

TOWN OF SWANTON

SELECTBOARD

REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

**Swanton Town Office Building
1 Academy Street, Swanton, VT 05488**

Tuesday, June 2, 2015 @ 7 p.m.

Dan Billado, Selectman Chair; Joel Clark, Selectboard Vice-Chair; James Guilmette and John Lavoie, Selectmen; David Jescavage, Town Administrator; Cathy Fournier, Town Clerk; Yaasha Wheeler, Secretary; Jim Pratt and Amy Giroux, Listers; Heather Buczkowski, Channel 15; Wynn Paradee, lister candidate; Chief Stell, Swanton Village Police Department.

A. Call to Order

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

B. Pledge of Allegiance

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

C. Agenda Review

Mr. Clark wished to talk about the applied task force for the Swanton Enhancement Committee as part of the community enhancement (under "Community Development"). Mr. Billado said that Mr. Clark had made some complaints about speeding, which Mr. Billado had addressed with Chief Stell. He would touch on this topic ("Speed Enforcement Detail") under Law Enforcement. Under Highway Department, Mr. Billado added (d) for the lean-to for which the Selectboard had budgeted, and (e) for the pavement at the Town garage site, for which the Town was reimbursed \$10,000 to fix it, and which needs an action plan to be fully fixed. Under Other Necessary Business, he would like to discuss the Town's security company. Mr. Lavoie added (f) under Highway, regarding a request for a partial culvert cleaning on Comstock Road.

Mr. Jescavage added Dog Warrants and Sewer Odor under Other Necessary Business.

D. Meeting Topics:

1. Minutes

a) May 19, 2015 SLB Regular Meeting

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

2. Public Comments – None.

3. Economic Development – None.

4. Old Business

a) Set Special Work Session for Personnel Policy Review

The Selectboard agreed to meet on June 23 at 7 p.m. Mr. Jescavage added that he would gather pertinent information from the Human Resources workshop.

b) Lister Position Applicant Interview

Mr. Jim Pratt stated that Mr. Wynn Paradee had informed him over the phone of his interest in the lister job. Mr. Pratt apprised him of the details of the job, and they later met together. He felt that Mr. Paradee would make a good lister for the Town of Swanton. The Selectboard was familiar with him. Mr. Jescavage identified Mr. Paradee as the only respondent to the ad for a lister.

Mr. Paradee said that he had sold his farm recently, which left him with time to consider being a lister. It would be "something different than farming" and he wanted to help out the town and felt this would be a way to start. Mr. Billado identified Mr. Paradee as a long-time resident of Swanton, was a business man, and clearly had the best interests of the town at heart. He also trusted the recommendation of the listers. He reminded Mr. Paradee that he would be appointed by the Selectboard, and then gather a petition to be elected next year. Mr. Paradee, with his background and reputation, would be a huge asset to the Town. Mr. Lavoie thanked him for his interest and strongly supported his application. Mr. Paradee said that he understood that "knowing a lot of people" could not come into the job; he would be fair.

Mr. Clark made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lavoie, to appoint Wynn Paradee to the lister's position. Motion carried.

5. Community Development – None.

6. Law Enforcement

a) SW Village Police Chief Report

Chief Stell came forward, reporting 58 calls in the Town, with seven citations totaling \$1046. He stated that the department was still investigating the Maquam Shore Road fatal accident, for which the operator was still in jail, as well as a high-speed accident on Route 7 near Woods Hill Road, which miraculously resulted in no fatalities. The car from the Maquam Shore Road accident still had to remain in police custody.

Mr. Billado asked about the State Police chase of a vehicle on Route 105 in Swanton, and Chief Stell replied that the Swanton Police Department did not get involved in the chase because the chase was over soon. Mr. Billado asked why Swanton police did not offer aid, and Chief Stell replied that the State Police had preferred to deal with the matter on their own.

Mr. Billado drew attention to the plan that Chief Stell had proposed for more enforcement on trouble roads. The details were not open to the public, but the Selectboard and police department were working together to resolve those violations. Mr. Clark said that it seemed that speeding was getting out of control, and asked how many hours the radar were on when an officer was on duty. Chief Stell replied that the radar was on most times when an officer was in the car, but he did not know the time. Mr. Clark encouraged speed enforcement, citing an incident in which a driver had passed him at a very fast speed. Chief Stell agreed that speed was an issue when the snow melted, resulting in more hazard to pedestrians and in speed increases of 20 to 30 percent. The department was making efforts to crack down on speeding. Mr. Guilmette asked about the recent break-ins around his neighborhood. Chief Stell explained that those were all daytime burglaries that the State Police were working on.

Mr. Billado noted that Mr. Clark had brought up an issue that he would like to speak about in executive session, since people in the community would be in harm's way if the details were known. Mr. Clark made a motion, seconded by Mr. Guilmette, to enter executive session at 7:28 p.m. Motion carried.

Mr. Clark made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lavoie, to exit executive session at 7:50 p.m. Motion carried. Action taken: none.

Mr. Clark made a motion, seconded by Mr. Guilmette, to move the security company discussion up to Item 6, Law Enforcement. Mr. Billado said he had received a message last night from the town's security company at ten minutes to twelve, but he did not get the message until 5 a.m. He was the first to be notified, and Mr. Jescavage was next notified, but Mr. Jescavage was sleeping. Mr. Billado, Mr. Jescavage, and Swanton Police Department discussed the town's security's needs. He reminded that the Town had had a break-in in the vault that had cost tens of thousands of dollars. They discussed the type of alarm they have. Chief Stell said that most alarms cycle. He stated that he was more concerned about ensuring that the building was secure, and having an officer on-site to respond to an alarm.

