

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

Tuesday, May 20, 2014 @ 7:00 p.m.

Present: Daniel Billado, Selectboard Chair; William Thompson, John Lavoie, and James Guilmette, Selectmen; David Jescavage, Town Administrator; Cathy Fournier, Town Clerk; Yaasha Wheeler, Secretary; Harold Garrett, Road Foreman; Tim and Leslie Nulty (executive session); Robert Bessette; Marianna Gamache; Heather Buczkowski, Channel 15.

A. Call to Order

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

B. Pledge of Allegiance

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

Mr. Billado called for a moment of silence for those who have served and continue to serve, in honor of Memorial Day.

C. Meeting Topics:

1. Minutes

a) May 13, 2014 SLB Meeting

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

2. Public Comments

3. Old Business

a) Executive Session for Real Estate

Mr. Lavoie made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thompson, to enter executive session at 7:15 p.m.

Mr. Lavoie made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thompson, to exit executive session at 7:39 p.m. Actions taken on real estate: none.

b) New Truck Recommendation

Mr. Thompson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Guilmette, to table this item. This item was tabled because Road Commissioner Joel Clark was not present.

c) Review Letter to NWSWD

Mr. Billado commended Mr. Jescavage for his work on the letter. He noted that, when the district gave its pitch to Swanton for joining the district, NWSWD had offered to conduct community education in the schools. This, to his knowledge, had not been done, and he wished for this to be addressed in the letter. His question was: "What are we really getting for what we are paying for?" Mr. Jescavage would add the question about the education to his letter, to be signed at the next Selectboard meeting.

d) Update for Library Eave Repairs

Mr. Robert Bessette reported that the eaves had been repaired. After shopping for someone to do the repair work, the eaves had been repaired on a timely basis. He nailed into good wood to do the repair, but the gutters were not replaced. He did not feel that the library needed the gutters. Mr. Billado asked about the issues with water in the basement, from roof runoff, and

Mr. Bessette reported that, despite the wet spring, there had been no problem with the basement. This repair would come out of the library budget.

He added that Robert Malkine needed to be appointed as trustee. Mr. Jescavage said that he had asked for a short memo explaining that Mr. Malkine was the nominee for the trustee position. Mr. Bessette stated that the trustees had voted to recommend Mr. Malkine for appointment by the Selectboard at the next meeting (June 3rd). Mr. Billado asked if the trustees were required to do a background check, and Mr. Bessette replied that the trustees did not work with the children. The Selectboard thanked Mr. Bessette for coming.

4. Economic Development

This item did not need discussion.

5. Animal Control Officer

a) SW ACO Monthly Report

Given that Mr. Shawn Dashno, ACO, has not been present at the last three meetings at which he was scheduled to be present, Mr. Billado asked Mr. Guilmette to speak with him, and Mr. Jescavage to ask Mr. Dashno to be present at the next meeting.

6. Expenditures

a) General Orders (4/16/14 to 5/20/14)

Mrs. Fournier sent the orders via e-mail earlier today. The Selectboard reviewed the orders. Mr. Lavoie asked about Missisquoi Valley Rescue: payment 3 of 12. Mrs. Fournier replied that MVR preferred to divide their payments into monthly payments; the overall expense had not increased.

Mr. Lavoie made a motion, seconded by Mr. Guilmette, to accept the orders as printed. Motion carried.

b) Highway Orders (4/16/14 to 5/20/14)

Mrs. Fournier noted that two bills on the orders would be removed (Britch & Sons Welding for \$80 and F.R. Lafayette for \$300). The Britch & Sons would be removed altogether; the Lafayette one would be removed until more research could be done on the bill.

Mr. Thompson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Guilmette, to approve the highway orders with the exception of Britch & Sons Welding for \$80 and F. R. Lafayette for \$300. Motion carried.

c) Payroll (4/16/14 to 5/20/14)

Mr. Lavoie made a motion, seconded by Mr. Guilmette, to accept the payroll as written. Motion carried.

