

**DRAFT MINUTES  
TOWN OF SWANTON  
SELECTBOARD MEETING  
In-Person & By Zoom  
Town Office Building  
1 Academy Street, Swanton, VT 05488  
Tuesday, June 7, 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 Chief of Police; Patrick Parah; Adam Paxman; Shawn Cheney; Ryan Jordan; Keith Bushey; Jeff Smith; Abigail Gaudette; Rebecca Rupp; Rich Kelley; Elizabeth Nance (ZOOM); Josh Bushey (ZOOM); Jason Butler (ZOOM); Lynn Paradis (ZOOM); Lawrence Olio (ZOOM); Guillaume Clairet (ZOOM); iPhone (ZOOM)

\*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) May 17, 2022, Regular and Zoom Selectboard Meeting
    - b) May 24, 2022, Special Selectboard Meeting

Mr. White made a motion to approve the Draft Minutes from the 5/17/22 Selectboard meeting and the 5/24/22 Special Selectboard meeting, seconded by Mr. Rocheleau. Motion carried.

2. Public Comments

Mr. Guilmette expressed a huge thank you to those who came out to help set up the flags in the Village Green in observance of Memorial Day.

3. Law Enforcement

a) Swanton Police Chief Report

Mr. Sullivan reported 77 incidents during the month of May including 13 traffic stops which consisted of 10 verbal warnings and 3 written tickets.

Other violations included arrests and juvenile trespassing with public assistance.

Mr. White added while looking over the report that there were excessive speeds that did not result in ticketed offenses while lower offenses were. Mr. Sullivan responded that he would look into it and report back to the Selectboard.

b) Swanton Health Officer Report - None

4. Old Town Business

a) Review of Draft ATV Ordinance

Mr. Rocheleau recommended evaluating the use of ATVs on Maquam Shore Rd. Mr. White added that there should be a cutoff on when ATVs can operate. Mr. Sullivan added that the ordinance should be as clear as possible to ensure the best possible outcomes when it comes to enforcement. Mr. Guilmette proposed 9:00 p.m. as the cutoff time. Ms. Draper added that a trial period from the adoption of the ordinance through December 1, 2022 to coincide with the timeline of ATV operations.

Mr. White made a motion to adopt the ATV Ordinance, seconded by Mr. Rocheleau. Motion carried.

b) MVU/Route 78 Sidewalk Update - None

5. Executive Session (Legal & Real Estate)

Mr. Rocheleau made a motion at 7:20 p.m., seconded by Ms. Draper to enter executive session. Motion carried.

Ms. Draper made a motion at 7:34 p.m., seconded by Mr. Rocheleau to exit executive session. Motion carried.

No motions taken.

6. New Town Business

a) Residents of Dawn's Way for possible Town takeover

Mr. Guilmette said that the Town wouldn't be taking on any new roads at this time. He went on to explain that the road would need to be paved and brought up to A76 standards. Mr. Olio asked if there would be a time when the Town would take over neighborhood roads and developments?

Mr. Guilmette responded that at this time the Town doesn't have the staffing to take over any new roads the resources needed for paving keeps going up.

b) Swanton Public Library – Consider appointment to Board of Trustees

Ms. Rupp put forward Bianca Branen as a potential candidate.

Mr. Rocheleau made a motion to adopt the appointment of Bianca Branen to the Swanton Public Library Board of Trustees, seconded by Mr. White. Motion carried.

c) Swanton Public Library – Discussion of possible building grant

Ms. Rupp led a discussion of improvements being made to the Public Library including moving the children's room from the second floor, down to the main floor of the library where the adult fiction section previously was. She entertained the idea of a glass partition wall being installed separating the children's room from the remainder of the library that could potentially be partially funded by grants.

Mr. Rocheleau recommended obtaining an estimate to support such a venture. Mr. Guilmette added that a discussion with the fire marshal would be needed if a partition was built between rooms and how this would impact fire protection and safety.

