

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

*Tuesday, February 16, 2016 @ 7:00 p.m.*

*Present: Daniel Billado, Selectboard Chair; James Guilmette, John Lavoie, and William "Turk" Thompson, Selectmen; David Jescavage, Town Administrator; Harold Garrett, Road Foreman; Yaasha Wheeler, Secretary; Derick Billado, Animal Control Officer; Heather Buczkowski, Ch. 16; Ronald Kilburn; Dick Thompson.*

**A. Call to Order**

Mr. Billado called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Billado expressed condolences for the family of William Fournier, who had passed away unexpectedly, and held a moment of silence.

**B. Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**C. Agenda Review**

Mr. Billado thanked Mr. Turk Thompson for his service to the Town, since it was his last regular Selectboard meeting. Mr. Billado would talk over the Highway items that Mr. Clark had indicated in an e-mail.

**D. Meeting Topics:**

**1. Minutes**

**a) February 2, 2016 SLB Regular Meeting**

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

**2. Public Comments**

None.

**3. Animal Control**

**a) SW Animal Control Officer Report**

Mr. Derick Billado said that everything had generally been normal. He had enforced the ordinance to register dogs, he had responded to some barking dog calls, and a loose dog. He said he had received a call about a cat bite, but the cat was confined to the house, which had been vaccinated. He would check out the cat after ten days, as the ordinance required.

Mr. Guilmette said that the contract with Franklin County Animal Rescue had been signed with no problems.

**4. Old Business**

**a) Fit & Healthy Path Resolution Honoring Richard "Dick" Thompson**

Mr. Billado explained that the fit & healthy path was Mr. Thompson's dream, and the work of many people, and the board wanted to honor Mr. Thompson by naming the path in recognition of him.

*Resolution to Name the Fit & Healthy Recreation Path in Honor of Richard "Dick" Thompson*

*WHEREAS, Richard "Dick" Thompson served for over sixteen years as the Swanton Town Administrator; and*

*WHEREAS, Richard "Dick" Thompson was instrumental in working with Bonnie Wanniger of the Northwest Regional Planning Commission and Amy Brewer of Northwestern Lifestyle Medicine to secure grant funding for the creation of a fitness path on a length of abandoned rail line, and*

*WHEREAS, Richard "Dick" Thompson secured the right of the Town to create a fitness path on the abandoned rail line owned by the State of Vermont, and*

*WHEREAS, Richard "Dick" Thompson organized a volunteer effort to construct the fitness path in addition to the expenditure of \$35,000 in grant funds to pay for other services, and*

*WHEREAS, Richard "Dick" Thompson secured multiple donations of goods, funds, and services from business and individuals to help pay for the path construction thereby reducing the cost to the Town and promoting community spirit, and*

*WHEREAS, the Swanton Selectboard members want to extend their gratitude for the extraordinary effort and vision of Richard "Dick" Thompson in making the fitness path a reality,*

*NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Swanton Selectboard recognizes and appreciates this extraordinary effort and vision and wants to make that recognition and appreciation a matter of public record for posterity,*

*FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Swanton Selectboard directs that this path shall henceforth be named the Richard "Dick" Thompson Fit & Healthy Recreation Path in honor of his extraordinary effort and vision in making this path a reality.*

*Adopted by the Town of Swanton, Vermont Selectboard on this 16<sup>th</sup> day of February 2016.*

Mr. Thompson noted that many people gave of their skills and dedication to make the path, in his opinion, the best path in the area. The Selectboard warmly thanked Mr. Thompson for his vision and passion.

## **5. Economic Development**

### **a) Disbursement of Economic Development Funds to Library**

Mr. Jescavage had affirmed with an attorney that economic development money could be used to repair the Swanton Public Library. Mr. Thompson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lavoie, to disburse up to \$20,000 to the Town Library to cover expenses for new flooring, electrical work, and new computers from the Town economic development fund.

## **6. Community Development**

None.

## **7. Expenditures**

### **a) General Orders (January 1, 2016 – February 16, 2016)**

Mr. Thompson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Guilmette, to approve the general orders as printed. Motion carried.

**b) Highway Orders (January 1, 2016 – February 16, 2016)**

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

**c) Payroll (January 1, 2016 – February 16, 2016)**

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

**8. Highway Department**

**a) Discuss Cross Engineering Sand Shed Proposal**

Mr. Billado explained that Cross Consulting Engineers had put together a proposal to fix the bulging salt shed wall, plus a lean-to, for \$9340. Mr. Clark would work with Mr. Garrett and Mr. Cross to move that project forward.

