

TOWN OF SWANTON
MINUTES
SELECTBOARD MEETING
Swanton Town Office Building
1 Academy Street, Swanton, VT 05488
Tuesday, December 3, 2013 @ 7:00 p.m.

Present: John Lavoie, Selectboard Chair; Dan Billado, Selectboard Vice Chair; Kathy Lavoie and Joel Clark, Selectmen; Harold Garrett, Road Foreman; Cathy Fournier, Town Clerk; David Jescavage, Town Administrator; Yaasha Wheeler, Secretary; Heather Buczkowski, Channel 15; Ginette Young; Patti Jo Walker; Madeline Young; Bruce Young; Raymond Bushey; Royal Bushey; Mary Lucas; Eugene Lavoie.

A. Call to Order

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

B. Pledge of Allegiance

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

C. Meeting Topics:

1. Minutes

a) November 19, 2013 SLB Regular Meeting

Mr. Clark made a motion, seconded by Kathy Lavoie, to accept the minutes as printed. Motion carried.

2. Public Comments

No public comments.

3. Old Business

Mr. Billado asked Mr. Jescavage to reiterate to the St. Albans dispatch that Mr. Clark is now the road commissioner; Mr. Jescavage agreed to follow up.

4. Economic Development

a) Park D Permit Update: VTrans Rte. 78/First Street Plans

Mr. Jescavage said that the town might consider a response to the VTrans announcement that it planned to repave Route 78 in 2015, from McDonald's to Route 105, past the entrance to the industrial park. Did the town want to do any road work at the same time? Mr. Peter Cross had recommended doing the sewer line prior to the state paving. Mr. Billado reminded that the sewer line could be bored. Mr. Lavoie asked Mr. Jescavage to get more information from Mr. Cross about the length of piping, the work being performed, and the estimated cost. Mr. Clark added that if the sewer line could be done without damaging the road surface (by boring), the Town might want to wait until it had the money.

b) Review and Adopt 2013 Residential Anti-Displacement & Relocation Plan

Mr. Jescavage stated that the plan for Roy's Mobile Home Park had expired and had to be renewed to make it valid; the wording of the new plan was identical to that of the old plan. Mr. Billado made a motion, seconded by Mr. Clark, to accept the Swanton Residential Anti-Displacement & Relocation Plan as written. Discussion: Mr. Clark asked if the number of units would be reduced and Mr. Jescavage said that they would not be reduced, adding that the grant is to maintain the status quo. Discussion concluded. Motion carried.

5. Law Enforcement

a) Discuss Rt. 78/North River Street Speed Limit Petition

Mr. Royal Bushey stated that he lived along North River Street and was concerned about the speed of traffic along the road. The post speed limit was 50 mph, but most people drove 60 or 65 mph past his house, creating a safety hazard to the people who lived in homes along that stretch. He requested that the speed limit be reduced to 40 mph between the other 40 mph zone and the old wildlife refuge headquarters. Mr. Billado explained the process by which a speed limit could be changed: a traffic study by the Swanton Village Police, a state study in the spring, the

calculation of the 85th percentile, and the presentation of the Selectboard's case before the Traffic Committee. The Selectboard agreed that they supported the reduction for safety reasons; in the meantime, the Swanton police department could target the area for speeding.

6. 2014 Budget Discussion

a) Recreation Budget

Patty Jo Walker presented the recreation budget, stating that they were unable to level fund because they had to include \$12,000 for the health insurance of full-time employee Linda Cross. Mr. Jescavage added that the Town employees had opted to have their current coverage extended through Blue Cross Blue Shield until March, when each employee would sign up individually under the new plan; Ms. Cross should deal directly with Blue Cross Blue Shield to let them know what plan she wanted.

The other addition to the budget was for the purchase of a tractor. Mr. Eugene Lavoie explained that the tractor bought in 2011, although it had been completely paid off, had had a major problem which made it more worthwhile to buy a new tractor than to fix the old one. The dealer had offered a decent trade price, so the recreation department felt comfortable buying a new one. The Selectboard felt that the insurance fell under the Town's "blanket" coverage, but Mr. Jescavage said that he would call the insurance company to check up on the status of the coverage regarding the recreation department.

Ms. Walker said that the current programs were going strong; 2013 had seen 2 very successful softball teams, with the boys placing third in the state and the girls ascending to the regional competition. Mr. Lavoie added that an electronic scoreboard had been bought, with a second scoreboard purchase and construction of two new dugouts planned. The monument had also been repaired and elevated.

Given the limitations of the report as it was currently printed, Ms. Walker said that she would bring in a full report for the next meeting. The Selectboard thanked the recreation department for their work in the town of Swanton.

7. Highway Department

a) Update 4th Street Garage Lot Status

This was postponed for executive session (contracts).

b) Request by Ellsworth Moore to Name Road

Mr. Jescavage stated that no road name had been decided upon during the Development Review Board meeting at which Mr. Moore had presented his development off of Bachand Road. The application having been approved, Mr. Moore now requested the name "Oakwood Drive" for the road. Since there was no other name similar to it in the town, Mr. Jescavage recommended Selectboard approval. Mr. Clark made a motion, seconded by Kathy Lavoie, to approve the name of Oakwood Drive for Ellsworth Moore's development off of Bachand Road. Motion carried.

c) Update New Garage Fencing

Mr. Jescavage said that, since his e-mail had not reached the second company, he had only received a bid from one fencing company. Because the deadline for the receipt of bids was past, Mr. Garrett suggested opening the bid and rejecting it, if the Selectboard wished to re-request bids from the two companies.

