

**TOWN OF SWANTON
MINUTES
SPECIAL FINANCE
SELECTBOARD MEETING
Swanton Town Office Building
1 Academy Street, Swanton, VT 05488**

Tuesday, July 15, 2014 @ 7:00 p.m.

Present: Dan Billado, Selectboard Chair; Joel Clark, Selectboard Vice Chair; John Lavoie and James Guilmette, Selectmen; Cathy Fournier, Town Clerk; David Jescavage, Town Administrator; Yaasha Wheeler, Secretary; Harold Garrett; Road Foreman.

Mr. Billado called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The board reviewed the packets presented by Cathy Fournier.

GENERAL

Mrs. Fournier stated that the health insurance line is at 104%. They would be over because the insurance includes David Fosgate, who will reimburse the Town at the end of the year. Mr. Lavoie asked if printing was anticipated to go over and Mrs. Fournier replied that she did, because the Town would have to bill twice for taxes because the school budget did not pass. The Town would bill for the first part (residential) and, if the budget passes on September 9th, the Town will bill again in early October for the balance of the school portion for the residential. This would extend the October 15th due date for that portion probably into November, in order to give people 30 days' notice of their bill, which would result in an extra printing. The bottom-line budget, however, should be okay.

Mr. Billado pointed out that only \$1800 had been spent out of the budgeted \$11,000 office maintenance line item. Mrs. Fournier pointed out some repairs that needed to be done in the Town Office. Mr. Lavoie noted that zoning and planning supplies and printing was above its budgeted amount. Mrs. Fournier explained that there was an off-setting revenue for the new bylaw revision, for which there was also a grant.

Mr. Billado noted that the utilities for the depot had been budgeted for \$2500, and only \$276 had been spent to date. Mrs. Fournier said that the mowing for the depot was put through the general. Mr. Billado said that \$2500 had been given to the Chamber for the swans every year; Mrs. Fournier replied that it had been lowered to \$1500. Mr. Billado's concern was to have some kind of accountability for that money. Mrs. Fournier replied that the Town would have to account for everyone that the Town appropriated for; Mr. Billado understood and decided to leave it the way it was.

The board discussed the money put aside for Ross Lavoie and Harold Garrett (\$500 a year each) for representing Swanton at the Northwest Regional Planning Commission.

HIGHWAY

The board reviewed the highway budget. Mr. Clark asked why the part-time employee was a little high for halfway through the year; was that because of extra plowing? Mr. Garrett agreed that it was due to additional work.

Mr. Billado pointed out that the stone budget looked very good, with \$8000 still available for other projects. Mr. Garrett anticipated that the sand budget would be sufficient. The highway would need more salt; the whole budget would probably be used for that.

Mr. Garrett planned to stripe Woods Hill and Comstock with the striping money.

In the discussion of paving, it was noted that the bill for Comstock Road had not been received yet. Mr. Garrett suggested spending the garage maintenance money for disposing of the debris from the Fourth Street garage. The demolition of the garage will probably come out of the garage construction money. If there was a little bit of a balance, it should be used to erect a fence and repave the lot. David Fosgate's pavement is to be directed toward the payment of the new garage. Mrs. Fournier noted that there was \$16,000 in the contingency fund to draw from as well for the demolition; Mr. Clark was in favor of repaving some of the contingency fund from the sale of the Fourth Street property.

Mr. Lavoie summed up that there would be \$300,000 in the economic development fund from the sale of Park D, to be used to drop taxes. Mr. Clark was concerned that people might forget that the taxes had been lowered by a windfall, and become upset when taxes returned to previous rates.

Mr. Garrett informed the board that 2014 was the last year of payment for the renovation of the Town office.

Mr. Clark made a motion, seconded by Mr. Guilmette, to adjourn at 7:01 p.m. Motion carried.

Typed on July 19, 2014
Minutes by Yaasha Wheeler
Received and filed by:

Cathy Fournier, Swanton Town Clerk

Date