

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

Wednesday, November 5, 2014 @ 7:00 p.m.

Present: Dan Billado, Selectboard Chair; John Lavoie and James Guilmette, Selectmen; David Jescavage, Town Administrator; Yaasha Wheeler, Secretary; Cathy Fournier, Town Clerk; Rusty Posner, Franklin County Humane Society; Gene Rich, Swanton Village Police Department; Derick Billado, Animal Control Officer; Bob Bessette (entered at 7:36 p.m.); 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

“Cats” were added under Old Business, and the Highway Department was deleted, due to the absence of Joel Clark, Road Commissioner.

D. Meeting Topics

1. Minutes

a) October 21, 2014 Selectboard Regular Meeting

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

2. Public Comment – None.

3. Economic Development

a) Public Hearing to Name New Subdivision Road

Mr. Lavoie made a motion, seconded by Mr. Guilmette, to enter a public hearing at 7:04 p.m. Mr. Billado read the following notice:

Notice is hereby given that the Town of Swanton Selectboard will conduct a public hearing for the purpose of naming a new road on Wednesday, November 4, 2014 at 7:15 p.m. in the Town Office Meeting Room at 1 Academy Street in Swanton, Vermont. The Board will discuss and act on naming a new subdivision road that is located on the northerly side of Penell Road opposite the entrance to Cedar Ledge Estates. The new subdivision road is proposed to be named Tranquility Lane.

The Selectboard will consider making Tranquility Lane its permanent, official name. The public hearing is being conducted pursuant to Sections II and V of the Town of Swanton Ordinance Regarding Enhanced 911 Road Naming, Road Signs and Addressing. Members of the public and owners of property abutting the road are welcome to attend the public hearing and offer input. A map of the subdivision is available for viewing at the Swanton Planning and Zoning Office at 1 Academy Street.

Mr. Jescavage affirmed that there were no existing road names similar to Tranquility Lane in Swanton. Mr. Guilmette made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lavoie, to adopt the name of Tranquility Lane for the said subdivision. Motion carried.

Mr. Guilmette made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lavoie, to exit the public hearing and reenter the Selectboard meeting at 7:06 p.m. Motion carried.

4. Old Business

a) Discuss FCHS Contract

Rusty Posner came forward and presented the yearly contract, which she noted was the exact same contract as in the previous year, with the same associated fee of \$500. Mr. Lavoie made a motion, seconded by Mr. Guilmette, to accept the contract with Franklin County Humane Society as presented. Motion carried. Mr. Guilmette made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lavoie, to give Mr. Jescavage the authority to sign the contract on behalf of the Town. Motion carried.

b) Cat Discussion

Ms. Posner expressed her excitement that the Town was considering more oversight of cats. Mr. Billado explained that the discussion was still in its preliminary stages, and that the public had been very active in the discussion. Mr. Lavoie said that identifying a cat's owner was a problem, yet he was not in favor of registering cats. Ms. Posner replied that she could e-mail the board about the FCHS process for taking in or placing cats. She explained that, since January 1, 2014 to the present, the society had taken in 34 cats from Swanton (as "citizen strays"). Some cats were refused when the shelter was overcrowded. Cats were not euthanized for space, and every cat was adopted or returned to the owner. The society also worked with 27 "foster families" who oversaw the care of unclaimed cats. No feral cats were accepted.

She outlined the various efforts of the Humane Society and other area programs in spaying and neutering barn cats and feral cats. The aim was to cut down on the cat population and the dumping of pregnant cats, and to make it more feasible for towns to contract for cats. Mr. Billado asked Ms. Posner to give the detailed information on the FCHS cat policies to Mr. Jescavage, who would pass it on to Derick Billado, the new Animal Control Officer. Mr. Derick Billado would also work with the FCHS himself.

5. Law Enforcement

a) SW Village Police Chief Report

Mr. Rich came forward, in the absence of Chief Stell. He noted that in the month of October (10/01/14 - 10/31/14) there were 6 citations, and 7 violations, for a total of \$728 in fines. There were also a total of 43 complaints in the Town. Mr. Guilmette thanked Mr. Rich and the police department for addressing his concerns with cars passing school buses illegally. Mr. Rich assured Mr. Guilmette that the department would work with the town on issues of concern, even if those issues needed to be addressed outside of the regular contract hours.

