

**TOWN OF SWANTON
MINUTES
SELECTBOARD MEETING
Swanton Town Office Building
1 Academy Street, Swanton, VT 05488
*Tuesday, November 5, 2013 @ 7:00 p.m.***

Present: John Lavoie, Selectboard Chair; Daniel Billado, Selectboard Vice Chair; Kathy Lavoie and Dick Thompson, Selectmen; David Jescavage, Town Administrator; Cathy Fournier, Town Clerk; Yaasha Wheeler, Secretary; Harold Garrett, Road Foreman; Allyn MacDonald, Swanton Library; Tim Smith, FCIDC; Peter Cross, Cross Consulting Engineers; Heather Buczkowski, Channel 15.

A. Call to Order

John Lavoie called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

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

C. Meeting Topics

1. Minutes

- October 14, 2013 SLB Special Fairfield Meeting
- October 15, 2013 SLB Regular Meeting

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

2. Public Comments – None.

3. Old Business

a) Review New Garage Paving CO with Peter Cross

Mr. Cross stated that Mr. Pratt believed he had completed the punch list items, with the exception of the “as built” drawings. Mr. Pratt offered \$5127 as a credit for redoing the entire pavement issue; Mr. Cross felt that was a fair credit and recommended acceptance. Kathy Lavoie asked to know what made the credit reasonable and Mr. Cross replied that, due to the size of the yard and the cost of paving, he expected about \$3000; however, this number was not based on specific calculations. Mr. Billado felt that the \$5000 would not fully cover the cost to redo the paving and Mr. Cross replied that the full amount was not usually received.

Mr. Thompson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lavoie, to accept the \$5127 credit from Millbrook for paving and to deal with the paving in the spring. Discussion: Mr. Billado asserted

that the prep work for the pavement was not done properly. Discussion concluded. Mr. Lavoie and Mr. Thompson voted aye; Kathy Lavoie and Mr. Billado voted nay. The proposal failed. Mr. Lavoie informed Mr. Cross that the full 5-man board would hopefully be available at the next meeting and they would make a decision then. Mr. Billado said that he felt \$7500 would be a more fair credit and Kathy Lavoie asked for a material and labor breakdown of the credit.

4. Economic Development

a) Economic Development Presentation – Postponed until later in the meeting.

b) Park D Permit Updates with Peter Cross

Mr. Cross stated that he was working with six permits with various expiration dates. He had submitted a request for a deadline extension for the potable water supply permit; the extension should arrive later in the month. The VTrans permit had been renewed with a new expiration date of December 1, 2015, and the Army Corps of Engineers wetland permit would be extended from December 5, 2013. The Act 250 permit expired in a year, so the Selectboard should spend the year discussing how to phase it. The stormwater discharge permit expired in 2021, but the restatement of compliance was needed in 2014 as a formality. The erosion control permit expired in July 2016.

a. Economic Development Presentation

Mr. Tim Smith came forward. He explained that the Regional Planning Commission had received a housing and development grant to develop a regional plan for sustainable communities and had begun with a community meeting at MVU in January 2013. Kathy Lavoie explained that the meeting had addressed how to create healthy physical, social, and economic regions. Mr. Smith added that FCIDC was brought into the discussion to focus on the healthy economic development. A 15-person committee had been formed, with a good geographical and demographic diversity. After analyzing and discussing the county's assets, the committee had developed 4 strategies that covered all aspects of a community: tourism, agriculture, manufacturing, small business, etc. Those strategies had been presented to a number of different entities and towns.

Kathy Lavoie explained that she was the facilitator of the meetings and the technical writer of the strategies. She enumerated the strategies as follows: (1) The health of citizens and businesses improve through supporting the community's unique landscape. The goal is to capitalize on the community's regional brand for the purposes of tourism. (2) The health of communities and businesses rely on employees who are work-ready through strong writing and basic skills. About \$190,000 worth of mini-grants would be distributed in communities to meet these strategies. (3) The health of businesses, employees, and communities depend on funding that is achievable and affordable, business costs that are reasonable and appropriate, and infrastructure that is available and predictable. (4) This last one is specific to Grand Isle County.

