

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

Tuesday, August 3, 2016 @ 7:00 p.m.

Present: Joel Clark, Selectboard Chair; John Lavoie, Selectboard Vice Chair; James Guilmette, Selectmen; David Jescavage, Town Administrator; Yaasha Wheeler, Secretary; Cathy Fournier, Town Clerk; Adam Paxman and Neal Speer, Village Trustee; Reginald Beliveau, Village Manager; Ronald Kilburn; Leonard “Joey” Stell, Swanton Village Police Chief; Gary Lussier; Tom Benton, St. Albans Messenger; Ch. 16.

A. Call to Order

Mr. Clark opened the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

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

C. Agenda Review

Mr. Clark added the July 19, 2016 Quarterly Finance Meeting minutes under “Minutes,” as well as Town Office Repairs under “Old Business.” The review of the fee schedule was postponed to the next meeting. He added personnel to executive session and added vandalism under “Public Comment.”

D. Meeting Topics:

1. Minutes

a) July 19, 2016 SLB Quarterly Finance Meeting

b) July 19, 2016 SLB Regular Meeting

c) July 25, 2016 SLB Special Meeting

Mr. Guilmette made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lavoie, to approve all three meeting minutes. Motion carried.

2. Public Comments

a) Vandalism

Mr. Kilburn stated that there was an increase of vandalism in the community and called it “severe.” He said he had sent a lengthy email to Mr. Clark, Mr. Jescavage, Mr. Speer, Mr. Beliveau, and to Chief Stell outlining his concerns and requested that this be placed on the agenda of the next regularly scheduled Selectboard and Trustee meetings. “If we’re going to solve this problem, we need to do it as a community.” He asked for the possibility of having a community forum on the subject, since there were a number of citizens who were likewise upset and he wanted to find a solution. He expected that there were other Vermont communities that had dealt with vandalism. He noted that the community had spent thousands of dollars to cover the cost of the vandalism. He asked the board members and trustees to take on responsibility in connection with this. “Please come up with a plan.”

He added that law enforcement needed community input. “All I ask is that you all share this problem and that we not continue to say, ‘Well, we’ll deal with it. Let’s deal with it.’” The forum he suggested might be a separate meeting from the Selectboard/Trustee meetings.

The Selectboard acknowledged the problem and cited instances of vandalism. Mr. Clark asked to invite public input on that for the next Selectboard meeting.

3. Law Enforcement
a) Swanton Police Monthly Report

Postponed temporarily to discuss Sidewalk Feasibility Study.

4. Old Business
a) Discuss Choice of Options for Sidewalk Feasibility Study

Mr. Clark summarized that the board needed to give Cross Consulting Engineers some direction as far as what would be done for sidewalks along South River Street and First Street.

Mr. Paxman said that he would choose widening the road to have two lanes on South River Street, though one of his constituents preferred a sidewalk on the river side. "People do use it and it's someone's life that could be saved." On First Street/Route 78, he wished to add a sidewalk on the northern side all the way up to the school entrance, with a stoplight at the interstate exit ramps for the safety of pedestrians.

Mr. Lavoie said that there was a lot of good input at the public hearing on this matter. He summarized that residents along South River Street were concerned about the proximity of the sidewalk to their homes, since it would extend 15 feet from the edge of the road toward the homes. Mr. Lavoie's main concern was the safety of the pedestrians along that road. He preferred expansion of the existing road rather than adding a sidewalk. He agreed that there "definitely needed to be a sidewalk" along First Street, and he preferred the north side all the way up to the school.

The widening would be about 4 feet along both sides.

Mr. Speer said that he agreed that the road was "dangerous" because the overgrowth was right up to the shoulder on the river side. A sidewalk would be "impossible," and a riverbank sidewalk would require fill, which would be too expensive. At the least, he felt there should be that 4 foot lane on the river side, perhaps both. He agreed that the bike path and the road were used by "a lot of people." He recommended having the sidewalk on the north for First Street.