6. 2015 Budget Review

a) MVR Budget (Set Date)

Mr. Jescavage would facilitate a meeting for the budget discussion, a meeting which would be held in Highgate this year.

Mr. Jescavage noted several areas that would need to be discussed in regard to the 2015 Town budget: new garage fencing, cemetery repairs, matches for grants that would correct the Town maps, new map holders to protect the maps, paving for the new garage, and the renovations of the second story of the Town office. Mr. Billado stated that these items would be considered in the General and Highway budgets, and that the board would work with Cathy Fournier to decide where to place these concerns in the budget.

7. Highway – This item, as noted in the Agenda Review, was skipped.

8. Correspondence

Mr. Jescavage informed the board of a statewide quilt, to which all Towns were encouraged to contribute a square. Cathy Fournier and Yaasha Wheeler agreed to accept responsibility for planning and creating a square for Swanton. Mr. Lavoie suggested the Swanton logo of swans.

Mr. Jescavage presented a letter from Energtek affirming that \$10,000 deposit to go to the Community Development Fund.

Mr. Jescavage presented the discharge permit for Park D (Energtek). He added that someone had expressed interest in the park, for a multi-acre industrial development, and that he had directed that person's attention to Park C, which was available for sale.

Mr. Jescavage noted that Green Up was requesting \$300 from the Town, because the Town's population was over 4000. Mrs. Fournier noted that the current amount appropriated for Green Up was \$150.

Mr. Jescavage presented a communication from the state regarding Town Highway #11 (Lakewood Drive). The state had put an apron onto the Town right-of-way from the Alburg direction, and requested that the town agree to maintain the apron as part of the Town's right-of-way. The Selectboard agreed that Mr. Joel Clark, Road Commissioner, and Mr. Harold Garrett, Road Foreman, should review the request and give the board a recommendation.

The High Swan Senior Center requested \$3000 from the Town. Mrs. Fournier would check on the Town's past appropriation for the center.

The CVAA requested \$1900, which Mrs. Fournier affirmed was the same as last year's request.

9. Any Other Necessary Business

a) ACO Warrant Revisions

The Selectboard reviewed the revisions. Mr. Guilmette made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lavoie, to sign the revised warrant. Motion carried.

10. Public Comment (Reprise)

Mr. Bob Bessette came forward regarding the library budget. Mr. Billado recalled that the Selectboard has asked Cathy Messier, Mr. Jescavage, and Mrs. Fournier to meet together to discuss the budget. Mr. Bessette stated that the meeting had been set up. He added that he felt he had been disrespected at the last meeting, and that the deadlock could be resolved simply. He had spoken with Cathy Fournier, who had explained the way that the Selectboard wished to see the budget formatted. He had removed the 2016 numbers and changed some wording. He said that changing to the calendar year versus the fiscal year was difficult, because he liked to represent actual numbers. He also felt that the change would be labor intensive for the volunteer treasurer.

Mr. Jescavage said that the meeting with Ms. Messier, himself, and Mrs. Fournier had been set for tomorrow, and had not yet taken place. Mr. Lavoie said that those three should be able to "square it away" and that Mr. Bessette would not have to return to the board.

Mrs. Fournier added that the Selectboard was not looking for an exact representation of actual expenses for 2014, but simply for a 2015 budget. The board agreed that the budget was all that the Selectboard was seeking currently, not 2014 actual expenses.

Mr. Guilmette made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lavoie, to move on. Motion carried.

11. Upcoming Events

- a) Tuesday, November 11, 2014 Veterans Day – Town Office closed.
- b) Tuesday, November 18, 2014 Next Selectboard Meeting @ 7 p.m.
- c) Wednesday, November 19, 2014 @ 6 p.m. Swanton Enhancement Committee Meeting in Town Offices, 1 Academy Street.
- d) DRB & PC meetings cancelled for November

12. Executive Session

Mr. Guilmette made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lavoie, to go into executive session for personnel at 8:09 p.m., because public discussion would put the person at a disadvantage. Motion carried.

Mr. Lavoie made a motion, seconded by Mr. Guilmette, to exit executive session at 8:45 p.m. Motion carried. No action taken.

13. Adjournment

Mr. Lavoie made a motion, seconded by Mr. Guilmette, to adjourn at 8:46 p.m. Motion carried.

Typed on November 8, 2014
Minutes by Yaasha Wheeler
Received and filed by:

Cathy Fournier, Swanton Town Clerk

Date