

**TOWN OF SWANTON  
SELECTBOARD  
REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES**

**Swanton Town Office Building  
1 Academy Street, Swanton, VT 05488  
Tuesday, April 7, 2015 @ 7:00 p.m.**

*Present: Dan Billado, Selectboard Chair; Joel Clark, Selectboard Vice Chair; William “Turk” Thompson, John Lavoie, and James Guilmette, Selectmen; David Jescavage, Town Administrator; Cathy Fournier, Town Clerk; Yaasha Wheeler, Secretary; Dustin Tanner, Channel 16; Chief “Joey” Stell, Swanton Village Police Department.*

**A. Call to Order**

Mr. Billado called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

**B. Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**C. Agenda Review**

Mr. Jescavage noted two items that had been added to the agenda. Cathy Fournier added “Delinquent Dog License Letter” to Other Business. Mr. Billado moved Police Report to earlier in the agenda, and Chief Stell added “Emergency Management” to the Police Report. Mr. Billado added “Solid Waste District Letter” to Other Necessary Business, and “Signs” under Highway.

**D. Meeting Topics**

**1. Minutes**

**a) March 17, 2015 Selectboard Regular Meeting**

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

**2. Law Enforcement**

**a) Police Report**

Chief Stell reported that there were 40 calls for the month of March, and \$515 worth of fines for 3 traffic tickets. He noted that the drug investigation that was noted under the police department’s address was actually related to an area in the town, but the police had processed an arrest warrant under the department’s address in order not to tip off the person for whom the warrant was issued. The address was corrected later in the paperwork after the arrest was made. Mr. Billado noted that speed and hazardous driving in the Bushey Street/Robin Hood Drive area had worsened with the spring weather, and occurred at all times of the day. He requested increased police presence in the evening hours. Chief Stell said that funds would soon be available to the police department from the Governor’s Highway Safety Grant, which would enable the department to put extra patrols in “hot areas.”

**b) Emergency Management**

Chief Stell presented the Vermont Local Emergency Operations Plan, to be adopted by the Selectboard. The plan included the same information as last year’s, but with updates relating to names and phone numbers. Mr. Thompson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Guilmette, to accept the plan as presented. Mr. Billado signed the plan. Chief Stell said that he would bring copies of the plan to the Town office.

### **3. Public Comment**

No public comment.

### **4. Economic Development**

No discussion.

### **5. Old Business**

The public was reminded of the public hearing for Cedar Ledge Estates on May 5<sup>th</sup>, to consider whether the Town would take over the Cedar Ledge road. A site visit would take place just prior to the hearing. Mr. Clark said he would not be able to be present, but would look at the road ahead of time and present the board with his opinion.

### **6. Community Development**

#### **a) 2015 Household Hazardous Waste Collection Date & Location**

Since the date was set for May 23<sup>rd</sup>, which would be Memorial Day weekend, the Selectboard instructed Mr. Jescavage to request a different date.

#### **b) Request for Joint Legislative Body Meeting**

The Selectboard asked Mr. Jescavage to receive clarification from Reginald Beliveau, Village Manager, on the nature of the business to be conducted at the requested meeting.

#### **c) Street Lights for Andy Avenue**

Mr. Jescavage reported that Chad Elwood had called and visited the office, requesting three street lights at the corner of Andy Avenue. Mr. Billado said that his neighborhood nearby was generally very dark, especially since the change to LED lighting. Mr. Thompson noted that speeding violations and drainage problems were already problems in Andy Avenue area, adding that the Town had just removed a number of street lights from its inventory, and granting street lights for one person could potentially open up the door to do the same for others. Therefore, he made a motion to deny the request for the time being, at least until the other issues were under control. Mr. Clark seconded the motion. Discussion: Mr. Billado requested Mr. Jescavage to inform Mr. Elwood that the drainage and speeding issues were being investigated, and that the Town had decided that addressing the light problem was not going to occur at this time. Discussion concluded. Motion carried unanimously.

### **7. Highway Department**

#### **a) New Truck Update**

Mr. Clark reported that the following three issues were being fixed: (1) the engine light was on, (2) there had been damage to the dashboard in transport because of loose controls, and (3) the plow paint would be touched up.

#### **b) Paving Request for Bids**

Mr. Clark stated that he would finalize the request with Mr. Garrett before sending it out. Mr. Billado noted that, although Robin Hood Drive needed repair, there were other roads, particularly in the industrial park, that required immediate attention. Mr. Clark agreed.

#### **c) Approve \$18,000 Better Back Roads Grant Agreement**

Mr. Guilmette made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lavoie, to delegate Mr. Jescavage to sign the Better Back Roads Grant Agreement on behalf of the Selectboard. Motion carried.

#### **d) Signs**

Mr. Thompson noted that the signs identifying First Street as Route 78 extended along the length of First Street. Mr. Jescavage said he would look into the matter and continue to pursue the state to get the matter corrected.

Mr. Billado noted that a citizen requested the Town to replace the signs of an overturned car, commemorating a crash on Woods Hill Road. Mr. Jescavage was requested to order the signs, or to ensure that Harold Garrett had ordered the signs, so that they could be replaced once the ground had thawed enough to do so.

**e) Road Updates**

The Selectboard discussed curbing (granite versus concrete). Mr. Lavoie asked about the “rumble strip” along Comstock Road, and Mr. Clark explained that that was due to unfinished prep work prior to the paving. He would ensure that, in the future, paving companies would speak with the highway crew prior to paving a section that they felt had not been prepped yet.

**f) Equipment Updates**

**g) Department Updates**

**h) Other Updates**

No updates.

**8. Correspondence**

No correspondence.

**9. Any Other Necessary Business**

**a) Discuss Holiday Time for Listers**

Lister Amy Giroux had requested that the Selectboard consider offering paid holidays to the part-time listers, as was offered to other part-time employees. Mr. Clark suggested that that discussion would be most appropriate in the review of the employee handbook. The Selectboard agreed.

**b) Northwest Solid Waste District Representative**

Mr. Billado explained that the district needed a new Swanton representative on its board, since Mr. Chris Leach’s term was expiring and Mr. Leach was not seeking another term. Mr. Clark asked Mr. Jescavage to suggest this to Mr. Beliveau as a Joint Legislative Body item.

**c) Sign Letter for Notice for Delinquent Dog Licenses**

The Selectboard signed the notice, as presented by Cathy Fournier.

**10. Upcoming Events**

**a) Wednesday, April 8, 2015 Planning Commission Meeting at 7 p.m.**

**b) Thursday, April 9, 2015 Development Review Board Hearing at 7 p.m.**

**c) Wednesday, April 15, 2015 Vermont Council of Rural Development Community Visit ([www.vtrural.org](http://www.vtrural.org))**

**d) Wednesday, April 15, 2015 – Tax Day**

**e) Tuesday, April 21, 2015 Next Selectboard Meeting at 7 p.m.**

**11. Executive Session**

No executive session needed.

**E. Adjourn**

Mr. Guilmette made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lavoie, to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 p.m. Motion carried.

Typed on April 8, 2015

Received and filed by:

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Cathy Fournier, Swanton Town Clerk

Date