

**MINUTES
SWANTON SELECTBOARD
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING
With Highgate Selectboard**

***Highgate Office Building
2996 VT Rt. 78, Highgate Center, VT 05459
THURSDAY, December 4, 2014 @ 7:15 p.m***

Present:

Highgate Selectboard members: Andy King, Vice-chair; Diana O'Hara; Chris Yates, Luke Choiniere, Jeff Towle, Chair – arrived 7:55 p.m.

Highgate Office Staff: Wendi Dusablon, Town Clerk; Heidi Britch-Valenta, Town Administrator; Tom Racine, Town Treasurer.

Public/Other: Ben Lowell (constable), Bruce Ryan, Connie Janes Beyor (Highgate School Board), Joel Clark (Swanton Selectboard), Crystal Lampman (MVR), Leonard Stell (MVR), Paul Rocheleau (MVR), Michelle Monroe (St. Albans Messenger), James Guilmette (Swanton Selectboard), Daniel Billado (Swanton Selectboard), Lynn Billado (MVR), David Jescavage (Swanton Town Administrator), Laurie Rossi (MVR).

The following represents a portion of the minutes of the Highgate Selectboard meeting held on December 4, 2014 in Highgate at 7 p.m., as transcribed by Wendi Dusablon, Highgate Town Clerk.

Missisquoi Valley Rescue (MVR) Budget Discussion with Swanton

Andy welcomed everyone to the meeting to this discussion regarding the MVR budget. There was representation from the Town of Swanton MVR (see listing above under section B). A budget printout was distributed at the meeting, but had not been seen by anyone prior. The biggest increase can be seen in the dispatching line item. Mr. Stell and Ms. Rossi pointed out that with regard to the line items they could control, costs were down. With regard to times out of their control (dispatching and workman's comp insurance), costs were up. Andy King and Joel Clark had some questions regarding what the indications were as to why dispatching fees have risen so dramatically. Dan Billado noted that it is a pet peeve of his, and he would like some explanation on how they calculate the expenses associated with MVR costs are built into the budget, we don't have a separate line item for MVR. It is at the discretion of the Highgate board how they want to build it into the budget. In Swanton, it is a line item on the ballot. Andy doesn't see any need to change the way Highgate identifies MVR as part of our budget, but it is always up for discussion. Andy thanked Swanton and MVR for being here.

Received and filed by:

Cathy Fournier, Swanton Town Clerk

Date