

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

Tuesday, April 19, 2016 @ 7:00 p.m.

Present: Joel Clark, Selectboard Chair; John Lavoie, Selectboard Chair; Dan Billado, James Guilmette, and Jeff Raleigh, Selectmen; David Jescavage, Town Administrator; Yaasha Wheeler, Secretary; Cathy Fournier, Town Clerk; Lt. Maurice Lamothe, Vermont State Trooper; Derick Billado, ACO; Harold Garrett, Road Foreman; Tom Benton, St. Albans Messenger; Heather Buczkowski, Ch. 16.

A. Call to Order

Mr. Clark called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

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

C. Agenda Review

Mr. Clark welcomed Lt. Lamothe from the Vermont State Police, who said he was here to observe. Mr. Clark added 4(b) "Town Sign" and 5(a) "Champlain Housing Development Corporation Loan" and 7(d) "Expenditure Review." Mr. Jescavage had added "Contracts" under Executive Sessions since the notice had been posted.

D. Meeting Topics:

1. Minutes

a) April 5, 2016 SLB Regular Meeting

Mr. Billado 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 came forward. He reported a lot of loose dogs and a few bites. He had brought one "repeat offender" dog to the Humane Society and the owner had to pay to get him back. If the owner did not keep picking him up, the dog would be put up for adoption. He reported that he had attended a family after a hit-and-run driver killed their dog. He would make sure to get all the information needed to Mr. Dan Billado (health officer) about the dog bites. The board thanked Mr. Derick Billado for his work.

4. Old Business

a) Sign Police Contract

The Selectboard reviewed the updated contract with Swanton Village Police Department. Mr. Lavoie made a motion, seconded by Mr. Guilmette, to accept the police contract with the Swanton Village Police Department as written. Discussion: Mr. Billado added that the

period for this contract is from April 1, 2016 through March 31, 2017. Mr. Guilmette amended also that Dan Billado, as police commissioner, was authorized to sign the contract on behalf of the Selectboard. Discussion concluded. Motion carried.

b) Town Sign

Mr. Lavoie made a motion, seconded by Mr. Guilmette, to pay for the digital sign up to \$4400 out of the Economic Development Fund for the portions needed to offset the grant given to the Town for the sign's purchase. Motion carried.

5. Economic Development

a) Champlain Housing Development Fund

Mr. Clark informed the board that, in 1982, the Town loaned out \$185,000 to Champlain Housing an amount that would come due in 2022.

6. Community Development

a) Discuss Missisquoi Valley Rescue Situation

Mr. Clark said that MVR had provided services to the community for 39 years. In the near future, the contract with Highgate will be terminated. He had spoken with the MVR president and was assured that there would be no change to the services provided to Swanton this year. MVR was revising their business plan and would invite the Selectboard to review it when the time was right. Mr. Clark was concerned about a monopoly developing in the area, and about response time. Again, there was no change to the people of Swanton in the immediate future.

Mr. Raleigh felt that MVR did a great job and had an excellent response time. "If my life depends on it, I hope someone's in a hurry to get me."

Mr. Lavoie recalled the early days of MVR. "I can't say enough about the service they give us to the community, and it would be a real devastation to a lot of people in this area if we were to lose them." Response time was critical to him as well. He wished MVR luck and "hoped we can keep them around a lot longer than what your books are telling you right now."

Mr. Billadosaid that he had been a member of MVR for 14 years. He felt the whole thing was "very unfair to Highgate residents." SaveMVRHighgate had a website to try to keep MVR in Highgate. "MVR has always raised the most amount of votes to pass their budget... Unlike Highgate, we listen to our people."

Mr. Guilmette affirmed that MVR did great service in the community and could not wait to hear what MVR could present to the Selectboard.

Mr. Clark said that the Town would work hard to continue the long-standing relationship that has gone on for nearly four decades.