The bid from Roundhill Fencing and Security, Inc., was to furnish and install a 6 ft. high galvanized chain link fence, including a gate with a lift master operator, for the new town garage. The fence would include a steel pipe slide gate for a total price of \$21,545. Mr. Billado made a motion, seconded by Kathy Lavoie, to reject the bid and, in the interest of securing bids from more than one party, to encourage Roundhill Fencing and Security to resubmit, with the understanding that the Selectboard was not looking to continue the project until spring. Discussion: Mr. Clark recommended sending the bids out after the holidays, to get prices more current for the spring. Discussion concluded. Motion carried.

The Selectboard signed the liquor license application request from John Flood for the newly-opening Village Pub along First Street.

d) Other Updates

Mr. Garrett reported that he had replaced the chain for Truck 34, and patched the fuel tank on his truck. Having not heard from Lafayette about the Woodshill project, he would contact them. He also needed a breakdown from Sheldon for what Sheldon owed for their part of the

Woodshill project; he believed one had been sent via e-mail. Mr. Jescavage said that he had not seen the e-mail but would check with Pike Industries.

Mr. Garrett would be getting a spare tire for the new truck, since the tire was not included in the deal. One headlight was also filled with water. Kathy Lavoie recommended following up with Handy's regarding their disappointment. Mr. Clark said that he would visit with a representative from Handy's and try to resolve the concerns; if the visit did not go well, the concerns would be put on written record. He added that, although the Town did not get what they considered a hydraulic pump, a portion of the pump was hydraulic, so Handy's might have considered that it had met the Town's specifications.

Mr. Garrett noted that the excavator's hydraulic oil was full of water and he wanted to use the space at the old garage to drain the fluid. The Selectboard agreed that, if the sales agreement allowed him the time to do so, he could use the old garage for that purpose.

The Selectboard discussed with Mr. Garrett trouble areas along the roads, areas that might be more slick in the coming winter.

Mrs. Fournier shared that Carolyn Church had called the office to thank the road crew and the Selectboard getting the ditching done on Brown Avenue and Wheeler Round.

8. Correspondence

Mr. Jescavage presented the meeting notice for the Franklin County Budget at the Franklin County Court House in St. Albans on December 17th. He also presented information on the Northwest Access TV program which would allow towns to have their own channel, with all their videos showing continuously, for \$50 a meeting.

9. Any Other Necessary Business

The Selectboard discussed the annual holiday meal for Town employees; should it be before or after the holidays, and how should it be set up so that attendance would make the event worth the cost? The Selectboard decided to do a survey to see what the employees wanted and what sort of event they would be most likely to attend.

The Selectboard agreed to discuss the process of reviewing and approving the fire department budget at the next Joint Legislative Body meeting (December 18th). Mr. Billado suggested perhaps having a fire commissioner, and Mr. Clark added that annual items (just as budget reviews) should be placed on a schedule so that they could be forecasted in advance and nothing would fall through the cracks. Mr. Lavoie said that he would respond to Mr. Beliveau's good faith suggestion of a resolution regarding the fire department budget.

The Selectboard asked Mr. Jescavage to confirm the Park D boundaries and Mr. Clark added that, because the Mylar had not been signed in the required time frame, it would be coming before the DRB this month to renew it.

The Selectboard discussed some of the technical issues with the garage doors at the new town garage. The Selectboard agreed that Mr. Pratt should deal with the matter, since it involved both Champlain Door and the electrician. Mr. Clark asked Mr. Jescavage to keep a log of all warrantee calls.

Mr. Garrett and the Selectboard discussed the humidity levels at the garage and at which level the humidity sensor should be set. Mr. Clark recommended that Mr. Garrett become familiar with the manual to get an idea of the scale used on the humidity sensor and the recommended setting.

At Kathy Lavoie's recommendation, the Selectboard agreed to do a final review of the library budget at the next meeting, since the budget as presented previously had not been complete.

Kathy Lavoie suggested following the recommendation of the town's legal counsel in reviewing and potentially updating the animal control ordinance, since it was 12 years old. Mr. Jescavage agreed to contact VLCT and review possible updates.

10. Public Comments (Reprise)

No public comment.

11. Upcoming Events

- a) December 4, 2013 Wednesday PC Meeting @ 5 p.m.

Mr. Clark expressed his interest in going to the meeting, adding that the time of the meeting made attendance difficult for those who worked fixed hours.

- b) December 7, 2013 Pearl Harbor Day Remembrance
- c) December 17, 2013 Next Selectboard Meeting @ 7 p.m.
- d) December 18, 2013 JLB Meeting/Zoning Bylaws Public Hearing @ 7 p.m.
- e) December 21, 2013 Winter Begins

Kathy Lavoie stated that Operation Happiness food collection at the Swanton Municipal Complex and Highgate Municipal Office was set for December 7th, beginning at 8 a.m. Volunteers could offer help through December 14th with sorting the donated food, which would serve 300 families in Highgate, Swanton, Franklin, and Alburgh.

Mr. Clark added that the Development Review Board meeting was set for December 19th at 6 p.m.

The Selectboard agreed to have a general budget meeting on the 17th after the regular Selectboard meeting.

12. Executive Session

Mr. Clark made a motion, seconded by Mr. Billado, to enter executive session on real estate and personnel at 8:50 p.m. Motion carried.

Mr. Clark made a motion, seconded by Mr. Billado, to exit executive session at 9:24 p.m. Motion carried. No action taken.

Mr. Billado made a motion, seconded by Kathy Lavoie, to adjourn at 9:25 p.m. Motion carried.

Typed on December 6, 2013
Minutes by Yaasha Wheeler
Received and filed by:

Cathy Fournier, Swanton Town Clerk

Date