

**MINUTES**  
**Town & Village of Swanton**  
**JOINT LEGISLATIVE BODY MEETING**  
**Swanton Village Office Complex**  
**120 First Street, Swanton, VT 05488**

***Monday, April 27, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.***

*Present: Dan Billado, Selectboard Chair; Joel Clark, Selectboard Vice Chair; William "Turk" Thompson and James Guilmette, Selectmen; David Jescavage, Town Administrator; Reginald Beliveau, Village Manager; Neal Spear, Village President; Chris Leach, Eugene Labombard, and Adam Paxman, Trustees; Ronald Kilburn, Zoning Administrator; Yaasha Wheeler, Secretary; Tim Girard, Fire Chief; David Southwick.*

**A. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Mr. Labombard called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and noted those who were present. Mr. John Lavoie, Selectman, was absent.

**B. Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**C. Agenda Review**

Mr. Clark suggested moving #9 into executive session because of legal discussion. The Joint Legislative Body agreed.

**D. Minutes**

**1. Approve Minutes of 9/27/14 JLB Meeting**

Mr. Billado made a motion, seconded by Mr. Paxman, to approve the minutes. Discussion: Mr. Paxman noted that the information under #11, stating that the Swanton Enhancement Project resulted in the start of the Swanton Farmers' Market was incorrect, as it was the Chamber of Commerce that had done so. He recommended removing the statement altogether. Mr. Beliveau asked about the \$5000 line item that the Selectboard had suggested putting on the ballot on behalf of the Swanton Enhancement Project. Mr. Clark said that the Selectboard had looked into putting that line item on the ballot; however, it was eventually concluded that the Town and the Village would each put \$1500 toward the project. The Selectboard had just agreed to turn over the funds to the Swanton Enhancement Committee, to use as they saw fit. Discussion concluded. Motion carried.

**E. Topics**

**1. Elect 2015 JLB Chair & Vice Chair**

Mr. Billado nominated Mr. Thompson as JLB Chair, but Mr. Thompson respectfully declined. Mr. Billado then nominated Joel Clark as JLB Chair, seconded by Mr. Leach. Motion carried.

Mr. Leach nominated Mr. Paxman as Vice Chair, seconded by Mr. Billado. Motion carried.

Mr. Labombard then turned the meeting over to Mr. Clark, as the new JLB Chair.

**2. Appoint Swanton NWSWD Representative**

Considering that Mr. Paxman was willing to serve as Swanton's Northwest Solid Waste District Representative, and had already attended one of the district's meetings, Mr. Leach nominated Mr. Paxman as his replacement. The motion was seconded by Mr. Thompson, and carried unanimously. The Selectboard thanked Mr. Paxman for his willingness to serve.

### **3. Appoint Hazardous Waste Day**

Mr. Jescavage informed the board that the district had originally scheduled the Household Hazardous Waste Day for Memorial Day weekend, and, after the Selectboard had requested a change of time, had changed the day to Saturday, June 27, 2015, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the new Town Garage, 221 First Street. He would post a list of the materials that were accepted, as well as their associated fees. Mr. Leach reminded the board and the public that hazardous waste could also be collected every day except for Sunday, at any other venue, as long as an appointment was scheduled.

### **4. Community Visit Discussion**

Mr. Beliveau informed the board of the 5 categories for action, as outlined by the Community Visit:

- (1) Expand Outdoor Recreation Opportunities, River Access, Bike-Ability, and Bike Tourism – Led by himself, along with Ronald Kilburn and Mary Metayer
- (2) Build a Swanton Economic Development Committee - Led by Terry O'Shay
- (3) Create an Arts Council – Led by Judy Paxman and Kris Daignault
- (4) Unite the Community to Reduce Substance Abuse – Led by Kathy Lavoie
- (5) Improve Traffic, Walkability, and Parking Downtown – Led by Joel Clark

Mr. Beliveau encouraged the public to attend as many meetings as possible, and Mr. Clark added that the dates of the next meetings would be posted soon. In relation to the traffic category, there would be traffic studies for the town core and village area; targeted areas for increased traffic law enforcement; an inventory of the existing parking areas; a "No Engine Brakes in Village" sign; and other measures.

