

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

***Tuesday, July 5, 2016 @ 7:00 p.m.***

*Present: Joel Clark, Selectboard Chair; John Lavoie, Selectboard Vice Chair; Jeffrey Raleigh and James Guilmette; David Jescavage, Town Administrator; Yaasha Wheeler, Secretary; Cathy Fournier, Town Clerk; Eugene Rich, SVPD.*

**A. Call to Order**

Mr. Clark called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**B. Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**C. Agenda Review**

Mr. Jescavage added "Update on USDA Grant" under Economic Development, and "Roof Quote" under Old Business. Mr. Lavoie added "4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration" under Any Other Necessary Business. Mr. Clark added "South River Street Grant" and "Stone Culvert" under Highway. Mr. Billado wanted to talk about "Other Town Office Repairs" and "Dick's Resolutions and Signs" under Old Business, as well as "Hiring Economic & Community Development Coordinator" under Economic Development. Mr. Guilmette said he would like to talk about an animal abuse case in executive session.

**D. Meeting Topics:**

**1. Minutes**

**a) June 21, 2016 SLB Regular Meeting**

Mr. Guilmette made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lavoie, to approve the minutes as printed. Motion carried. Mr. Billado noted that he had not been present for that meeting, but he had read the minutes.

**2. Public Comments – None.**

**3. Old Business**

**a) Discuss Quote for Interim Repairs for Town Office Building Roof**

Postponed. Mr. Vallaincourt had urged to do something about the rust and metal on the roof. Mr. Vallaincourt had given an estimate, but this project may go out to bid. The work on the town office that needed to be done included the roof, the soffits, the windowsills, and more. Mr. Lavoie was interested in knowing the full price of all the work to be done, so that they could evaluate the priorities. Mr. Billado reminded that all the applicants should have insurance and workman's comp.

The board would look at the list of work to be done on the town office at the next meeting, break the projects into different categories, and begin gathering quotes from local sources on each type of project. The board, Mrs. Fournier, and Mr. Jescavage discussed having a covering for the handicapped ramp and intercom/call button at each of the entrances.

**b) Dick's Resolutions**

Mr. Billado asked Mr. Jescavage whether the resolution for Dick Thompson had been framed. Mr. Jescavage said it had not, but he would be working on it. He also displayed one of the new Fit & Healthy Path signs.

#### **4. Law Enforcement**

##### **a) Swanton Police Monthly Report**

Mr. Billado read aloud an email about the restitution check soon to come to the town (due to vandalism from about a year ago).

Mr. Eugene Rich came forward. There had been 60 incidents in the month of June, with six traffic citations with a fine amount of \$880. July looked like it would be even more busy. The department was still in the process of obtaining a speed cart, which helped people to slow down. The speed spy was “covert,” which tracked how many cars went by, how fast they were going, what time it was, etc., but the current speed spy needed to be replaced.

He emphasized that the Town should feel free to call the Police Department anytime they had a concern they wanted addressed or an area they wanted more attention given to. Mr. Clark said that concerns from the public should be directed to Mr. Billado, who would coordinate with the public. According to Mr. Billado, the trail heads and John’s Bridge had “a lot of activity” and speeding was a problem “everywhere.”

Mr. Guilmette made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lavoie, to enter executive session at 7:25 p.m., citing that premature public knowledge of the case under consideration (animal cruelty case) could put individuals at a disadvantage.

Mr. Lavoie made a motion, seconded by Mr. Raleigh, to exit executive session at 7:35 p.m. Motion carried.

Mr. Clark said that the discussion had involved an update on a potential criminal issue. No action was taken.

#### **5. Community Development – None.**

#### **6. Economic Development**

Mr. Jescavage said that the state sponsored grant had been denied. Since the denial, he had received a notice from Suzanne Pollin of USDA that there may be money at the national level to cover the \$30,000 to help the Town offer a \$60,000 a year position. The application already submitted will be used for the federal grant and, if there was any money available, the Town will have the full amount to fund an economic and community development coordinator. The Selectboard would wait to know the status of this new application before moving forward with filling the position.

#### **7. Highway Department**

##### **a) Tractor Update**

The tractor was in the shop currently for repairs.

##### **b) Tabor Road Update**

The shoulder work and culvert continued to progress.

##### **c) Street Paving Updates**

None.

##### **d) Other Updates**

Mr. Jescavage said that the hydroseeder was not shutting off when they turned the key, so Harold Garrett would work with Bethany Remmers to either replace or refund the hydroseeder, since this was a safety issue.

A grant was available to help fix a stone culvert on South River Street, and Jim Cota believed that it would be granted.

## **8. Correspondence**

Mr. Jescavage presented the request by the Vermont Council of Rural Development (which had sponsored the Community Visit) for \$150 donation to become an organizational member to support their group. He added that the Town pays \$35 a year for dues to belong to VCRD; this would be in addition to that. The Selectboard was in favor of presenting this as a line item when the budget was being developed for 2017.

A group of girls from the Health Project from Franklin County requested permission to pick up cigarette butts around the Town. Mr. Billado was concerned that if someone got injured (poked by a needle, etc.) then the Town could be held liable for endorsing the effort. Mr. Clark was "not too crazy about girls of this age group" doing something like that without confirmation of a responsible adult there. The board agreed to take no action.

## **9. Any Other Necessary Business**

Mr. Lavoie said that he had attended a local fireworks show (not in Swanton) and was impressed by the attendance. He recalled that Swanton had had fireworks for its 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary. "When we have towns like Bakersfield and Franklin doing it, those towns that are smaller than us and we're not, something's wrong." He felt that having a fireworks show would promote Swanton and bring people together. He pointed out that the Memorial Day celebration had gathered momentum since beginning several years ago.

Mr. Billado suggested adding a Fourth of July line item to the budget. Mr. Raleigh said that they should do research to see what the smaller towns were spending, and that some people would donate as well.

Mr. Clark said he had just received some new quotes for the digital sign. He had seen the demo sign. He would have a conversation with Reginald Beliveau to coordinate it.

## **10. Public Comments (Reprise) - None.**

## **11. Upcoming Events**

- a) Tuesday, July 19, 2016 Quarterly Finance Meeting @ 6:30 p.m. @ Town Offices, 1 Academy Street, Swanton, VT**
- b) Tuesday, July 19, 2016 Next SLB Meeting @ 7 p.m. @ Town Offices, 1 Academy Street, Swanton, VT**
- c) Wednesday, July 20, 2016 @ 7 p.m. Planning Commission, Town Offices, 1 Academy Street, Swanton, VT**
- d) Thursday, July 21, 2016 @ 7 p.m. DRB, Town Offices, 1 Academy Street, Swanton, VT**

Mr. Raleigh made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lavoie, to adjourn at 7:58 p.m. Motion carried.

Received and filed by:

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Cathy Fournier, Swanton Town Clerk

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Date