

**MINUTES
TOWN OF SWANTON
SELECTBOARD MEETING
In-Person & By Zoom
Town Office Building
1 Academy Street, Swanton, VT 05488
Tuesday, June 21, 2022 @ 7:00 p.m.**

Present: James Guilmette, Chair; Mark Rocheleau, Vice Chair; Earl Fournier, Nicole Draper, Ed White, Members; Brian Savage, Town Administrator; Amy Giroux/Joseph Cava, Administrative Assistant; Bethany Remmers, Northwest Regional Planning Commission; Patrick Parah; Dale Lavalley; Ashley Garneau; Joe DeMilia (Zoom User); Galaxy S21 Ultra 5G (Zoom User)

*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) June 7, 2022 Regular and Zoom Selectboard Meeting
- b) June 14, 2022 Special and Zoom Selectboard Meeting

Mr. White made a motion to approve the Draft Minutes from the 6/7/22 Selectboard meeting and the 6/14/22 Special Selectboard meeting, seconded by Mr. Fournier. Motion carried.

- 2. Public Comments

- 3. Law Enforcement

- a) Swanton Animal Control Officer Monthly Report

Members of the Selectboard briefly reviewed the Animal Control Officer's monthly report.

- b) Swanton Health Officer Report

There was no report available from the Health Officer.

- 4. Old Town Business

- a) Update on MVU/Route 78 Sidewalk project – Bethany Remmers

Ms. Remmers updated the Selectboard with TCE's proposal to cover \$29,450.00 of the needed \$71,094.93 to complete the planning for the project.

Mr. Fournier made a motion to accept TCE's proposal for \$29,450.00 contingent on receiving a schedule, seconded by Mr. Rocheleau. Motion carried.

- b) Update on Fourth Street Property

Mr. Savage gave a brief update on the Fourth Street property.

c) ARPA Funds Meeting

Mr. Guilmette encouraged members of the Selectboard to bring thoughts surrounding the top public comments at the ARPA fund meeting last week to the next Selectboard meeting for deliberation.

5. New Town Business

a) Mr. Dale Lavalley requesting that the Town take over Shetland Lane

Mr. Guilmette justified Mr. Lavalley's request but expressed that the Town is strapped and hasn't taken over any private roads for years. There is no obligation from the Town to take over private road's those developers created then abandoned to the residents living there. Mr. Lavalley asked if there was anything the residents of Shetland Lane could do for the Town to take it over? Mr. Guilmette expressed that the road would need to be brought up to A76 road standards, but it is not worth the undertaking by the neighboring residents considering the additional employees and equipment that would be required.

6. Community & Economic Development

a) Housing Initiative meeting of 6/16/2022

The Northwest Regional Planning Commission has a new member of staff that is encouraging increases in housing development according to Mr. Savage. He expanded saying that younger individuals in their 20s-30s are looking for similar housing as senior citizens.

b) Welcome Center meeting

Mr. Savage informed members of the Selectboard that the meeting previously scheduled to discuss the Welcome Center was cancelled.

7. Highway Department

a) Beebe Road Update

Mr. Guilmette informed the Selectboard that the Beebe Road culvert project is nearing completion and the road is now open. The guardrails will be installed in the next couple of weeks.

8. Expenditures

a) General Orders (5/18/2022 through 6/21/2022)

Mr. Fournier made a motion to approve the General Orders of 5/18/2022 through 6/21/2022, seconded by Mr. Rocheleau. Motion carried.

b) Highway Orders (5/18/2022 through 6/21/2022)

Mr. White made a motion to approve the Highway Orders of 5/18/2022 through 6/21/2022, seconded by Ms. Draper. Motion carried.

c) Library Orders (5/18/2022 through 6/21/2022)

Mr. Rocheleau made a motion to approve the Library Orders of 5/18/2022 through 6/21/2022, seconded by Mr. Fournier. Motion carried.

d) Payroll Orders (5/18/2022 through 6/21/2022)

Mr. White made a motion to approve the Payroll Orders of 5/18/2022 through 6/21/2022, seconded by Ms. Draper. Motion carried.

9. Any Other Necessary Business

Mr. Savage mentioned that voicemail messages weren't able to be retrieved by employees while out sick with COVID-19. Peter Smith, IT, could implement the technology to retrieve voice mail through a sound file to go to their email for \$600.00-700.00.

Mr. White made a motion to approve up to \$1,000.00 for equipment and labor to upgrade systems at the Town Hall, seconded by Ms. Draper. Motion carried.

10. Correspondence

a) Email from Mr. Roger George

Mr. Guilmette noted that the previous meeting was only a brainstorming exercise for how to utilize ARPA funds and in no way were accepting formal proposals for fund allocation. Mr. Fournier added that those concerned with the quality of Lake Champlain should become more involved with groups like the Friends of Northern Lake Champlain. Mr. Rocheleau added that the quality of the lake is a concern to Swanton, but Swanton does not own the lake. There is only so much that the Town can do without having community presence on these Lake Champlain boards and organizations.

b) Email from Rebecca Rupp of the Swanton Public Library

The Selectboard briefly reviewed the email from Rebecca Rupp about the Swanton Public Library.

11. Public Comments (Reprise) - None

12. Upcoming Events

- a) DRB Meeting – Thursday, June 23, 2022 – 6:30 p.m. – Town Office Building – 1 Academy Street
- b) Citizens Concert Band – Wednesday, June 29, 2022 – 7:00 p.m. – Swanton Village Green
- c) Monday, July 4, 2022 – Independence Day Holiday – Town Office and Operations CLOSED
- d) Regular and Zoom Selectboard Meeting – Tuesday, July 5, 2022 – 7:00 p.m. – Town Office Building – 1 Academy Street
- e) Cemetery Commission Meeting to discuss Cemetery Bylaws – Monday, July 11, 2022 – 7:00 p.m. – Town Office Building – 1 Academy Street

13. Executive Session (Personnel, Legal & Real Estate)

Mr. Rocheleau made a motion to enter executive session at 7:50 p.m., seconded by Ms. Draper. Motion carried.

Mr. White made a motion to exit executive session at 8:34 p.m., seconded by Mr. Fournier. Motion carried.

Mr. White made a motion accept the appointment of Mike Backus, seconded by Mr. Fournier. Motion carried.

E. Adjournment – Mr. Rocheleau made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m., seconded by Ms. Draper. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joseph Cava
Administrative Assistant

Received and filed by:

Cathy Fournier, Town Clerk

Date