Mr. Clark asked if there was any discussion of a curb and sidewalk along South River Street similar to Bushey Street. The others said there was not. He understood that the curb would complicate drainage, but it might add some safety during the winter. Mr. Beliveau noted that the snow from plowing would end up on the sidewalk. He was in favor of the north sidewalk on First Street.

Mr. Beliveau noted that the waterline would be under a northern sidewalk, which would have to be taken into account.

Mr. Guilmette recommended widening the street on South River Street and having a northern sidewalk on First Street.

Mr. Bernie Cota said he did not believe the town would get funding for a sidewalk on either side of the road and said he liked the idea of widening the road. He was concerned that the drainage would be an issue with a sidewalk as opposed to widening. There was a discussion about the width of sidewalks; Mr. Beliveau believed that the standard sidewalk was 5 feet. Some existing sidewalks in the Village were 3 feet, but new sidewalk had to adhere to state standards if the Town wished to receive funding for them.

Mr. Lavoie made a motion, seconded by Mr. Guilmette, that the Selectboard would recommend widening the road on South River Street for a walking lane and for a sidewalk on the north side of Route 78 to Missisquoi Valley High School. Discussion:

They would speak with the engineer about whether or not to have the walking lanes on both sides of the road. Motion carried.

Mr. Clark presented the quotes for the digital sign proposed for the park to the Village Trustees to consider before their meeting on Monday.

Mr. Beliveau said that the waterline project was done on Canada Street, and now the road would be scarified. The Trustees had had a meeting with Bill Sculley about the dam and was happy with the people they had contracted with. They had a preliminary permit that closed the area to development. The stormwater project would be completed next week, and would catch about a third of the stormwater to filter out phosphorous. Flashing crosswalks would come in as part of the paving project. New signs through Rise VT would be incorporated as well.

2. Public Comments

Mr. Gary Lussier said he had spoken with the road crew about the resurfacing job on Tabor Road. He was disappointed that the crushed old pavement would not be used to help stabilize the bad areas of the road bed. He was also concerned that, with the material used, the edges would not hold up to heavy agricultural equipment. Mr. Clark acknowledged that Mr. Lussier “brought up some great points” and noted that he was also a civil engineer. It would be “astronomical” to really do what needs to be done on Tabor Road. The heavy equipment was a concern for all the Town roads. “We’re going to make it better. We’re not going to make it ideal.” He said he would look into the costs for grinding. He said that to build the roads ideally, the Selectboard would need to triple the highway budget. Mr. Lussier mentioned that borrowing money was an option.

Mr. Lavoie said that there were 56 miles of road in Swanton, which was expensive to maintain. Mr. Clark said that he anticipated getting 10 years out of the repairs on Tabor Road.

Mr. Lussier added that Hog Island Road needed to be paved too, since it was broken. Mr. Clark said that west Swanton would get attention for the next couple years.

3. Law Enforcement

a) Police Report

Chief Stell said that the Emergency Local Action Plan had to be reauthorized to continue to qualify for the state grant.

The report showed 12 total traffic warnings and 24 citations, for a total of \$4377. There had been 67 total incidents for the month of July. Chief Stell noted that there were 2 potential offenders for trash dumped on Waugh Farm Road. They were working with the Northwest Solid Waste District investigator to track that down.

Mr. Clark asked about the fireworks complaint. Chief Stell said that fireworks were technically illegal in the State of Vermont. It was not illegal to sell fireworks but it was to possess them without a permit. Local fire chiefs could issue permits. The state’s attorneys’ office just “laughed at” violations because they were so commonplace, so the Village Police just confiscated the fireworks.

He spoke to Mr. Kilburn’s comments about vandalism, agreeing that there was an increase in vandalism perpetrated by a number of youth in the area. He recounted a “brazen” act of vandalism done in view of witnesses, but those youths were still being tracked down. He was very open to the idea of having a community forum. It was important for citizens to be aware and to tell police promptly.

