

**TOWN OF SWANTON
SELECTBOARD MEETING
DRAFT MINUTES
Swanton Town Office Building
1 Academy Street, Swanton, VT 05488
Tuesday, July 2, 2019 @ 7:00 p.m.**

Present: Daniel Billado, Chair; Joel Clark, Gary Centabar, Karen Drennen, Mark Rocheleau, Members; Cathy Fournier, Town Clerk; David Jescavage, Town Administrator; Elisabeth Nance, Administrative Assistant; Josh Ramsdell, Lynn Billado, Missisquoi Valley Rescue; Joey Stell, Chief, Swanton Police Department; Adam Paxman; Ron Kilburn; Tom Benton, *St. Albans Messenger*; Heather Buczkowski, Videographer

* Motion carried unanimously unless otherwise noted.

- A. Call to Order – Chair Billado called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.
- B. Pledge of Allegiance – Chair Billado led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- C. Agenda Review

Executive Session

Chair Billado asked to move Executive Session to discuss contracts up on the agenda to after approval of the June 18, 2019 minutes.

Any Other Necessary Business

Ms. Drennen asked to add a) Discussion of her position on the DRB.

Mr. Centabar noted his position on the DRB needs to be added to the agenda as well.

D. Meeting Topics:

- 1. Minutes – June 18, 2019 Selectboard Regular Meeting

Ms. Drennen made a motion, seconded by Mr. Centabar, to approve the minutes of the June 18, 2019 Selectboard meeting as written. Motion carried.

- 2. Executive Session

Mr. Rocheleau made a motion at 7:11 p.m., seconded by Mr. Clark, to enter Executive Session to discuss contract issues that premature general public knowledge of would clearly place the public body or a person involved at a substantial disadvantage. Motion carried.

Mr. Clark made a motion at 7:56 p.m., seconded by Ms. Drennen, to exit Executive Session. Motion carried.

Action taken: Missisquoi Valley Rescue will put some numbers together to be discussed at the first Selectboard meeting in August.

3. Public Comments – None
4. Law Enforcement
 - a) Swanton Police Chief Report

Chief Stell came before the board and provided a written report. For the month of June the police department responded to 61 total complaints, issued 17 traffic warnings, and five citations for a total of \$811.00 in fines.

Chief Stell reported his department completed traffic studies along Maquam Shore Rd., Lakewood Dr., Tabor Rd., and Spring St.; a traffic study of Church Rd. will be done next. Chief Stell noted Tabor Rd. has significant speeding from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.

Chief Stell asked if the town has funds to do additional enforcement along Maquam Shore Rd. Mr. Centabar stated there are funds available; Chair Billado stated the town will need an invoice for the additional enforcement.

Chief Stell lastly noted the department has hired someone to do randomized bike patrols.

- b) Discuss Proposed Stop Sign on Champlain Street w/Collette Case

Chair Billado noted that Collette Case was present during the site visit done prior to the Selectboard meeting.

The board discussed options such as an “Intersection Ahead” sign and an additional speed limit sign to try to slow traffic through the area.

The consensus of the board is to install a Stop sign on both the east and west sides of the intersection. Mr. Clark expressed concerns that Stop signs in this area are to control traffic speed, which the town is not supposed to do. Chief Stell pointed out that, because the Stop sign at the campground exit is on private property, it is not enforceable.

Mr. Jescavage noted that because this was warned as one Stop sign installation, not two, it will have to be on the next agenda.

- c) Proposed 4-Way Stop @ Short & Elm Streets

Chief Stell informed the board that the amount of traffic at this intersection has

quadrupled in recent years and some drivers are confused thinking it is a 4-way stop now. Chief Stell did note it is a slow-speed intersection that has not had any accidents due to a lack of additional Stop signs. The board chose not to make any changes to this intersection.

d) Discuss Speed Study on Section of Spring Street Within Town Limits

Chair Billado informed the board that the town can move a speed limit sign 50’.

Chief Stell stated two recent speed studies showed the 85th percentile of motorists was traveling 44 and 40 mph. He believes the town can argue successfully to lower the speed limit to 40 since the majority are traveling at that speed now.

Mr. Clark suggested asking to lower the speed limit to 30 and then hoping for 40.

Mr. Clark made a motion, seconded by Mr. Rocheleau, authorizing Mr. Jescavage to draft a letter to the state requesting the speed limit be lowered to 30 mph along this section of Spring St. Motion carried.