Kathy Lavoie stated that, although the strategies focused on business, a lot of the money would come through strong workers and a solid social fabric; mini grants would be applied to meet these strategies. Mr. Billado asked for a clarification of the strategy (3) and how that applied to

grant. Kathy Lavoie replied that you must be a non-profit organization to apply, and that it was important for the community to have a better understanding of existing infrastructures and what was needed to support expected economic growth. Mr. Billado asked how they would determine which grants were available so that they would not lose those opportunities. Mr. Smith explained that the FCIDC would continue to work with the Regional Planning Commission and point out opportunities as they came up. The RPC would do the infrastructure, and the committee would refer to the plan as work was done. The Selectboard commended the committee and the entities involved for their work.

b. Park D Discussion

Mr. Smith stated that part of the permit process involved mitigation, of which a fee of \$13,000 was coming due. The Department of Agriculture was willing to adjust the fee to a phase-in status as opposed to a lump sum. He and Mr. Jescavage would also reach out to the Act 250 commission and the VT Housing Conservation Board. The sign at the entrance of Park D had already attracted a potential buyer. The Selectboard thanked Mr. Smith for his work on the Town's behalf.

5. Law Enforcement

a) Swanton Village Police Chief Report

Mr. Stell summed up that October had seen about 45 calls in the town, with 6 traffic citations for a total of \$1178. Most of the thefts in the area seemed to be drug-related, based on observation from the bulk of arrests. The department was also actively investigating the theft of decorative walls from gravestones in two cemeteries within the town. Mr. Stell declined comment on the mugging that occurred on the Rail Trail (not the Swanton walking path), since the case was a VT State Police case. He added that targeting speeding violations on County Road seems to have slowed traffic down.

Mr. Billado thanked Chief Stell and his department for responding to issues outside of the contracted hours. Chief Stell replied that taking basic information regardless of the time ensured a good working relationship with the public.

b) Discuss VTrans Rte. 7 Speed Limit Letter

Mr. Jescavage presented a letter from Amy Gamble that implied that the speed limit change to 40 mph on Route 7 was not working, since recorded speeds put the 85th percentile closer to 50 mph than the currently-posted 40 mph. Chief Stell replied that he had been actively enforcing the speed limit, noting that although the road is engineered for faster speeds, there is a lot of pedestrian and bike traffic. He felt that 40 mph was reasonable and safe for the community. A study of the southern portion of Route 7 near the St. Albans/Swanton town line was planned for the future.

6. 2014 Budget Discussion

a) Library Budget

Allyn MacDonald came forward. He stated that the treasurer was not present, but he would do his best in her absence. He explained that some line items had been condensed into the

contingency fund. The new children's assistant had been given increased hours, and the director's salary had been increased from \$19,000 to \$25,000 to make the job more attractive. The budget had been reduced by over \$14,000. The repair of the front steps was under budget by about \$8000. The columns, however, needed to be replaced, because the rot of particularly the two on the outside was extreme. Mr. Jescavage estimated that replacing all 4 columns with carbon fiber type columns would cost about \$23,000. Mr. MacDonald reported that the board seemed uncomfortable with asking for a line item to complete the repair.

The Selectboard was concerned that decreasing the budget by \$14,000 might not accurately reflect the library's needs, or might necessitate a jump in needs the next year. The Selectboard also pointed out that if the library level-funded the budget and used the unused \$10,000 for building improvements, the money for the column replacement could be gathered without adding a line item.

Mr. Thompson made a motion, seconded by Kathy Lavoie, to authorize Mr. Jescavage to sign the contract with Alpine Restoration for the work on the front steps. Motion carried.

b) Highway Budget

This item was schedule for the next meeting. Mr. Jescavage noted that 3 Highgate members would be present for the MVR discussion on the 19th. The Selectboard emphasized the need to see the fire department budget, since the Town paid 74% of the budget.

c) 2014 Annual Report Printing Quote

Mr. Billado made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thompson, to accept the printing quote of 1500 booklet-style copies for \$3800 (to be split with the school) for the 2014 annual report. Motion carried.

