

TOWN OF SWANTON
MINUTES
SELECTBOARD MEETING
Swanton Town Office Building
1 Academy Street, Swanton, VT 05488
Tuesday, October 7, 2014 @ 7:00 p.m.

Present: Dan Billado, Selectboard Chair; Joel Clark, Selectboard Vice Chair; James Guilmette, William “Turk” Thompson, and John Lavoie, Selectmen; Cathy Fournier, Town Clerk; David Jescavage, Town Administrator; Yaasha Wheeler, Secretary; Derick Billado; William Roberts; Robert Bessette, Swanton Public Library; Betsy Fournier, Swanton Recreation Department; Heather Buczkowski, Channel 16.

A. Call to Order

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

B. Pledge of Allegiance

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

C. Agenda Review

Mr. Billado asked to move #9 (ACO Applicant Discussion) to #2, because he would have to leave the meeting early to attend to a family situation. His son, Derick Billado, had applied for the position of Animal Control Officer, and was present. Mr. Dan Billado stated that he would recuse himself from any interview with Derick Billado.

Mr. Thompson was in favor of setting up an interview for another time, with just Mr. Jescavage (Town Administrator), Mr. Allan Laroche (current Animal Control Officer), Mr. James Guilmette (Animal Control manager), and himself (personnel manager). After the interview, the interviewers would return to the full Selectboard with a recommendation. This, he felt, would streamline the interview process and not have to involve the whole Selectboard.

Mr. Billado preferred to have the interview process managed by the entire Selectboard, as had been done in the past for employees hired on behalf of the Town.

After discussion, the Selectboard agreed that Mr. Thompson’s suggestion would be implemented. The Selectboard thanked Mr. Derick Billado for his interest in the position, and Mr. Jescavage was asked to set up an interview with the appropriate persons.

1. Economic Development

Mr. Billado turned the meeting over to Joel Clark and exited the meeting at 7:13 p.m.

2. Minutes

a) September 15, 2014 SLB Regular Meeting

Mr. Lavoie made a motion, seconded by Mr. Guilmette, to approve the minutes as present. Motion carried.

3. Old Business

a) Discuss FCHS Contract

Ms. Rusty Posner from the Franklin County Humane Society was not present. Mr. Jescavage would reschedule her appearance before the Selectboard to discuss the contract with the FCHS.

b) Discuss Old Garage Trusses Offer

Mr. Jescavage stated that the ad gave one week to remove the trusses, but the buyer was asking for two weeks to do so. Mr. Lavoie, seconded by Mr. Thompson, made a motion to accept the offer of \$600 for the trusses, and to allow the buyer to remove them within two weeks instead of one week. Discussion: Mr. Jescavage would ensure that the sales contract would define that the trusses were sold "as is" and that the contract should include a load determination. Cathy Fournier requested that the payment be submitted as a bank treasurer's check. Discussion concluded; motion carried.

4. Law Enforcement

a) SW Village Police Chief Report

This item was TABLED, as Chief Stell was not present to give his report.

5. 2015 Budget Review

a) Library Budget

Mr. Bob Bessette, Chairman of the Swanton Public Library Board, stated that the budget presented in the current town report incorrectly identified the library budget as having \$30,000 more than it should. He explained that the library's fiscal year ran from April 1st to March 31st, instead of by calendar year, as the Town's did. He requested to use 2013's actual numbers, and said that Ronald Kilburn had told the library treasurer, Cathy Messier, how to format the budget.

Mr. Clark said that he did not see how Mr. Kilburn was involved in the library budget. Mr. Jescavage added that the library budget should operate on the town's calendar, not a separate calendar. Mr. Bessette explained that the library budget had always been done according to the April through March calendar and he simply wished to correct the general public's mistaken impression of the actual budget.

The Selectboard agreed with Mr. Thompson's suggestion to arrange a meeting amongst Cathy Messier, Cathy Fournier, and David Jescavage to correct the budget and ensure that the 2015 budget was accurate.

6. Public Comment

Mr. William Roberts stated that he was a Democratic candidate for Senate and was interested in listening and learning about the Town. His website www.billroberts4vtsenate.com gave more information. The Selectboard wished him luck.