7. Highway Department

a) Review Proposed Amendment for Bridge & Road Standards

Mr. Lavoie made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thompson, to table this item, due to Mr. Clark's absence. Motion carried.

b) Discuss Street Light Request for Brooklyn Street

Mr. Jescavage reminded the board that they had agreed to look at the Brooklyn Street lights in regard to Mr. Rene Fournier's request for a street light. Mr. Thompson said that he felt the middle light could be transferred to the post on the corner, after consulting the neighbor to ensure that it would be acceptable at that location. He suggested having Mr. Garrett ask the neighbors to see if moving that light would affect them at all. There was discussion about where the Brooklyn Street lights were located; Mr. Garrett recalled a light on the corner with North River Street as well. Mr. Lavoie asked Mr. Garrett to assess the street lights and check it against the inventory, to be sure it is a town light (as opposed to a private light) and then to ask the neighbors if they would agree to moving the location of the light. Mr. Garrett would bring a report at the next meeting.

c) Discuss Citizen Request for 4:1 Lawn Slope

Mr. Thompson felt Mr. Clark, being Road Commissioner, should be involved in this discussion

as well. Mr. Thompson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Guilmette, to table this item until Mr. Clark could be present. Motion carried.

d) Other Updates

Mr. Garrett said that Mr. Clark would need to look at two culverts that had been requested to be changed (Mark Pfenning on Lakewood Drive) and the first culvert on the extension (before Richard Levesque's property). Mr. Garrett agreed that he would work with Mr. Clark to address the situation, and he felt that the culverts needed to be changed. Mr. Billado asked if the culverts were in stock; they were not. Mr. Garrett was not sure of the money until the signs had been bought.

Mr. Thompson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Guilmette, to allow Mr. Garrett to deal with the culverts administratively, without Mr. Clark's approval, given that Mr. Garrett was well qualified to make the call and replace the culverts himself, and given that Mr. Clark was already using vacation time on town business. It was noted that the road might have to be closed during construction; Mr. Garrett would notify the landowners who had requested the culverts.

Mr. Garrett reported that some trees needed to be removed along Comstock Road in the town road right-of-way. The Selectboard agreed to let Mr. Garrett deal with the trees at his discretion, in accordance with the tree ordinance.

Mr. Garrett added that Dick Longway wanted to put a six-inch pipe across the road, for injection for manure. Mr. Billado noted that the Selectboard has always required boring under the road in such cases. Mr. Garrett explained that there was a section of the road that needed work anyway; if Mr. Longway sleeved his pipe and did everything but paving himself, the town would take care of the paving. Mr. Thompson was concerned about a break in the pipe dumping manure into the ditch. Mr. Garrett explained how a manure injection system works. Mr. Lavoie said that the town could ask for the pipe to extend perhaps 20 feet past the road, with welded connections. Mr. Thompson reiterated his concern to assure that the town would not be liable for any problems. Mr. Billado recalled that the board set a precedent, and a standard was in place, that the town would require boring. Mr. Lavoie felt that if Mr. Garrett was ripping up the road anyway, it was possible for Mr. Longway to go underneath the road. Mr. Thompson stated that every rule that was put into place has a gray area, and he felt that keeping the heavy manure vehicles off the road was a win-win situation. The Selectboard agreed that Mr. Clark should look at this information.

Mr. Garrett stated that the hydroseeder had arrived, and three of the road crew would attend the 4-hour informational class in Georgia. Mr. Garrett would continue to work on Comstock Road, which he expected to pave by June.

Mr. Billado stated that Mr. Guilmette had noted that the Kubota mower was being driven on the road; could it be towed on the trailer instead? Mr. Thompson said that the Selectboard would just like to see the trailer and truck used, to reduce wear and tear on the mower. Mr. Garrett reminded the board that the road crew members did not always work in the same locations together. Mr. Billado said that the mowing also included Robin Hood Drive and Vermont Precision Tools with more attention than necessary. Mr. Thompson felt that the Selectboard needed to give Mr. Garrett better direction about where to mow. Mr. Lavoie requested that the planning would encourage some dropping off/picking up/trailering for the mower.

