

**TOWN OF SWANTON**  
**MINUTES**  
**SELECTBOARD SPECIAL MEETING**  
**Swanton Town Office Building**  
**1 Academy Street, Swanton, VT 05488**  
***Wednesday, July 5, 2017 @ 7:00 p.m.***

Present: Joel Clark, Chair; James Guilmette, Vice Chair; Daniel Billado, Jeffery Raleigh, Members; David Jescavage, Town Administrator; Elisabeth Nance, Economic Development Coordinator; Katie Foster, Videographer; Chief Joey Stell, Sgt. David Kachajian, Swanton Police Department; Shawn Cheney

- A. Call to Order – Chair Clark called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.
- B. Pledge of Allegiance – Chair Clark led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance
- C. Agenda Review
  - 1. Mr. Jescavage added correspondence from RiseVT to Community and Economic Development
  - 2. Mr. Billado added introduction of new Swanton Police Department personnel to Law Enforcement

D. Meeting Topics:

- 1. Minutes –Mr. Guilmette made motion, seconded by Mr. Billado, to approve the June 20, 2017 Selectboard regular meeting minutes as written. Motion carried.
- 2. Public Comments – Discussion with Shawn Cheney

Chair Clark, who also chairs the Development Review Board (DRB), turned the chair over to Mr. Guilmette.

Mr. Cheney came before the Selectboard because of concerns he has with the lack of consistency in the DRB decision-making process specifically related to commercial permitting. Mr. Cheney detailed the process of recent applications that were denied as originally presented to the DRB.

Mr. Cheney’s main issue in both cases was not that the applications were denied, although he questioned the appropriateness of those decisions, but that similar applications were approved or handled differently.

Mr. Cheney referenced minutes from DRB meetings that he believed showed that, despite the Zoning Administrator stating otherwise, his most recent situation was the first under her tenure as the administrator. Mr. Clark stated that there were circumstances surrounding those applications of which Mr. Cheney was not aware but that this was not the forum in which to bring his concerns.

Mr. Cheney, when asked what redress he was seeking, stated that he wants his application considered at the next DRB meeting without having to pay any additional fees and without having to appeal to the Environmental Court.

Chair Guilmette and Mr. Billado informed Mr. Cheney that the Selectboard, although it appoints members to the DRB, has no jurisdiction over it and suggested Mr. Cheney go before the DRB to lay out his concerns.

Mr. Clark offered to talk with Mr. Cheney in an informal setting to address his concerns about the zoning process; Chair Clark's purpose in having served on various boards is to work with community members, including Mr. Cheney.

Mr. Billado made a motion, seconded by Mr. Raleigh, to return chair back to Mr. Clark.

### 3. Law Enforcement – Swanton Police Chief Monthly Report

#### i. Swanton Police Chief Monthly Report

Chief Stell presented his monthly report, which included fireworks complaints, and a number of traffic warnings and citations. Most of the calls were between 7:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.

As part of a discussion on a recent methane gas leak, Mr. Billado suggested involving the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) in devising a plan for the emergency management team to use to notify those residents at a high risk of excessive methane gas from old well systems; the Town wants to make sure the appropriate residents are aware of the risk without causing undue alarm.

Mr. Guilmette asked if there could be an increased police presence on Route 105 and on Bushey St.

#### ii. Introduction of new PD personnel – Chief Stell introduced the newest member of the department, Sergeant David Kachajian who had previously served with Montpelier Police Department.

### 4. Old Business – Discuss Town Office Building Brickwork Proposal – This was moved to Executive Session under contracts

## 5. Community & Economic Development

### i. Economic Development Coordinator Updates

Mr. Cheney mentioned that the Montagnes had talked with him about their property in the Southern Growth District; they have asked about having a conversation with the Town that could lead to a donation of some pockets of land. Ms. Nance will follow up with Mr. Cheney.

Ms. Nance gave an update on her activities since the last meeting, which includes getting a handle on the current situation in the Southern Growth District by identifying the parcels and property owners; meeting with developers; beginning discussions with the Planning Commission and Zoning Administrator on updating the zoning bylaws.

Ms. Nance is also looking at community development opportunities through the Swanton Arts Council and the Swanton Enhancement Project's Beautification Project.

- ii. RiseVT email – Mr. Jescavage received an email from Betsy Fournier about adding mile markers and fitness stations to the recreation path. Mr. Jescavage will add this to the July 18, 2017 agenda.

## 6. Highway Department

- i. Sand Shed Update – Chair Clark gave an update on the sand shed and the lean-to. Chair Clark informed the Selectboard that the Town had not yet gotten an estimate on the columns, beams, and roof and that he will follow up with Mr. Garrett.

- ii. Other Updates

Chair Clark reported that the majority of the roadside cutting has been done; Mr. Guilmette let the Chair know that Bushey Rd. has not been done yet.

Chair Clark reported that the Janes Rd. work is mostly done but Middle Rd needs a culvert done first. Both projects are expected to be completed within 2 to 2 ½ weeks.

- 7. Correspondence – Mr. Jescavage noted that the Selectboard had received a request from Mr. Thompson to remove his photograph from the conference room, preferring to have Lance Corporal Rosa's tribute stand alone. Mr. Billado suggested moving the photo to the meeting room. Mr. Jescavage will see if this meets with Mr. Thompson's approval.

## 8. Any Other Necessary Business – None

9. Public Comments (Reprise) – None

10. Upcoming Events

- i. Tuesday, July 18, 2017 @ 7 p.m., Next Selectboard Meeting, Town Offices, 1 Academy Street
- ii. Wednesday, July 12, 2017 @ 7 p.m., Planning Commission Meeting, Town Offices, 1 Academy Street
- iii. Thursday, July 20, 2017 @ 7 p.m., Northern Gateway Public Presentation @ Village Complex, 120 First Street
- iv. Thursday, July 27, 2017 @ 7 p.m., DRB Meeting, Town Offices, 1 Academy Street

E. Executive Session (personnel, real estate, contracts)

Mr. Raleigh made a motion at 8:07 p.m., seconded by Mr. Guilmette, to enter Executive Session to discuss personnel, real estate, and contract issues.

Mr. Raleigh made a motion at 8:59 p.m., seconded by Mr. Guilmette, to come out of Executive Session. Motion carried.

Action taken:

Mr. Guilmette made a motion, seconded by Mr. Raleigh, to increase the Animal Control Officer's pay by \$50.00 per month. Motion carried with Mr. Billado recusing himself.

Mr. Guilmette made a motion, seconded by Mr. Raleigh, to increase Dave Peloubet's hourly rate to \$20.50. Motion carried.

Mr. Raleigh made a motion, seconded by Mr. Billado, to accept Guilmette Handyman Services' revised bid for the Town Office repairs for a new total of \$51,420.00, which includes an additional \$3,000.00 for eco-cleaning the bricks. Motion carried with Mr. Guilmette recusing himself.

Mr. Raleigh made a motion, seconded by Mr. Guilmette, to accept Kristine Stell's real estate contract with a 6% commission and an end date of January 31, 2018 to list the Fourth St land. Motion carried.

**F.** Adjournment – Mr. Guilmette made a motion at 9:06 p.m., seconded by Mr. Raleigh, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.