7. Highway Department

a) Discuss 1-Ton Truck Sand Spreader

Mr. Billado stated that the sander they had received from Handy's was not what they had wished for, and he had instructed Mr. Garrett to send the sander back before it got damaged. Mr. Garrett said that he had never seen the type of sander that he had received with the one-ton truck. He had also wanted a hydraulic sander, since salt didn't interfere with hydraulics as it did with electric, and dual-auger. Mr. Garrett was asked to get a price for an insert box and to buy a jack and a spare tire for the truck (since it arrived without either). It was noted that he would only be able to get an electric sander at this point.

b) Review Highway Equipment List

The Selectboard reviewed the list and asked Miss Wheeler to replace the Ford F350 with the 2014 Chevy one-ton truck. Kathy Lavoie asked to know the reasoning behind the projected replacement dates and Mr. Garrett explained that it was based on getting a 15-year life out of the piece of equipment. It was noted that four items were listed as fair, with one listed as "poor" (Mr. Garrett's truck).

c) Update 4th Street Garage Lot Status

Mr. Lavoie volunteered to call Mr. Campbell for an update.

d) Update New Garage Fencing

Mr. Lavoie asked Mr. Jescavage to contact the fencing companies who gave quotes and to price a 25-foot motorized slide gate and all four sides, since it was understood that the DRB intended for the back to be fenced as well. A separate quote should be requested relating to the electric connection to the building.

e) Other Updates

Kathy Lavoie made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thompson, to accept the bid from Lafayette Highway Specialties for \$7512 for the Woods Hill bridge guard rails. Discussion: All Selectboard members agreed that Joel Clark wanted the matter dealt with as soon as possible, and they felt that he would accept the quote if he were present. Discussion concluded. Motion carried. Mr. Jescavage was asked to fax the bid as soon as the meeting concluded.

Mr. Jescavage presented a PR letter from DigSafe, offering a chance to win a \$100 Home Depot Card for responding to a survey.

Mr. Jescavage noted that Mr. Reginal Beliveau's engineer requested both temporary and permanent easements from the town for water and sewer; the maps would be reviewed at the next meeting.

Mr. Billado made a motion, seconded by Kathy Lavoie, to sign the culvert request from Vermont Gas for Andy Avenue. Mr. Garrett had signed it, but Mr. Clark still needed to sign it as Road Commissioner. Motion carried.

8. Personnel

a) Discuss 2014 Eyecare Insurance

Mr. Jescavage explained that there were three options: (1) Keep trying to work with the current system to get people registered, (2) register directly with Blue Cross Blue Shield and avoid the state altogether, or (3) keep the current insurance until next March. Mrs. Fournier explained that the new health care didn't cover eye care; however, the estimates for separate eye care were about \$8 to \$17 per month, depending on the plan. Kathy Lavoie summed up that, for less than \$100 a month, everyone would get eye care. The Selectboard asked Mrs. Fournier to incorporate the eye care into the budget.

9. Correspondence

Twiggs in St. Albans was hosting Court Diversion from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. on November 12th. The Hi-Swan Senior Center sent a thank-you note for the money it receives from the Town each year.

10. Any Other Necessary Business

Mr. Jescavage stated that Trowel Trades no longer had the Swanton blend for the library repair. Mr. Lavoie recommended that Mr. Jescavage speak with Roger Quirion of Trowel Trades to ask

for 100-150 bricks of the Swanton blend; he was sure that Mr. Quirion would be able to come up with something.

Mrs. Fournier said that, because everything would not be resolved with the garage by the 12th of November, the bank would do another extension.

11. Public Comments (Reprise) – No public comment.

12. Upcoming Events

- a) November 6, 2013 Wednesday PC Meeting @ 5 p.m.
- b) November 11, 2013 Veterans Day Holiday/Town Office Closed
- c) November 14, 2013 VTrans Board Public Hearing @ 6 p.m. in La Quinta Inn
- d) November 19, 2013 next SLB meeting

Kathy Lavoie made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thompson, to enter executive session for personnel at 9:35 p.m. Motion carried.

Mr. Billado made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thompson, to exit executive session at 9:47 p.m. Motion carried. Action taken: none.

Mr. Billado made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thompson, to adjourn at 9:48 p.m. Motion carried.

Typed on November 8, 2013
Minutes by Yaasha Wheeler
Received and filed by:

Cathy Fournier, Swanton Town Clerk

Date