

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

***Tuesday, December 6, 2016 @ 7:00 p.m.***

*Present: Joel Clark, Swanton Selectboard Chair; Dan Billado, James Guilmette, and Jeff Raleigh, Swanton Selectmen; David Jescavage, Swanton Town Administrator; Cathy Fournier, Town Clerk; Yaasha Wheeler, Secretary; Dustin & Christine Lang; Penny Dubie; Luc & Michele Deslandes; Tom Benton, St. Albans Messenger; Patricia Rainville; John A. Smith; Jim Hubbard; Ed Daniel; Andy Larocque; Brian Savage; Chief Leonard Stell, Swanton Village Police Department; Marianna Gamache & Brian Savage, House Representatives; Heather Buczkowski, Ch. 16; Paula Pearsall; Ricky Doe; Luc & Michelle Deslandes; Bruce Collopy.*

**A. Call to Order**

Mr. Clark called the meeting to order at 7:14 p.m.

**B. Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**C. Agenda Review**

Mr. Jescavage added Executive Session for personnel. Mr. Clark added "Sign Bill" under Old Business.

**D. Meeting Topics**

**1. Minutes**

- a) November 15, 2016 SLB Regular Meeting
- b) November 28, 2016 SLB Special Meeting

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

**2. Public Comments – None.**

**3. Law Enforcement**

**a) Swanton Police Monthly Report**

Mr. Stell passed out the reports for the month of November, stating that there were no major incidents amongst the 44 incidents. There were 16 traffic warnings, with 11 citations totaling \$1743. Mr. Clark asked to know the reason for the increase in warnings. Chief Stell explained that written warnings (versus verbal warnings) were now mandatory. Mr. Billado would speak to Chief Stell about the contract that would renew on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

**4. Old Business**

**a) First Public Hearing for Proposed Revisions to the *Swanton Town and Village Municipal Plan***

Mr. Hubbard came forward. Mr. Clark opened the public hearing at 7:28 p.m. to talk about revisions to the Swanton Town and Village Municipal Plan. He read the following hearing notice:

*Notice is hereby given to the residents of the municipalities of the Town of Swanton, Vermont and the Village of Swanton, Vermont that the Swanton Selectboard will hold the first public hearing to consider adoption of revisions to the Swanton Town and Village Municipal Plan pursuant to Chapter 117 of Title 24, Section 4385, Vermont Statutes Annotated on December 6, 2016 at 7:10 p.m. at the Swanton Town Office Building.*

*The municipal plan revisions focus on proposed amendments to the Municipal Plan dealing with the Natural Resources, Energy, and Vision Statement sections of the Plan with guidelines and recommendations related to the location and siting of industrial developments including green energy projects such as industrial solar panel and wind turbine developments. The revisions are being proposed pursuant to Chapter 117 of Title 24, Section 4385, Vermont Statutes Annotated. The Planning Commission approved the proposed amendments after a duly noticed public hearing on November 2, 2016 and forwarded them for review and adoption by the Swanton Selectboard. The Selectboard must conduct at least two public hearings before taking action to adopt the amendments.*

*The proposed amendments promote and are consistent with the goals established in 24 VSA Sections 4302 and 4382. The purpose of these amendments is to protect Swanton and its residents by proposing proper renewable energy development that supports the state's renewable energy goals while exercising local control over these types of projects, by addressing conflicts between renewable energy projects and existing developments, by addressing community concerns over renewable energy project siting, by supporting environmentally and economically sound development, by ensuring proper siting for renewable energy development while avoiding the adverse impacts of renewable development and ensuring that local concerns are heard, by placing industrial scale development in suitable locations where any negative impacts will be minimal, by siting them to avoid harm to natural and human resources, by avoiding adverse impacts on neighboring properties, and by examining the effect and adequacy of the power grid as determined by the affected utility.*

*A full text of the proposed amendments to the Swanton Town and Village Municipal Plan is on file in the Swanton Town Clerk's Office and the Swanton Village Clerk's Office and on the Town of Swanton website at [www.townofswantonvermont.weebly.com](http://www.townofswantonvermont.weebly.com). Click on the MUNICIPAL PLAN button in the left column to access a copy. Questions may be directed to Town Administrator David Jescavage at 868-7418.*

Mr. Hubbard said that the Planning Commission had put together language addressing green energy. They had not received a grant from NRPC, so they spent over a year receiving testimony and putting together language that addressed the state's guidelines and took into account the citizens' thoughts. The Planning Commission had unanimously approved the language now being presented to the Selectboard for review.

Mr. Billado thanked the Planning Commission for putting the time and effort into "making everybody on both sides happy." Mr. Hubbard said that NRPC had "provided no input," but NRPC would review Swanton's plan to see if they would approve it for the NRPC plan. Mr. Clark added that Swanton Wind LLC's lawyer had sent a letter, dated November 2, 2016 and sent by email November 14, 2016, that included information sent to the Selectboard prior to the meeting. The letter would be posted on the website.