Mr. Guilmette asked if there was more to be done on the stone along the shoulders on Woods Hill Road, and Mr. Garrett replied that there was.

8. Correspondence

Mr. Jescavage reported the e-mail that the Vermont Council for Rural Development approved Swanton's application to include the Town in a program that will promote the community (see e-mail). Only a few towns are chosen by this organization for participation in the program. Mr. Billado asked Mr. Jescavage to put together information on that.

Mr. Billado noted that he had an interview with Channel 15 on behalf of Swanton.

9. Any Other Necessary Business

Mr. Garrett asked permission to go to a class in St. Albans in June; the Selectboard agreed. He also asked to use his vacation time. Mr. Thompson felt that Mr. Garrett should be repaid for his 113 lost hours of comp time. Mr. Billado asked Mr. Garrett to take the work in overtime, rather than accumulating the comp time; Mr. Garrett said that he would not end up doing that. Mr.

Thompson said he would like to talk with Mr. Garrett about the issue, and recommended that the Selectboard also discuss it further. Mr. Thompson recommended that in the future, Mr. Garrett take vacation time when he wanted to, and just send a short e-mail notice to Mr. Clark, and, in the absence of Mr. Clark, to Mr. Thompson. Mr. Billado added that the road crew was competent and could carry on the work without Mr. Garrett.

Mr. Billado said that he heard through the grapevine that Mr. Jescavage had told Vermont Gas that they could put multiple road projects on one permit, for one fee of \$75. Mr. Billado recalled an emergency situation in which a few projects were put on one permit, but did not recall that the Selectboard had given a blanket permit like that. Mr. Thompson asked why Mr. Jescavage was processing right-of-way permits. Mr. Jescavage explained that, when he had first come on board as Town Administrator, the permit required signatures from the Planning Commission Chair, the road foreman, and the Selectboard Chair. Mr. Thompson asked for the Selectboard to discuss a better plan. Mr. Billado read from the May 21, 2013 minutes: *Mr. Clark asked for information regarding all potential 2013 projects, so they could all be reviewed at the same time.*

Mr. Jescavage stated that the statement about putting all projects on one permit was made, but not in the minutes. Mr. Billado stated that each road would require a permit, but not all road projects should be on a single permit.

Mr. Jescavage informed the board that one of the Vermont Gas representatives wished to have a meeting on which to discuss the 2014 projects. Mr. Jescavage brought the board's attention to the recommended language in the new road ordinance, which would streamline the process. Mr. Lavoie summed up that each road should have its own permit, so that Mr. Garrett could review it all adequately. Mr. Billado said he felt the board needed to discuss whether multiple cuts on the same street should be on the same permit.

Mr. Billado reported that he had spoken with Chief Stell about the vandalism on signs, and Chief Stell agreed to monitor the situation.

10. Public Comments (Reprise)

No public comment.

11. Upcoming Events

a) May 24, 2014 Channel 15 Interview

Mr. Billado and Mr. Clark planned to attend the interview on behalf of Swanton.

b) May 26, 2014 Memorial Day Holiday, Office Closed

c) May 29, 2014 @ 7 p.m. DRB

d) June 3, 2014 Next Selectboard Meeting @ 7 p.m.

12. Executive Session

Mr. Guilmette made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lavoie, to enter executive session for personnel at 8:39 p.m. Motion carried.

Mr. Thompson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lavoie, to exit executive session at 9:37 p.m. Motion carried. Action taken: none.

13. Adjournment

Mr. Guilmette made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lavoie, to adjourn at 9:38 p.m. Motion carried.

Typed on May 21, 2014
Minutes by Yaasha Wheeler
Received and filed by:

Cathy Fournier, Swanton Town Clerk

Date