

**TOWN OF SWANTON
DRAFT MINUTES
SELECTBOARD MEETING
Swanton Town Office Building
1 Academy Street, Swanton, VT 05488
Tuesday, August 1, 2017 @ 7:00 p.m.**

Present: Joel Clark, Chair; James Guilmette, Vice Chair; John Lavoie and Jeffrey Raleigh, Members; David Jescavage, Town Administrator; Elisabeth Nance, Administrative Assistant; Heather Buczkowski, videographer; Betsey Fournier, RiseVT; Monica Green, Steve Babcock, and Phoebe Kittell, Vermont Precision Tools; Jane Bouchard and June Sweeny, King's Daughters and Sons.

- A. Call to Order – Chair Clark called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
- B. Pledge of Allegiance – Chair Clark led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance
- C. Agenda Review

Under Old Business Mr. Jescavage added Guilmette's Handyman Services quote to replace mismatched brick on the east side of the town offices building

Mr. Jescavage also highlighted for the Selectboard the changes made to the original agenda

Under Highway Department Chair Clark added updates on paving projects and the sand/salt shed

Under Law Enforcement Mr. Guilmette added a speeding issue

D. Meeting Topics:

- 1. Minutes
 - a) July 18, 2017 Selectboard Regular Meeting – Mr. Lavoie made a motion, seconded by Mr. Guilmette, to approve the July 18, 2017 minutes as written. Motion carried.
- 2. Public Comments - None
- 3. Law Enforcement
 - a) Swanton Police Chief Monthly Report

Chief Stell reported 56 total complaints for July covering a wide variety of calls. He noted two traffic warnings and 12 tickets, totaling \$1,961 in fines issued.

Chief Stell reported on the speed survey recently completed on Bushey Rd. The survey identified cars going one direction and logged 35,446 cars over 4 – 5 days. Of those

20,451 were traveling above the speed limit. The data shows that most of the traffic are commuters heading to work.

Mr. Guilmette asked Chief Stell about Sheldon Rd (Route 105) where he has noted several motorcyclists speeding and doing wheelies. Chief Stell said he would get an officer out there a couple of times this week.

b) Speeding & ATV's on Hog Island Road

Chair Clark wanted to bring to the Selectboard's attention a complaint he received about golf carts in the road and ATVs speeding on Hog Island Rd. Chief Stell informed the Selectboard that the speed trailer was going down that way tonight to get a sense of where things stand; will be deployed on Hog Island Rd first and then on Tabor Rd.

Chief Stell, who reminded those present that it is illegal for ATVs to be on the road whether registered or not, believes the department knows who the individual on the ATV and that he rides at random times at excessive speeds. This rider has been talked to and warned but will be dealt with legally and ethically.

4. Old Business

a) Village Center Designation Update

Mr. Jescavage reminded the Selectboard that he and others representing Swanton will be meeting with Richard Amore from the Agency of Commerce and Community Development on August 2, 2017. This meeting includes a walk-through in support of Swanton's Village Center Designation renewal application. Mr. Jescavage also highlighted the changes to the map he is proposing to the State.

b) Library Issue

Jane Bouchard and June Sweeny came before the Selectboard to follow up on a letter sent to Chair Clark regarding an ongoing issue that involves the Library Board of Trustees and space occupied by the King's Daughters.

Ms. Bouchard stated that because the Library trustees are not interested in working with the King's Daughters they are looking at other ways to resolve the conflict, including some intervention by the Selectboard. There has been no meeting between the two parties since early 2016 and all communication is done by letter.

Chair Clark said that the next steps might be mediation and then a resolution through the courts but that he believes the Selectboard needs to try to facilitate communication between the King's Daughters and the Library. The Selectboard will discuss this in Executive Session.

c) Guilmette's Handyman Services

Mr. Jescavage presented the Selectboard with Guilmette's quote to replace the mismatched bricks on the east side of the Town Office Building at 1 Academy St.