Mrs. Lang thanked the Planning Commission for working through the "long arduous process... You listened to a lot of input for both sides... We appreciate that." Mr. Clark thanked Brian Savage and Marianna Gamache for their participation in the many meetings regarding the Swanton Wind application: "That kind of support takes a lot of time and commitment."

Mr. Hubbard said that the Planning Commission "did their due diligence to create an energy section for the best interests of Swanton." The Selectboard offered no changes to the proposed language. The next hearing would be held on December 20, 2016.

Mr. Billado made a motion, seconded by Mr. Guilmette, to exit the public hearing at 7:36 p.m. Motion carried.

### **b) Update on Endeavors Lane Bus Stop**

Mr. Goodrich had called Mr. Clark about an Endeavor's Lane bus turnaround. Mr. Clark supported the concept of a bus turning around on Waugh Farm Road and coming back up to stop at Endeavor's Lane so that kids don't have to cross the road to enter the bus. However, he was concerned about the bus stopping on the hill on a snowy day and then trying to start up again in slick conditions. The residents had the responsibility to speak with the owner of the property on which the turnaround was located and to request the owner to make the turnaround larger.

### **c) Sign Billing**

Mr. Clark said that the electronic sign for the Village green had shipped. After the sign had been inspected, the board should approve the invoice to pay for the sign. Mr. Billado made a motion, seconded by Mr. Guilmette, to cut a check for \$9635.70 for the invoice, once the sign had been inspected. Motion carried. The Village and the Swanton Enhancement Project would help offset the cost to the Town.

## **5. Department Budgets**

### **a) Discuss Budgeting for New Carpeting in Town Office Building**

Mr. Jescavage said that funds for the carpet would hopefully come out of the Economic Development Fund. The current carpet was coming apart at the seams, and when Tanya Dufresne vacuumed, the threads would pull up. The Selectboard said that ideas should be brought forward and then they could get bids on the project.

## **6. Community and Economic Development**

### **a) Update on Gateway Economic Development Project**

The next meeting would be on December 8, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. The consultant had a number of informational resources online already, and the meeting was open to the public. The study was being paid for by a \$50,000 grant from the Regional Planning Commission. The plans involved the Swanton Northern Gateway, which was near the bridge entry into the village.

## **7. Highway Department**

### **a) Updates**

Mr. Clark informed the board that there had been an issue with plowing around a manhole on Wheeler Round during the storm events; steps had been taken to resolve this situation. Also, the state apparently was phasing out the use of brine.

## **8. Correspondence**

None.

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

### **a) Part-time Economic Development Coordinator Position Update**

Mr. Jescavage stated that there were three applicants for the Economic and Community Development Coordinator position.

## **10. Public Comments (none)**

## **11. Upcoming Events**

- a) Thursday, December 8, 2016 Northern Gateway Committee Meeting @ 5:30 p.m. @ Town Offices in Rear Meeting Room

- b) Thursday, December 8, 2016 Next DRB Meeting @ 7 p.m. @ Town Offices in Front Meeting Room
- c) Tuesday, December 20, 2016 @ 7 p.m. Next Selectboard Meeting & 2<sup>nd</sup> Public Hearing for Municipal Plan Revisions @ Town Offices
- d) Wednesday, December 21, 2016 @ 6:30 p.m. Swanton Today Show @ Ch. 15 Studio
- e) Friday, December 23 & Monday, December 26, 2016 Christmas Holiday, Town Offices & Operations Closed
- f) Tuesday, January 3, 2017 Area Wide Public Meeting Conducted by Swanton Wind LLC as part of the PSB CPG projects @ 5 p.m. in the MVU Auditorium
- g) Rescheduled Selectboard Meeting on Wednesday, January 4, 2017 @ 7 p.m. in the Town Offices

The Public Service Board has not approved the January 3<sup>rd</sup> date for the area-wide public meeting for Swanton Wind LLC, but, if the date is approved, community residents were strongly encouraged to attend and participate.

Mr. Clark thanked the Fairfield and St. Albans Town representatives again for their participation in the earlier meeting (at 6 p.m.) regarding Swanton Wind LLC.

Mr. Raleigh made a motion, seconded by Mr. Guilmette, to enter executive session for personnel at 7:53 p.m. Premature public knowledge of the matters to be discussed would place the town at a substantial disadvantage. Motion carried.

Mr. Billado made a motion, seconded by Mr. Guilmette, to come out of executive session at 8:49 p.m. Motion carried. Action taken: None.

Mr. Guilmette made a motion, seconded by Mr. Raleigh, to adjourn at 8:50 p.m. Motion carried.

Received and filed by:

---

Cathy Fournier, Swanton Town Clerk

---

Date