**b) Street Updates – None.**

**c) Other Updates**

Mr. Garrett said that the loader needed two new tires, but the matter could probably wait until after the town vote. There was a bulge on one tire, so they moved it to the back, so that if it did blow, it wouldn't affect anything on the front. Mr. Clark recommended buying a more durable Michelin tire for \$2300 apiece, with an extra 5-7 year life cycle than the cheaper tires. The Selectboard agreed, and Mr. Billado considered the purchase "part of doing business."

Mr. Brian Thompson was out because of an injury and had not yet been able to return to work.

**d) Note from Joel Clark**

The surveyors were getting data for engineering on the final phase of Robin Hood Drive.

Mr. Clark had been working with Cross Consulting Engineers on the town office study second floor.

The Selectboard reorganizational meeting after the March 1<sup>st</sup> meeting should be held when Mr. Clark returned. The Selectboard agreed to meet on Friday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, at 6 p.m.

The Community Celebration was approaching, but with the tragic event of William Fournier's passing, the event had been postponed.

Mr. Clark (via his e-mail) thanked Mr. Thompson for his service on the Selectboard in the last 2 years.

**9. Correspondence**

Mr. Jescavage received a phone call from the National Wildlife Federation recommending that the Selectboard support the banning of shipment of oil by rail through the State of Vermont. Mr. Billado said that he had read it, but in his opinion it was very one-sided. The rail line was stated as being from the post-Civil War era, and Mr. Billado said that it had been renovated since then. He added further that putting the oil from the rail cars on to tractor trailer trucks would then have an environmental impact from diesel and the wear on the roads. While a derailment of the oil would be devastating environmentally, a truck going off the road was also a possibility. Mr. Thompson's opinion was: "This community has long been a supporter of rail. Why would we do something to stop it?" The Selectboard

agreed that this was a livelihood that the community used, and alternate routes of shipment were just as likely to cause problems.

**b) VT ANR Flooding Seminar**

Mr. Jescavage informed the board of upcoming workshops from the Intraregency Regional Spring Flooding Seminar. He wished to attend some of the workshops.

**c) US Fish & Wildlife Service Acquisition Letter**

Mr. Jescavage informed the board of a letter from the US Fish and Wildlife Services, giving notice to the Town that a parcel of land between Monument Road and the river was being acquired by the USFWS.

**10. Any Other Necessary Business**

**a) Set Organizational Meeting Date**

This was set for Friday, March 4, 2016 at 6 p.m.

**11. Topic Updates**

- a) State's Attorney Office contacted
- b) Animal cruelty law researched – no obligation for Town.
- c) CAI Technologies contract signed after clause #9 added & sent
- d) Cross Engineering contract for added services signed & sent
- e) FCAR contract signed by both parties & filed
- f) PSB party status opinion researched
- g) Requested Dick Thompson to appear at February 16<sup>th</sup> meeting
- h) March 29<sup>th</sup> PC meeting with multiple boards reserved for Village Complex
- i) Gentleman's agreement for MVU to store boxes in room on 2<sup>nd</sup> floor
- j) Special info meeting on February 22<sup>nd</sup> noticed & slide show finalized
- k) Appointment form for TA to serve on Clean Water Committee sent
- l) Economic Development Fund can be used for any project within Village limits or also benefiting Village

**12. Public Comments – None.**

**13. Upcoming Events**

- a) Thursday, February 18, 2016 Community Dinner @ 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. @ Swanton Central School (Dinner has been postponed to a future date to be announced)
- b) Monday, February 22, 2016 @ 7 p.m., Selectboard Annual Informational Meeting, Village Complex, 120 First Street
- c) Thursday, February 25, 2016 @ 7 p.m. DRB Meeting in Town Offices
- d) Tuesday, March 1, 2016 Town Meeting Day, Voting from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. @ Village Complex, 120 First Street
- e) TBD, Special Selectboard Organizational Meeting, 7 p.m. in Town Offices

**E. Executive Session – None needed.**

**F. Adjournment**

Mr. Thompson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Guilmette, to adjourn at 7:39 p.m. Motion carried.

Received and filed by:

Cathy Fournier, Swanton Town Clerk

Date