

**MINUTES  
TOWN OF SWANTON  
SELECTBOARD MEETING  
In-Person & By Zoom  
Town Office Building  
1 Academy Street, Swanton, VT 05488  
Tuesday, May 3, 2022 @ 7:00 p.m.**

Present: James Guilmette, Chair; Mark Rocheleau, Vice Chair; Earl Fournier, Nicole Draper, Ed White, Members; Brian Savage, Town Administrator; Joseph Cava, Administrative Assistant; Matthew Sullivan, Swanton Police Chief; Patrick Parah; Janet Dimick Soau; Kevin Lothian; Becky Rupp; Rich Kelley

\*All motions carried unanimously unless specified otherwise.

- A. Call to Order – Mr. Guilmette called the meeting to order at 7:02 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) April 19, 2022, Regular and Zoom Selectboard Meeting

- Mr. Fournier made a motion to approve the Draft Minutes from the 4/19/2022 Selectboard meeting, seconded by Mr. Rocheleau. Motion carried.

- b) April 21, 2022, Joint Informational Meeting

- Mr. Rocheleau made a motion to approve the Draft Minutes from the 4/21/2022 Joint Informational meeting with the condition the Village's portion of the meeting is added, seconded by Ms. Draper. Motion carried.

- 2. Public Comments (None)

- 3. Law Enforcement

- a) Swanton Police Chief Report

- Ms. Draper started by thanking Mr. Sullivan for his involvement during Big Rig Day. Mr. Sullivan remarked that it was a great event with involvement from both kids and families alike.

- Mr. Sullivan briefly delivered a summary of incidents that occurred including 90 traffic incidents with 43 traffic stops, welfare checks, alarms, trespassing, and an incident involving reckless driving with a suspended license.

- b) Police Department Contract

- Mr. Savage introduced the contract to members of the Selectboard citing that the language had remained the same with changes to the financial amount of the contract only.

- Mr. White made a motion to approve the police contract of 2022-2023, seconded by Mr. Rocheleau. Motion carried.

c) ATV Traffic in Town/Village

Mr. Sullivan said that pursuits of ATV traffic is dangerous and there are limited circumstances where police pursuit is warranted. Mr. Sullivan cited measures like trail barriers to prevent ATV traffic from accessing public trails.

d) Swanton Health Officer Report

Members of the Selectboard briefly reviewed the Swanton Health Officer's Report. Some of the concerns addressed in the report included lead paint in rental units and illegal trash disposal on private property.

4. Old Town Business

a) Items tabled from the Selectboard Meeting of April 19, 2022

1. Swanton Arts Council – Gathering of the Realms

Mr. Savage introduced Ms. Dimick Soai, Swanton Arts Council member and leader of the Gathering of the Realms. Ms. Dimick Soai is organizing an overnight camping event at the Swanton recreation fields with a concession for an alcohol permit. The weekend event would include performers and vendors to be cleaned up by Sunday evening.

Mr. Guilmette asked about insurance for the event? Ms. Dimick Soai responded that the Swanton Arts Council carries insurance and will be organizing the remainder of the details with Mr. Savage. Ms. Fournier recommended adding an insurance rider through the Vermont League of Cities and Towns for the event. Mr. Guilmette asked about the alcohol involved in the event? Ms. Dimick Soai responded that they have their alcohol permits in place and are hoping to invite local breweries to the event with orange fencing to separate the adult activities from the remainder of the events. Ms. Fournier added that any alcohol vendors will require a catering license through the Town of Swanton for approval. Mr. Guilmette asked about security? Ms. Dimick Soai responded that she is working with the Swanton Police Department to organize parking and crowd control.

Mr. Guilmette asked if she thought the recreation fields would have enough space for the event? Ms. Draper said she is working in conjunction for use of the upper ball fields and the lower field for parking. Ms. Fournier raised a concern with the Town's insurance to approve this type of event. Mr. Fournier asked about advertisement for the event? Ms. Responded it's been by word of mouth to date, but nothing definitive until the event gets approval and permits are released. Mr. Rocheleau echoed similar concerns asking about a buffer zone to shield neighbors from noise and traffic. As a follow-up he also asked if the Swanton Arts Council would be liable for any personal property damage. Ms. Dimick Soai responded yes to both pending outreach to neighbors abutting the recreation fields.

Mr. Fournier made a motion to approve the use of the Swanton Recreation fields for the weekend event pending approval of licenses and insurance required for the event, seconded by Mr. White. Motion carried.

2. Swanton Public Library – Appointment to fill Trustee vacancy

The Swanton Public Library has two interested candidates in the Trustee vacancy pending approval from the Town Selectboard. Ms.

Rupp put forward Nicholas Brosseau and David Winchester as prospective applicants. Going around the table members of the Selectboard shared their feedback about the appointment of Mr. Winchester. Concerns arose from Mr. Winchester's negative social media presence and his ability to be a representative of the Town.

Mr. Fournier made a motion to accept Mr. Winchester to fill the Library Trustee vacancy, seconded by Ms. Draper. Mr. Fournier and Ms. Draper voted aye; Mr. Guilmette, Mr. White and Mr. Rocheleau voted nay. Motion deferred to Library Trustees to seek out an alternate.

