would be spent on Comstock Road and carried into road improvement for the next year. He had spent \$1000 on new road signs, which was all he wanted to do for the year, but he would continue the project the next year and use it as filler work. The new construction signs had been ordered, but their delivery had been delayed because the company that created the signs had received a large order from elsewhere in the nation, resulting in a delay for all other customers.

Kathy Lavoie asked about the line item for legal fees and John Lavoie explained that it typically rolled over into the next year, but was kept to pay any fees if, say, a highway crewman backed into someone else.

Mr. Garrett said that he needed to line Woods Hill Road at one 600-foot section with reflectors. He had searched for reflectors that met his specifications (round, clear, and high-visibility), but had not found any yet.

Mr. Billado noted that there was \$6000 in garage maintenance, which should be rolled over. Mr. Garrett added that it could be used to build the lean-to. Mr. Billado asked about the parts and supplies line item, and Mr. Garrett said that he had spent \$3500 for Barney's truck (8 tires) and he had to buy \$1500 worth of plow blades. The broken piston on Kevin LaPan's truck had been fixed for \$1700. Hopefully, the town would replace the dump truck next year, because it could only be used with the body up. Mr. Billado noted that the equipment and rental line looked like it was overbudget and Mrs. Fournier replied that it was not because the excise tax return offset it.

Mr. Billado pointed out that road improvement showed at 166% over budget, but that was because of the Woods Hill project, for which the town would receive grant money back.

Kathy Lavoie asked about the tree service payment for Lakewood Drive and Mr. Garrett said that the tree service wanted to buy the town's sifter, but had to work another \$600 before he could bring in the bill for Mrs. Fournier to write him a check. Also, the budget would be over on the loader rental.

The Selectboard reminded Mr. Garrett to buy any new tools that he needed with the appropriate money from the budget. Mr. Garrett agreed, stating that some of the equipment in the old garage was the personal equipment of the highway crew. Mr. Billado said that the crew should clean out the old garage, and Mr. Jescavage reminded the board that Andy Finelli had said that the building was only insured if it was being used for storage, so it could not be completely vacated.

Mr. Clark asked what line item the new truck would come out of next year, and Mr. Billado stated that it would come from the capital reserve fund.

C. Executive Session – None needed.

D. Adjournment

Mr. Clark made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thompson, to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Motion carried.

Typed on September 20, 2013

Minutes by Yaasha Wheeler

Received and filed by:

Cathy Fournier, Swanton Town Clerk

Date