

**AMENDED MINUTES
TOWN OF SWANTON
SELECTBOARD MEETING
In-Person & By Zoom
Town Office Building
1 Academy Street, Swanton, VT 05488
Tuesday, January 17, 2023 @ 7:00 p.m.**

Present: James Guilmette, Chair; Earl Fournier, Vice Chair; Nicole Draper, Ed White, Steve Bourgeois, Members; Brian Savage, Town Administrator; Cathy Fournier, Town Clerk; Amy Giroux, Zoning Administrator; Joseph Cava, Administrative Assistant; Patrick Parah; Cody Hemenway; Abigail Gaudette

*All motions carried unanimously unless specified otherwise.

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

- 1. Minutes

- a) January 10, 2023, Regular and Zoom Selectboard Meeting

- Mr. White made a motion to approve the draft minutes from the 1/10/23 Selectboard meeting, seconded by Ms. Draper. Motion carried.

- 2. Public Comments - None

- 3. Law Enforcement

- a) Swanton Animal Control Officer Monthly Report

- No Animal Control Report available to review.

- b) Health Officer Report

- There was one incident reported.

- 4. Old Town Business

- a) Approve Swanton Public Library Operations Budget

- Mr. Savage and Ms. Draper met with Ms. Gaudette and Ms. Rupp this morning. The library budget has decreased.

- Mr. Bourgeois made a motion to approve the revised Swanton Public Library operations budget, seconded by Ms. Draper. Motion carried.

- b) Approve Swanton Public Library Payroll Budget

- Ms. Fournier described how the payroll budget increased between this year and last year, but explained that carryover money would be used creating an overall decrease. The budget also reflects money earmarked for insurance and building maintenance.

- Mr. Bourgeois made a motion to approve the Swanton Public Library payroll budget, seconded by Mr. White. Motion carried.

c) Approve 2023 Police Protection Proposal from Swanton Police Department

Mr. Guilmette asked if this was the final number for the police budget? Mr. Savage responded that this is based upon a 56 hour service contract with a potential allotment for 72 hours. Ms. Draper asked about the 25% increase in the budget? Mr. Savage responded that this was to keep Swanton's police department wages competitive. Mr. Guilmette recommended tabling the remainder of the contract discussion to executive session.

Mr. White made a motion to approve the 2023 Police Protection proposal of \$196,784.08 from the Swanton Police Department Town contract, seconded by Ms. Draper. Motion carried.

d) Approve 2023 Highway Budget

Ms. Fournier reminded members of the Selectboard of a change to incorporate beautification into the budget in the amount of \$3,000.00. Mr. Savage will be contacting the State of Vermont regarding the new stormwater permitting fees while working with Tyler Billingsly. A proposed change was increasing the stormwater budget to \$30,000.00 to address the upgrades to stormwater permitting. Mr. Savage stressed this importance describing the application fees ranging between \$10,000.00 - \$45,000.00. Other budgetary constraints included the MVU sidewalk project and the loan to build the new Town garage.

Mr. White made a motion to approve the 2023 Highway budget, seconded by Mr. Bourgeois. Motion carried.

e) Approve 2023 General Budget

There was a recommendation to continue Ms. Nance's economic employment with the Town for the next three months including the remainder of January, February, and March 2023 for the amount of \$3,000.00. This decision is to align with Franklin County Industrial Development Corporation's (FCIDC) fiscal budget. Mr. Speer, from the Village, recommended continuing the contract which would increase this figure to \$3,125.00 for the remaining three months.

Mr. Fournier made a motion to approve the 2023 General budget with the amended changes budgeting \$3,125.00 for FCIDC, seconded by Ms. Draper. Mr. Guilmette, Mr. Fournier, Ms. Draper, and Mr. Bourgeois voted aye. Mr. White voted nay. Motion carried.

f) Website

Swanton Village has approved a plan for a joint website venture with the Town with a startup cost of \$13,325.00 for the first year with ongoing support at a cost of \$1,800.00 every additional year. This cost for ongoing support will be split with the Village. Website content would be an additional \$5,000.00-\$6,525.00 per year. Mr. Guilmette asked for clarification on these costs with the Village. Mr. Savage confirmed that these costs would be split with the Village.

A motion was made by Mr. White to spend \$13,325.00 for the building of a new website from Ecopixel. This will be split and paid by the Village of Swanton at 50% of the total and the funds are to come from ARPA funds. Also, that Mr. Savage is authorized to sign the contract with the vendor. Ms. Draper seconded. Motion carried.

5. New Town Business

a) Review 2022 Selectboard Report

Mr. Savage and members of the Selectboard briefly reviewed the 2022 Selectboard report. Ms. Draper expressed the importance of noting that the Selectboard adopted the recent ATV ordinance.

b) Bushey Road Contract

There will be a meeting on February 7, 2023 to discuss the Bushey Rd. contract.

6. Community & Economic Development - None

7. Highway Department

a) Blown Tire

Mr. Guilmette notified members of the Selectboard that there is a blown tire on one of the trucks.

8. Any Other Necessary Business - None

9. Correspondence – None

10. Public Comments (Reprise) - None

11. Upcoming Events

- a) Planning Commission Meeting – Wednesday, January 18, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. – Town Office Building, 1 Academy Street
- b) DRB Meeting – Thursday, January 26, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. – Town Office Building, 1 Academy Street
- c) Regular and Zoom Selectboard Meeting – Tuesday, February 7, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. – Town Office Building, 1 Academy Street

12. Executive Session (Personnel/Contracts)

Ms. Draper made a motion to enter executive session at 7:45 p.m., seconded by Mr. White. Motion carried.

Mr. White made a motion to exit executive session at 8:48 p.m., seconded by Ms. Draper. Motion carried.

- E. Adjournment – Mr. White made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m., seconded by Ms. Draper. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joseph Cava
Administrative Assistant

Received and filed by:

Cathy Fournier, Town Clerk

Date