He updated on the restitution check for the Rail Trail vandalism; he anticipated having it by September.

The Selectboard would review the draft weight ordinance and provide feedback to Chief Stell.

Chief Stell presented the Swanton Emergency Operation Plan that needed to be officially adopted again by the Town. The only change was an update of the current Selectmen.

Mr. Guilmette made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lavoie, to approve the local emergency plan and authorize David Jescavage to sign it on behalf of the Selectboard. Motion carried.

Chief Stell said that a plainclothes police officer had been dropped off in an area at 1 a.m. and five neighbors had “hollered at him that they would call the police” but none called the station. It was important to make citizens aware of the importance of letting the police know if they see something they consider suspicious.

b) Discuss RFB for Repairs for Town Office Building Roof

The board reviewed the draft RFB from Mr. Jescavage. The board recommended wirebrushing and pressure washing the whole roof, then priming and painting it. The warranty would be for three (3) years.

Mr. Lavoie made a motion, seconded by Mr. Guilmette, to send out the RFB with the amendments discussed. Motion carried.

c) Discuss Quote for Garage Fascia Repair

The repair was already done, and was within Mr. Garrett’s budget to do without Selectboard approval. The board agreed that, for the price, it was a job well done.

d) Appoint 2 Recreation Commissioners

Mr. Guilmette made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lavoie, to appoint Brad Barnett and Jason Guyette to the Swanton Recreation Commission. Motion carried. Mr. Clark thanked Mr. Barnett and Mr. Guyette for stepping up.

5. Community Development

a) Discuss Proposed Zoning Fee Increases

Postponed for later meeting.

b) Review New Cingular Wireless Project

Mr. Jescavage presented a notice of an antennae (tower?) to be erected on a silo. No action was required by the board.

6. Economic Development

Mr. Jescavage said that he had spoken with a woman from the state who said that they would know if federal funds were available by the end of August to help fund the position of an Economic and Community Development Coordinator.

7. Highway Department

a) Approve Better Roads Grant Agreement

Mr. Jescavage presented the information, which related to Waugh Farm Road. Mr. Guilmette made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lavoie, to authorize David Jescavage to sign the grant. Motion carried.

b) Tabor Road Update

Mr. Clark would let Mr. Lussier know when he would walk Tabor Road.

c) Street Paving Updates

d) Other Updates

8. Correspondence

Mr. Jescavage said that the CVOEO had sent a thank you letter for Swanton's support of the foodshelf in the amount of \$1000.

9. Any Other Necessary Business

10. Public Comments (Reprise)

Mr. Kilburn thanked the board for fixing the roof at the depot; it was a "great job." It was a good color match and the shingles looked more substantial than the previous shingles.

He added that the Outdoor Recreation Committee had two signs now to be installed, one on Robin Hood Drive and the other at the depot.

11. Upcoming Events

- a) Wednesday, August 10, 2016 Special PC Meeting @ 7 p.m. Town offices, 1 Academy Street, Swanton, VT**
- b) Tuesday, August 16, 2016 Next SLB Meeting @ 7 p.m. @ Town Offices, 1 Academy Street, Swanton, VT**
- c) Wednesday, August 17, 2016 @ 7 p.m. Planning Commission, Town Offices, 1 Academy Street, Swanton, VT**

12. Executive Session (legal & personnel)

Mr. Lavoie made a motion, seconded by Mr. Guilmette, to enter executive session at 8:36 p.m. for legal and personnel purposes, citing that public discussion of the matters to be deliberated would place the Town and/or an individual at a substantial disadvantage. Motion carried.

Mr. Guilmette made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lavoie, to exit executive session at 9:22 p.m. Motion carried. No action was taken.

13. Adjournment

Mr. Guilmette made a motion, second by Mr. Lavoie, to adjourn at 9:23 p.m. Motion carried.

Received and filed by:

Cathy Fournier, Swanton Town Clerk

Date