Mr. Clark suggested looking at a joint venture with the village to install a sidewalk along Spring St., as well.

5. Town Business

a) Public Hearing Re: Act on Proposals to Discontinue 3 Town Road Sections & 1 Town Trail

Chair Billado opened the public hearing.
There was no additional public input.
Chair Billado closed the public hearing.

Mr. Clark made a motion, seconded by Mr. Centabar, to not discontinue Robin Hood Dr. due to the possibility of future subdivision of the property. Chair Billado would like the town to discuss renaming Robin Hood Dr. Motion carried.

Mr. Clark made a motion, seconded by Ms. Drennen, to discontinue Babbie Trail. Motion carried.

Mr. Clark made a motion, seconded by Mr. Rocheleau, to discontinue TH67, the 260’ length of roadway into Cargill. Motion carried.

Mr. Centabar made a motion, seconded by Ms. Drennen, to discontinue the section in question of Champlain St. Motion carried.

Mr. Clark thanked Mr. Jescavage for his work on getting this project completed.

b) Discuss 5-Year Plan – Tabled while those items that have been done are removed.

- c) Delegate Town Administrator to Sign RR Museum Roofing Contract with Vaillancourt Property Management

Mr. Clark made a motion, seconded by Ms. Drennen, authorizing Mr. Jescavage to sign the roofing contract. Motion carried.

6. Community & Economic Development

- a) Economic Development Coordinator Updates

Ms. Nance noted the three grants that were due at the end of June were submitted and that the award announcement is due by the end of August.

Ms. Nance informed the board she will be taking time to continue meeting with business owners throughout the town and village. In response to a question from Mr. Clark Ms. Nance will see about adding the Champlain Theater building to the town's property available list.

Ms. Nance noted she is working with some prospective tenants looking for co-working space and that is a possible niche for Swanton as that is a growing need.

After discussion it was agreed to list new businesses on the town's economic development webpage.

- b) Swanton Arts Council Announcement – Ms. Nance read a statement from the Swanton Arts Council informing residents that anyone can paint on the art walls around town. For more information contact the Swanton Arts Council at swantonartscouncil@gmail.com. In response to a request from Cathy Fournier Ms. Nance will see if there is a phone number someone can call with questions.

7. Highway Department – Updates

Mr. Clark noted mowing has begun and that paving will begin in early August. Chair Billado stated the mowers are doing a great job.

In response to a question from Mr. Rocheleau about the dust on the gravel portion of Robin Hood Dr. Mr. Clark stated he will follow up.

Mr. Clark reminded the board that work has started on the new playground at the elementary school.

- 8. Correspondence – Mr. Jescavage informed the board he received a request to plant some blackberry bushes along the Fit & Healthy Path and that he suggested contacting the Tree Warden.

9. Any Other Necessary Business

Mr. Centabar made a motion, seconded by Mr. Clark, to reappoint Karen Drennen to the Development Review Board to a term starting July 1, 2019 and ending on June 30, 2020. Motion carried. Ms. Drennen recused herself.

Mr. Clark made a motion, seconded by Mr. Rocheleau, to reappoint Gary Centabar to the Development Review Board to a term starting July 1, 2019 and ending on June 30, 2020. Motion carried. Mr. Centabar recused himself.

10. Public Comments (Reprise) – None

11. Upcoming Events

- a) Fourth of July, Town Offices & Operations Closed July 4th & 5th
- b) Multi-Board Meeting, Wednesday, July 10, 2019 @ 7 p.m., Village Complex, 120 First Street
- c) Tuesday, July 16, 2019 @ 7 p.m., Next Selectboard Meeting, Town Offices, 1 Academy Street
- d) Thursday, July 25, 2019 @ 7 p.m., Next DRB Meeting, Town Offices, 1 Academy Street
- e) Saturday, July 27, 2019, Swanton Chamber of Commerce Car Show, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., on the Village Green

12. Executive Session

Mr. Centabar made a motion at 9:03 p.m., seconded by Ms. Drennen, to enter Executive Session to discuss personnel issues that premature general public knowledge of would clearly place the public body or a person involved at a substantial disadvantage. Motion carried.

Ms. Drennen made a motion at 9:12 p.m., seconded by Mr. Centabar, to exit Executive Session. Motion carried.

Action taken: None

E. Adjournment

Mr. Clark made a motion at 9:12 p.m., seconded by Mr. Rocheleau, to adjourn. Motion carried.