Mr. Kilburn stated that the next Outdoor Recreation meeting was on April 28 at 6 p.m. at the Depot. Members of the public were invited. Town and Village officials were especially invited, because much of the discussion involved property owned by both the Town and Village. All officials would receive notice and minutes of meetings.

### **5. Swanton Arts Council Discussion**

Mr. Beliveau noted that Mr. Scott Rheume brought up the idea of an "art wall," upon which various artists could paint designs. However, there was concern that such a thing might be regulated by zoning laws; research was being done. Mr. Leach said that Mr. Rheume had shown the Village Trustees examples of such an art wall in other communities. It would be a free-standing plywood "canvas," and the location would include an instruction placard for interested artists. Mr. Beliveau stated that Marble Mill Park was being considered as a likely site for an art wall. Mr. Clark and Mr. Beliveau shared concern that such a wall should be distinguished from a billboard, as Mr. Beliveau cited a case in Bellows Falls in which such a wall had resulted in controversy.

### **6. Sidewalk Feasibility Study Grant**

Mr. Jescavage explained that, although Swanton would be awarded the \$30,000 grant, the federal government had changed the contract rules for all towns, due to the handling of funds in Hurricane Irene cases. The contract process was therefore delayed, and would be awarded to the Town only. The Town would therefore administer the grant, and the Village would reimburse the Town for the Village's share (each would contribute \$1500 to the study). Mr. Labombard suggested coordinating this endeavor with the Swanton Enhancement Project. The two areas to be studied would be along First Street to MVU, and along South River Street to the Depot. Mr. Beliveau gave some history on a previous

feasibility study regarding the MVU sidewalk, which had never resulted in construction, and reminded the board that “this ball has been kicked around.”

## **7. Water Transmission Line Project Discussion**

Mr. Beliveau explained that, due to the fact that the Village was not permitted to run the line along the Rail Trail bed, the Village had had to do a \$350,000 archaeological study prior to determining that the line could be run up Waugh Farm Road to Route 78, down Lafar Street, around the property recently sold by the Town to Energtek, and connected to the Village line. Phase 1 would involved connecting to the Village line near the Energtek property, and there would be several fire hydrants, as well as a T expansion going toward Highgate. The bid opening would be tomorrow, April 28<sup>th</sup>, and the work should be completed by December. He summed up that there had been “a lot of hurdles, but we’ll get it done.”

## **8. Discuss Emergency Dispatch Costs**

Mr. Billado recalled that the St. Albans police Chief Taylor was requested to attend a JLB meeting regarding dispatching fees. Chief Girard confirmed that the state of Vermont planned to close down two dispatch offices, but he urged caution, because it was not known which locations would close down or when that would happen. Mr. Beliveau informed the board that Chief Stell of the Swanton Village Police Department had looked into alternative options for dispatching, but it was too premature to speculate. He added that the St. Albans police chief had agreed to attend a JLB meeting when one was scheduled. Since JLB meetings occurred infrequently, that made scheduling his appearance difficult. Mr. Thompson agreed that he did not like “being held hostage by another community” that charged high dispatch fees and strongly encouraged continuing to research other options. Mr. Beliveau said he would send out invitations for Chief Taylor to attend meetings individually (with the Selectboard and Village Trustees), if a joint meeting was not likely.

## **9. Discuss Status of JLB**

This item was moved to Executive Session.

## **10. Discuss Joint Legislative Body Discussion**

Given that the Swanton Village Complex was more spacious than the Town Office, the JLB agreed to continue holding JLB meetings at the Complex until further notice.

## **11. Public Comments - None.**

## **12. Any Other Necessary Business - None.**

## **F. Executive Session**

Mr. Guilmette made a motion, seconded by Mr. Paxman, to enter executive session at 7:42 p.m. for a discussion of a legal opinion that would put the JLB at a disadvantage if discussed openly. Motion carried.

Mr. Billado made a motion, seconded by Mr. Labombard, to exit executive session at 8:01 p.m. Motion carried.

## **G. Adjournment**

Mr. Billado made a motion, seconded by Mr. Labombard, to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 p.m. Motion carried.

Received and filed by:

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Cathy Fournier, Swanton Town Clerk

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Date

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Dianne Day, Swanton Village Clerk

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Date