7. Community & Economic Development

a) Report of Elizabeth Nance

Ms. Nance started by discussing the Exit 21 Welcome Center discussion which is still active, and the subcommittee will be discussing potential locations whether off Route 78 or along the I-89 North. Other topics include the Franklin County Field Days proposing new locations near Swanton, Highgate, or St. Albans due to soil constraints.

The vacant Swann Valley Cheese Plant has potential for a Canadian cheese making company that is interested in purchasing the plant for their operations. The Riviere Hotel demolition is pending, awaiting further analysis. Ms. Nance noted that there is a foot of coal ash in the basement that will be taken care of during the demolition process.

b) Leader Evaporator

Mr. Guilmette opened with a discussion of the \$900,000.00 loan. Ms. Nance noted that the CEO of H2O Innovation, Guillaume Clairet, was

present over ZOOM to lead the discussion. Mr. Clairret expanded on the role of H2O Innovation and the job growth and development this will mean for Swanton. He added that 10% of H2O operations is devoted to maple sugaring equipment with the remaining devoted to water treatment.

Mr. Smith led in a brief discussion regarding the loan, and its associated breakdowns. Mr. Savage added that the release of loan and security agreement would be signed by Leader Evaporator and H2O Innovation in addition to the Town Selectboard. Mr. Clairret asked for something in writing over email confirming everything is in order.

Mr. White made a motion to release the lien on the property, seconded by Mr. Rocheleau. Motion carried.

Mr. Fournier made a motion to authorize Brian Savage to sign and administer the agreement, seconded by Ms. Draper. Motion carried.

## 8. Highway Department

### a) Beebee Road Culvert Replacement

Work on the Beebe Road Culvert was to begin this past Monday, but due to weather issues on the contractor's previous job it will be started by this Wednesday or Thursday, with tentative work on the bridge going over the Missisquoi River in August 2022.

### b) FY22 Municipal Road Grant – site visit on Campbell Bay Road

Mr. Savage led in a brief discussion of the site visit on Campbell Bay Rd. with an individual from NRPC who has indicated the project qualifies for the grant.

### c) FY23 Municipal Road Grant – letter of intent due June 24, 2022

Mr. Savage added that a brook running through the area would not qualify for the grant. However, it is his intent to do the letter of intent and work with Road Commissioner and Road Foreman to select a project to be funded.

Mr. Guilmette said that between the grant funds and funds coming from the State, the Town is down roughly \$75,000.00 for needed paving bids.

### d) South River Street Culvert

A federal geologist brought to the Town's attention that the culvert head wall is separating from the culvert and is putting the structure above at

risk. The structure is used to monitor the Missisquoi River, but the culvert head wall is maintained by the Town.

9. Any Other Necessary Business

a) Bicycle Deal

Mr. Savage recommended using emergency management funds to implement an electrical bike utilized by the Swanton Police Department for patrolling. Mr. Guilmette recommended nailing down specific figures before coming to any consensus.

10. Correspondence - None

11. Public Comments (Reprise) - None

12. Upcoming Events

- a) Town Offices Closing for Training – Wednesday, June 8, 2022 – 2:30 p.m.
- b) Special and Zoom Selectboard Meeting – Tuesday, June 14, 2022 – 7:00 p.m. – Town Office Building – 1 Academy Street
- c) Planning Commission Meeting – Wednesday, June 15, 2022 – 6:00 p.m. – Town Office Building – 1 Academy Street
- d) Regular and Zoom Selectboard Meeting – Tuesday, June 21, 2022 – 7:00 p.m. – Town Office Building – 1 Academy Street
- e) DRB Meeting – Thursday, June 23, 2022 – 6:30 p.m. – Town Office Building – 1 Academy Street

E. Adjournment – Mr. Rocheleau made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 p.m., seconded by Mr. White. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joseph Cava  
Administrative Assistant