- b) MVU/Route 78 Sidewalk update – Bethany Remmers of NWRPC & others

Tabled until 5/17/2022 Selectboard meeting.

5. New Town Business

- a) Name change on Robin Hood Drive Stormwater Permit

Mr. Rocheleau made a motion to approve the name change on the Robin Hood Drive Stormwater Permit to Town of Swanton, seconded by Mr. White. Motion carried.

- b) Results of Special Town Meeting vote of April 26, 2022

<b>Total Register Voters:</b>	<b>4,647</b>
<b>Total Votes Cast:</b>	<b>349</b>
<b>Total Absentees:</b>	<b>101</b>

Article 1: Shall the Town authorize cannabis retailers in Town pursuant to 7 V.S.A., SEC. 863?

<b>Yes:</b>	<b>190</b>
<b>No:</b>	<b>159</b>

- c) Fourth Street Property Environmental Assessment

Atlas Engineering will be carrying out the retesting of the Fourth Street site for a total of \$1,800.00.

Mr. Rocheleau made a motion to accept Atlas Engineering's bid of \$1,800.00 to carry out testing on the Fourth Street site and grant authorization to Mr. Savage to sign the contract, seconded by Mr. White. Motion carried.

- d) ATV Traffic in Town/Village

Tabled until 5/17/2022 Selectboard meeting.

- e) First Quarter Budget Statements

Ms. Fournier ran through the first quarterly budget statements for the Town of Swanton. The Town was over budget for repointing the Town Hall's basement foundation and implementing a new ZOOM system, but neither of these items was budgeted. There is potential to pay for the ZOOM system through ARPA funds.

Mr. Guilmette highlighted the Highway Department's budget noting that 16% of the budget has been spent for the 2022-2023 fiscal year. Mr.

Fournier added that tax payer dollars are being spent wisely accounting that there were no outstanding budgetary expenditures.

6. Community & Economic Development

No Update

7. Highway Department

a) 2022 Highway Grants

The Beebe Rd. Grant was approved and will cover repaving the Beebe Road.

b) New Truck

Mr. Guilmette gave an update on the new truck saying \$10,000.00 is being withheld for truck delivery delays and technological complications.

c) Risers needed on Wheeler Round for paving

Mr. Guilmette said the Town maintains the road by paving and plowing. Mr. Savage has two quotes for the project including a bid of \$1,700.00 and a bid of \$2,700.00. These bids only include the cost of the risers themselves and not the work to be carried out. Another factor of consideration is the sewer system below the road is owned by the neighborhood homeowners and excludes sewer work by the Town/Village.

d) Paving

Mr. Guilmette updated the Selectboard saying it would cost upwards of \$700,000.00 to complete 2022-2023 paving projects delegating funds to the Beebe Rd., Wheeler Round, Bushey Rd., County Rd., and the Campbell Bay Rd. Given the existing budget, this would leave major budgetary shortfalls with only minor road fixes available. Mr. Guilmette stressed the importance of clarifying what portions of these roads will be bid out.

8. Any Other Necessary Business (None)

9. Correspondence

a) Email from Representative Matt Walker regarding Transportation budget

Mr. Savage spoke about an email from Representative Matt Walker regarding the Transportation budget. There will be a slight increase in the budget, but it will only cover State roads/highways.

b) Swanton Beautification Commission

There were questions from the Beautification Committee about putting flower boxes on John's Bridge along Route 7 similar to the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Bridge. Mr. Savage responded no because John's Bridge is part of a state highway. In addition, there are no sidewalks on the bridge and would be a safety issue.

10. Public Comments (Reprise) - None

11. Upcoming Events

- a) Regular and Zoom Selectboard Meeting – 5/17/2022 @ 7:00 p.m. – Town Office Building, 1 Academy Street
- b) Planning Commission Meeting – 5/18/2022 @ 6:00 p.m. – Town Office Building, 1 Academy Street
- c) Planning Commission Meeting – 5/25/2022 @ 6:00 p.m. – Town Office Building, 1 Academy Street
- d) DRB Meeting – 5/26/2022 @ 6:00 p.m. – Town Office Building, 1 Academy
- e) Town Employee Seminar – 5/20/2022 - TOWN CLERKS OFFICES CLOSED
- f) Memorial Day – 5/30/2022 – TOWN OFFICES AND OPERATIONS CLOSED. Annual Parade to be held at 2:30 p.m.

12. Executive Session (Personnel & Real Estate)

Mr. Rocheleau made a motion to enter executive session at 8:01 p.m., seconded by Ms. Draper. Motion carried.

Mr. Fournier made a motion to exit executive session at 8:28 p.m., seconded by Mr. White.

- a) Mr. Kevin Lothian regarding real estate

No actions taken. Mr. Guilmette added that the Highway Department will be advertising a position with the department soon.

E. Adjournment – Mr. Rocheleau made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:59 p.m., seconded by Mr. White. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joseph Cava  
Administrative Assistant

Received and filed by:

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Cathy Fournier, Town Clerk

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Date