7. Expenditures

a) General Orders (March 16, 2016 to April 19, 2016)

Mr. Lavoie made a motion, seconded by Mr. Billado, to accept the General Orders as printed. Motion carried.

b) Highway Orders (March 16, 2016 to April 19, 2016)

Mr. Lavoie made a motion, seconded by Mr. Guilmette and Mr. Billado, to accept the Highway Orders as printed. Motion carried.

c) Payroll Orders (March 16, 2016 to April 19, 2016)

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

d) 2013 AM Peisch Financial Statement

The board reviewed the report from A.M. Peisch. Mr. Billado made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lavoie, to let A.M. Peisch know that the Selectboard had looked over the draft report and accepted it. Motion carried.

8. Highway Department

a) Street Updates

Mr. Garrett said that the road crew was doing its “spring work.” He had ridden the roads they were thinking of paving, and bids would be put out soon. Mr. Clark added that Hog Island and the industrial park were the main areas they planned to work on. The “hook” on Babbie Drive would be flared out to make the turn easier for tractor trailers. Mr. Garrett said that the money in the Road Improvement fund was sufficient for the planned projects.

Mr. Billado asked if grindings would be available from the state project on Route 78 and the village project on First Street. Mr. Garrett said he would get what he could, and had so far been guaranteed 500 free yards.

b) Other Updates

Most of the street signs were up. The new tires were on the loader. New ears had been ordered for the truck, the box would be welded, and Charlebois was going to change the oil pan. Mr. Clark recommended putting in a line item “2008 Volvo” in order to track the costs of repair for that truck.

Mr. Clark asked permission to hire a temporary employee for the road crew for about three months, to do groundskeeping. Mr. Guilmette suggested subcontracting out the work as an option.

Mr. Billado made a motion, seconded by Mr. Raleigh, to hire a temporary employee for several months, until Brian Thompson could get back on his feet. Discussion: Mr. Guilmette added that a subcontractor should at least be looked at. Discussion concluded. Motion carried.

Mr. Garrett requested Mr. Jescavage to order two flagpoles for the garage, one for the American flag and one for the state flag.

Mr. Billado asked Mr. Jescavage how whether he had straightened out the invoice/billing issue with Vermont Gas. Mr. Jescavage said he would continue to follow up.

Mr. Guilmette asked about Hazard Road. Mr. Garrett said that he was awaiting the plans from the state of Vermont, but the plans had been approved. He needed to add stone to Sholan Road, which had large potholes.

9. Correspondence

Mr. Jescavage informed the board that Terry O’Shea requested the board’s approval to put out a news release that the Town would back the economic and community development coordinator for \$31,000. Mr. Clark felt that, though the allocation of the money was a matter of public record, the board was not quite ready to advertise the position until they heard back about the grant. The Selectboard agreed. Mr. Jescavage would continue to work on creating a position description.

10. Any Other Necessary Business

None.

11. Topic Updates

The Selectboard reviewed the updates.

12. Public Comments

None.

13. Upcoming Events

- a) Thursday, April 21, 2016 @ 7 pm, DRB Meeting in Town Offices**
- b) Wednesday, April 27, 2016 Planning Commission Meeting @ 7 p.m. in Town Offices, 1 Academy Street**

Mr. Clark said that this meeting was in relation to wind and other renewable energy and encouraged the public to attend.

- c) Tuesday, May 3, 2016 Selectboard Finance Meeting @ 6:30 p.m. in Town Offices, 1 Academy Street**
- d) Tuesday, May 3, 2016 Selectboard Regular Meeting @ 7:00 p.m. in Town Offices, 1 Academy Street**
- e) Wednesday, May 4, 2016 Vermont Futures Project @ 6 to 8 pm in the Village Complex, 120 First Street (through Swanton Enhancement Committee)**
- f) Wednesday, May 4 -6 All State Music Festival @ MVU**
- g) Saturday, May 21, 2016 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day, Swanton Town Highway Garage, 221 First Street**

Mr. Billado thanked Lt. Lamothe for attending the meeting.

14. Executive Session (personnel & contracts)

Mr. Billado made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lavoie, to enter executive session at 7:57 p.m. He cited that the individuals who would be discussed would be put at a disadvantage if the matter was discussed publicly. Motion carried.