

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

***Tuesday, January 19, 2016 @ 7:00 p.m.***

*Present: Daniel Billado, Selectboard Chair; Joel Clark, Selectboard Vice Chair; James Guilmette and William "Turk" Thompson, Selectman; Derick Billado, Animal Control Officer; David Jescavage, Town Administrator; Yaasha Wheeler, Secretary; Cathy Fournier, Town Clerk; Heather Buczkowski, Ch. 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. Clark moved Robin Hood Drive under (d) for Highway and Lean-to under (e) for Highway. Mr. Billado asked if the representative from Franklin County Animal Rescue would be present; Mr. Guilmette said she would be available by phone and he was ready to speak about the issue. Mr. Jescavage noted that Mike Blouin had been moved from 4(b) to 10 because Mr. Blouin would not be present until 8 p.m.

**D. Meeting Topics**

**1. Minutes**

**a) January 5, 2016**

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

**2. Public Comments - None.**

**3. Animal Control**

**a) SW Animal Control officer Report**

Mr. Derick Billado stated that he had spoken with the owner of a dog who had made trouble for a neighbor's chickens. The dog was vaccinated and registered.

A woman whose dog had caused trouble in the past and which were still nuisances in the neighborhood was moving, so he decided not to push the issue.

Mr. Derick Billado spent nearly an hour attempting to capture a loose dog, but was unsuccessful.

**4. Old Business**

**a) Discuss FCAR 2016 Contract**

Mr. Guilmette said that the contract erroneously mentioned cats, which Swanton did not deal with. He had spoken with Rusty Posner, who had informed him that removing cats from the contract meant that no one from Swanton could drop off cats at the shelter unless there was space for the cats. Swanton did not pay for people in the community to bring cats

to the shelter. She suggested that some communities have a slush fund to help pay for cats that citizens brought to the shelter. At the moment, the Town only paid for dogs delivered by the Animal Control Officer; citizens paid themselves for any animals they brought to the shelter.

Mr. Derick Billado reminded the board that FCAR would not take any dogs or cats that had bitten people. Mr. Thompson was in favor of removing cats from the contract.

Mr. Clark made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thompson, to remove cats from the FCAR contract and to replace "Berkshire" with "Swanton." Motion carried.

Mr. Thompson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Clark, to authorize Mr. Guilmette to sign the FACR contract as revised. Motion carried.

**b) Discuss Cross Engineering Robin Hood Drive Proposal – Moved to Item 10.**

**5. Economic Development**

**a) Discuss Economic Coordinator Position Job Description**

Mr. Clark was in favor of reading through this as a "homework assignment." Mr. Billado noted that the information about the economic coordinator in Johnson was surprising, but Johnson was a "gold town" because of the skiing there. Mr. Thompson said that, for what Swanton wanted, he recommended "we start from scratch." He recommended having a separate line item that the taxpayers voted for: "I was thinking of 10-12 hours a week at the most." The Selectboard discussed that Tim Smith of FCIDC and David Jescavage, Swanton Town Administrator, could do much of the work themselves. At the same time, Mr. Billado emphasized that this item should not be "pushed to the side" and Mr. Thompson agreed that a number of people from the community had been very valuable in bringing more to Swanton.

John Lavoie entered at 7:18 p.m.

Mr. Jescavage said that in a town in New Hampshire where he worked, the Town had set up a non-profit to help retain businesses or help with start-up businesses. That way, they did not have to hire anyone. The committee (consisting of lawyers, town officials, bankers, and business owners) met once a month, applications would be considered, and the Town incurred no significant expenses. Mr. Thompson felt that the Selectboard's commitment to open up the position necessitated follow-through, but as a caution, he wanted to start slow.

Mr. Jescavage noted that Brian Story from the state was working with the Swanton Enhancement Project in a short-term time frame to help pull the project forward. Mr. Clark recommended that Mr. Jescavage attend the meetings in which those plans were being put together.

Mr. Lavoie felt that the coordinator's position was close to what Mr. Jescavage did in New Hampshire, as far as community development. He felt that Mr. Jescavage's knowledge would be beneficial in such a position.