He detailed how the officers secured the building. Mr. Billado said that the alarm was no longer going at the time that employees showed up at the building in the morning.

Mr. Jescavage said that he had spoken with the company, and found that some of their information about whom to call was outdated, and had updated that information. The Selectboard was concerned that the audible alarm should be activated if the motion alarm was activated. Mr. Billado was the first to call, Mr. Jescavage was the second, and Mr. Clark would be the third. Mr. Billado asked whether the Swanton Police Department would be interested in having a key and a code to the building. Chief Stell said he was apprehensive about that, and was more comfortable staying neutral and investigating.

Mr. Jescavage believed that the motion sensor was set off by a mouse, since he stated he had seen signs of one when he worked here in the evenings.

Mr. Pratt asked what the Selectboard planned to pay Mr. Paradee. He recommended paying the same as Amy Giroux's starting wage, which Mrs. Giroux identified as \$13.75 an hour. The Selectboard agreed to pay Mr. Paradee as a lister at \$13.75 an hour.

7. Highway Department

a) Bushey Street – Discuss Curbing Choice

Mr. Clark recommended going with concrete instead of granite. Mr. Lavoie felt that concrete would be sufficient and would be easy to repair. The Selectbaord agreed on concrete curbing. Mr. Clark said he would like to get a price from someone he knew who could put in the curbing, since the Village did not have a form.

b) Bushey Street – Discuss Old Concrete Disposal

Mr. Jescavage said that this matter had been requested by Mr. Harold Garrett, Road Foreman. Mr. Garrett wished to know if he should dispose of it as he saw fit, or do something else. Mr. Lavoie said there were companies that also did concrete reclaiming. Mr. Clark said that Mr. Garrett had suggested privately using it, which might be cheaper for the town, but Mr. Clark was not comfortable because of the "perception issues" surrounding such a solution. Mr. Billado suggested letting Mr. Garrett and Mr. Clark work together to resolve the matter. Mr. Clark asked Mr. Jescavage to call places that would dispose of concrete.

c) Other Updates – None

d) Lean-to Update

Mr. Clark said that the crew was not yet ready for construction, because several other projects were already in the works, but he would give the Selectboard a schedule of the work.

e) Paving at Garage

Mr. Billado said that the remainder of the \$29,000 should be used for paving, since the Town either didn't pay or got reimbursed \$10,000 because of the mistake that left a dip in the pavement at the Town Garage. Mr. Clark said he looked at the balance of \$29,000 as being usable for the Garage as a whole, but he wanted to speak with the DRB about the fencing issue first.

f) Culvert on Comstock Road

Mr. Lavoie said that he spoke with a man on Comstock Road, who said that his culvert was partially filled with silt or sand, and he had told the man that Mr. Garrett would look at the culvert. The landowner was worried that the culvert would plug and cause flooding.

8. Correspondence – None.

9. Any Other Necessary Business

a) Community Visit

Mr. Clark reminded the public of the five task forces created following the Community Visit, dealing with substance abuse, traffic, the arts, economic development, and more. He explained that the efforts were on-going, and that any interested public should contact

himself or Mr. Jescavage. Mr. Jescavage said that he could post the notes of the various committees on the website. Mr. Billado agreed that communication from Mr. Jescavage to the committee heads would be useful. Mr. Clark suggested having a link to the Swanton Enhancement Project website.

b) Franklin County Humane Society (now Franklin County Animal Rescue)

Mr. Billado asked that the contract for \$500 for 2015 not be signed until some homework had been done. He informed the board that a violent cat had to be impounded for ten days, and when the Animal Control Officer had brought it to the animal rescue, they had called him to retrieve it after two days and he had to confine it at the Town Garage. Mr. Billado read the portions of the contract that concerned the ten-day bite-hold. The contract confirmed that animal rescue would hold the animal, but that is not what happened. The Selectboard agreed not to sign the contract until they had looked into other options.

Mr. Jescavage presented a dog warrant document to be signed by the Selectboard.

c) Sewer Odor

Mr. Jescavage explained that sewer odor had come up from the Town Office basement. He had learned that the line was flat, so sometimes the sewer backed up and the odor came into the building. The sewer had been pumped several times, but the back-up sometimes came up right through the trap and out the opening. He had spoken with Frank Bellrose, and Mr. Bellrose had told him that the pipe from one of the air conditioners dripped into a trap that went to the sewer line. Mr. Jescavage suggested letting the clean water from the AC drip on the dirt floor and seep into the ground, and then put a cap on the pipe. Mr. Bellrose said that, if the pipe got plugged, the sewage might back up to the toilets. The Selectboard agreed to cap the pipe.

10. Public Comment – None.

11. Upcoming Events

- a) Tuesday, June 9, 2015 PC Meeting @ 7 p.m. Town Office
- b) Sunday, June 14, 2015 Flag Day
- c) Tuesday, June 16, 2015 Next SLB Meeting @ 7 p.m. Town Office
- d) Sunday, June 21, 2015 Father's Day
- e) Tuesday, June 23, 2015 PC Meeting @ 7 p.m. Town Office
- f) Tuesday, June 23, 2015 SLB Work Session
- g) Thursday, June 25, 2015 DRB Hearing @ 7 p.m. Town Office

12. Executive Session

Mr. Lavoie made a motion, seconded by Mr. Clark, to enter executive session at 8:26 p.m. Motion carried.

Mr. Clark made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lavoie, to exit executive session at 9:09 p.m. Motion carried. Action taken: None. Mr. Clark made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lavoie, to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m. Motion carried.

Received and filed by:

Cathy Fournier, Swanton Town Clerk

Date