7. Highway Department

a) Update on Concrete Culvert on Maquam Shore Road

Mr. Clark reported that the culvert project was done and guardrails removed from the Fourth Street garage property would be installed near the culvert.

b) Road Updates

Mr. Clark and Mr. Harold Garrett (road foreman) drove around the Town roads and were currently compiling a list of roads to recommend for paving in 2015.

c) Equipment Updates

At Mr. Clark's request, Mr. Thompson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lavoie, to spend up to \$5500 on a new spreader. Motion carried.

d) Department Updates

Mr. Garrett and Mr. Clark met with state representatives about permits. The Town owned the area where Route 207 met Woods Hill Road, so permits would be submitted for future work to be done at that intersection.

e) Other Updates

Mr. Clark reminded that the Selectboard needed to sketch up what they envisioned for Sholan Road and Route 207, and send that plan to the state to receive recommendations on their proposal.

Mr. Lavoie asked if the garage warranty had expired, and Mr. Clark said that it had, and that all known problems had been corrected under warranty prior to the expiration.

Mr. Guilmette asked for the road crew to look into what might be done to correct the dip in Russell Road; he thought perhaps the culvert had settled.

Mr. Lavoie asked about the "washboard" section on Comstock Road, and Mr. Clark replied that the highway department planned to "let the section ride through the season."

8. 2015 Budget Review

b) Swanton Recreation Department

Ms. Fournier stated that the budget for 2015 was the same as 2014, at \$99,925. To reach the Recreation Department's actual needs of \$171,075, the department would fundraise the remaining funds. She expected the actual expenditures to be the same.

Mr. Jescavage stated that he had heard of the desire for a new recreation building, and, since it was difficult to get a construction grant for new construction, the department might wish to look into a plan for a capital reserve fund for that need.

The Selectboard encouraged Ms. Fournier to consider a line item for large future purchases, and stated appreciation for the department's excellent track record and use of funds.

9. Correspondence

a) Cross Engineering Request

Mr. Jescavage stated that Mr. Peter Cross from Cross Consulting Engineers was working with Energtek to address a list of items as recommended by the state and to apply for permits. Mr. Clark asked Mr. Jescavage to call to ask if the process was still on track to be finished by the November 1st deadline.

b) F-16 Named For Swanton

Mr. Jescavage informed the board of a National Guard F-16 that had been named for Swanton, adding that Swanton was named as one of the top 5 towns in Vermont for best quality of life. Mr. Thompson added that Vermont was also listed as one of the safest places in the country. The Selectboard, and anyone else who wished to represent Swanton, was welcome to attend visit Swanton's F-16 on November 2nd, and to be photographed by it. Mr. Clark offered to give attendees a tour of the buildings afterward.

c) VLCT Request to Submit 2015 Liability Insurance Quote

Mr. Jescavage explained that one of the representatives for a liability insurance program asked if the Selectboard would be interested in a quote. The Selectboard was interested; Mr. Jescavage would inform the representatives of the interest.

c) Lamoille Valley Rail Trail Request for Town Rep

Mr. Jescavage stated that a state representative had requested for a Swanton representative to sit on the state committee for the Rail Trail and to serve at the monthly meetings. Mr. Jescavage was interested in serving. Mr. Lavoie made a motion, seconded by Mr. Guilmette, to appoint Mr. Jescavage as Swanton's representative on the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail Committee. Motion carried.

d) Brownfields Discussion

Mr. Clark asked about the Brownfields study relating to the Fourth Street garage property, and Mr. Jescavage said that he would speak with Greta Brunswick from Northwest Regional Planning Commission about the town's plan for addressing the Brownfield's issues for the site. Mr. Jescavage reported that he had advertised the property's availability for sale in the local paper for a week, and on the town website. He had also called four realtors, who would probably wish for compensation if they directed a potential buyer toward the Town. Mr. Jescavage was reminded to get a sign, at least 3' x 5', to advertise the property's availability.

10. Public Comments (Reprise) – None.

11. Upcoming Events

- a) Thursday, October 9, 2014 VLCT Town Fair – Town Office Closed.
- b) Thursday & Friday, October 16 & 17, 2014 – VTCMA Fall Conference
- c) Tuesday, October 21, 2014 Next Selectboard Meeting @ 7 p.m.

Mr. Lavoie made a motion, seconded by Mr. Guilmette, to adjourn at 8:09 p.m.
Motion carried.

Typed on October 10, 2014
Minutes by Yaasha Wheeler
Received and filed by:

Cathy Fournier, Swanton Town Clerk

Date