**6. Community Development – None.**

**7. Expenditures**

**a) General Orders (December 16, 2015 – December 31, 2015)**

Mr. Clark made a motion, seconded by Mr. Guilmette, to approve the general orders as printed. Motion carried. It was noted that the sewer piping had to be replaced, there had been some trouble with the thermostats, and a few other unexpected expenses.

**b) Highway Orders (December 16, 2015 – December 31, 2015)**

Mr. Clark made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lavoie, to approve the highway orders as printed. Motion carried.

**c) Payroll (December 16, 2015 – December 31, 2015)**

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

**8. Highway Department**

**a) Street Updates**

Mr. Clark said that there was nothing new to report. There were no return problems from Covey Drive, and he did not expect it to be too much of an issue.

**b) Street Naming Hearing – Rail Trail Lane**

Mr. Clark made a motion, seconded by Mr. Guilmette, to exit the public meeting and enter into a public hearing at 7:35 p.m. Motion carried. No public was present

Mr. Jescavage explained that the proposed Rail Trail Lane was an extension of Ruth Drive, and because of the existing numbers on Ruth Drive and because of the T-shape of the road, the extension should be given its own name. The developer suggested Rail Trail Lane. Mrs. Fournier expressed concern about how people would find the road. The Selectboard discussed the options.

Mr. Clark made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lavoie, to exit the public hearing at 7:40 p.m. Motion carried. Mr. Lavoie made a motion, seconded by Mr. Guilmette, to re-enter the Selectboard public meeting at 7:40 p.m. Motion carried.

Mr. Thompson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Guilmette, to approve the extension of Ruth Drive as Rail Trail Lane. Motion carried.

**c) Other Updates**

Mr. Clark stated that he had spoken with Peter Cross of Cross Consulting Engineers, and Mr. Cross evaluated that the salt shed sides were moving/bowing out, and recommended having braces. The Selectboard discussed possibilities for incorporating the braces and doing the concrete work.

Mr. Clark added that Mr. Cross said that they needed a permit for fire safety for the lean-to.

Mr. Billado asked if the holes in the library parking lot had been filled in. Mr. Jescavage explained that the sand used to fill them in had settled, and then the snow had covered up the holes so that people tripped in them. The holes had been barricaded.

**d) Robin Hood Drive**

Mr. Clark said that, when the state came to look at the railroad piece of the road, they had stated that the Town needed to give them a road design. Mr. Cross was prepared to provide the road design, but it would be more money—up to \$14,872. Mr. Clark went over the items on the work proposal, and noted the items that the Town could do “in-house” and those that they would need Cross Consulting Engineers for.

Mr. Lavoie made a motion, seconded by Mr. Guilmette, to ask for a contract from Cross Consulting Engineers for stormwater permitting and road design for the Robin Hood Drive extension. Motion carried.

**9. Correspondence – None.**

**10. Any Other Necessary Business**

**a) Discuss 4<sup>th</sup> Street Listing with Mike Blouin**

Mr. Blouin was not present. The Selectboard decided to table this item unless Mr. Blouin arrived before the end of the meeting. Mr. Guilmette was in favor of signing if the contract was indeed 6% for 6 months. The Selectboard agreed to have Mr. Jescavage sign the contract, since they recalled that they had already given him authority to do so at the last meeting.

**11. Public Comments** – None.

**12. Upcoming Events**

- a) **Thursday, January 28, 2016 DRB @ 7 p.m. @ Town Offices**
- b) **Tuesday, February 2, 2016 Next SLB Regular Meeting @ 7 p.m. @ Town Offices**
- c) **Thursday, February 18, 2016 Swanton Enhancement Project One Year Anniversary of Community Visit @ 5 p.m. @ Swanton Elementary School**

Mr. Billado recalled that there was a public hearing in Montpelier regarding wind energy tomorrow. He could not personally go. Mr. Clark was planning to go. Mr. Clark summarized that the board unanimously opposed the Swanton Wind Project and he would represent that opinion in the hearing on behalf of Swanton.

**13. Executive Session (if needed)** – None.

Mr. Billado made a motion, seconded by Mr. Guilmette, to enter executive session to discuss personnel at 7:56 p.m. He explained that discussing the matter in public would put the individual and the Town at a disadvantage.

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

**E. Adjournment**

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

Received and filed by:

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Cathy Fournier, Swanton Town Clerk

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Date