Mr. Lavoie will provide Mr. Guilmette contact information on possible local sources of brick instead of using a supplier in California. Mr. Lavoie also stated that Jamie Duggan at the Agency of Commerce and Community Development could tell Mr. Jescavage or Mr. Guilmette where bricks might be found locally.

Mr. Lavoie made a motion, seconded by Mr. Raleigh, to accept Guilmette's estimate of \$10,000 to infill three windows and one door on the east side of the building to match the existing bricks and to research locally-sourced bricks. The estimate does not include removal of the sills and lintels. Motion carried. Mr. Guilmette recused himself.

5. Community & Economic Development

a) ED Coordinator Updates

Ms. Nance provided the Selectboard with an update of her activities since the last meeting. The most significant update was the meeting with a Canadian company interested in opening a retail facility on Route 78. The company's representatives met one property owner and with Peter Cross who represented the other. There seems to be nothing at this point that is discouraging progress on this.

Ms. Nance and Ms. Giroux will be presenting the Planning Commission with recommendations on changes to the zoning bylaws at the August 16, 2017 meeting. One recommendation may directly affect the Canadian project as the south side of Route 78 is zoned Industrial, which does not include retail.

b) Vermont Precision Tools Proposal for Rec Path

Monica Green, Steve Babcock, and Phoebe Kittell from Vermont Precision Tools (VPT) came before the Selectboard with a proposal to place ¼ mile markers on the recreation path. Working with Betsey Fournier of RiseVT and Swanton's Outdoor Recreation task force VPT has designed signage that would be consistent with other signage in Swanton and throughout Grand Isle and Franklin Counties.

Ms. Green is aware the vandalism is an issue and stated the design and installation of the signs to be such to deter vandalism and graffiti.

Ms. Green informed the Selectboard that VPT and RiseVT will pay for the signage and will work with whomever will install it; the Town has been responsible for installing the existing signage as well as maintaining them as far as mowing.

Chair Clark noted that a parking area on Robin Hood Rd. could be installed when the Town works on the sidewalk project in September thereby increasing access to the rec path.

Mr. Guilmette made a motion, seconded by Mr. Raleigh, to permit RiseVT and VPT to design and install signs. Mr. Lavoie asked that the Selectboard review signage. Motion carried.

6. Highway Department
a) Updates (if needed)

Chair Clark stated that paving on Middle Rd or Janes Rd will start tomorrow, August 2, 2017. Chair Clark also noted French Hill is very “spongy” which means that may be delayed until next year.

Chair Clark noted that the foundation work on the sand/salt shed has been completed and he has received the cost of the materials from the contractor. This will be taken up in Executive Session.

7. Correspondence – None

8. Any Other Necessary Business – None

9. Public Comments (Reprise) – None

10. Upcoming Events

- a) Wednesday, August 9, 2017 at 6:00 p.m., free lecture on Open Meeting Law by Atty. Jim Barlow, open to public, 120 First Street
- b) Tuesday, August 15, 2017 at 7:00 p.m., next Selectboard meeting, Town Offices, 1 Academy Street
- c) Wednesday, August 16, 2017 at 7:00 p.m., Planning Commission meeting, Town Offices, 1 Academy Street

11. Executive Session (personnel/contracts/legal) – Mr. Guilmette made a motion at 8:21 p.m., seconded by Mr. Raleigh, to enter Executive Session.

Mr. Guilmette made a motion at 9:10 p.m., seconded by Mr. Raleigh, to exit Executive Session. Motion carried.

Action taken:

- a) Mr. Guilmette made a motion, seconded by Mr. Raleigh, to authorize the Road Commissioner to expend up to \$8,200.00 for additional construction materials for the sand shed.
- b) Mr. Raleigh made a motion, seconded by Mr. Guilmette, to approve setting up a joint meeting between two members of the Selectboard, Chair Clark and Mr. Raleigh, two members of the Library Trustees, and two members of the Kings Daughters & Sons in the

near future to discuss the library issue. Motion carried. Chair Clark will make arrangements for the meeting.

E. Adjournment – Mr. Lavoie made a motion at 9:17 p.m., seconded by Mr. Raleigh, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.