

**MINUTES
TOWN OF SWANTON
SELECTBOARD MEETING
In-Person & By Zoom
Town Office Building
1 Academy Street, Swanton, VT 05488
Tuesday, July 19, 2022 @ 7:00 p.m.**

Present: James Guilmette, Chair; Earl Fournier, Nicole Draper, Ed White, Members; Joseph Cava, Administrative Assistant; Bethany Remmers, Northwest Regional Planning Commission; Ed Daniel, Swanton Planning Commission Chair; Amy Giroux, Zoning Administrator; Patrick Parah; Elizabeth Nance, Franklin County Industrial Development Corporation (FCIFC)

*All motions carried unanimously unless specified otherwise.

- A. Call to Order – Mr. Guilmette called the meeting to order at 7:04 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) July 5, 2022, Regular and Zoom Selectboard Meeting

- Mr. Fournier made a motion to approve the Draft Minutes from the 7/5/22 Selectboard meeting, seconded by Mr. White. Motion carried.

- 2. Public Comments

- Mr. Parah asked if the cannabis business was still coming to Swanton? Mr. Guilmette responded that he hasn't heard anything since the vote.

- 3. Law Enforcement

- a) Swanton Animal Control Officer Monthly Report

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

- b) Increased Police Coverage for Speed Violations

- At the previous Selectboard meeting there were concerns of increased police coverage to address speeding violations within the community. There are two proposals of 10 additional hours of coverage per week with a cost of \$795.60, and a 15 additional hours of coverage per week with a cost of \$1,193.40. Both cost proposals are based upon the cost per week of additional coverage.

- 4. Old Town Business

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

- Ms. Remmers outlined an amended project schedule to present to TCE who will be taking over the sidewalk contract with the Town contingent upon a modified schedule. VTrans has reviewed the proposed schedule and has placed a contingency on the right-of-way easements needed from private landowners to move forward with the project. According to Ms. Remmers, once the right-of-way easements are secured, the project can be

put out to bid contingently in May 2023 with its eventual completion in 2024. Mr. Guilmette recommended putting the project out to bid in February 2023 to guarantee completion within the same year.

Mr. Daniel asked about engaging students in this project, and coming up with alternative safer routes by access on Frontage Rd.? Mr. Guilmette acknowledged Mr. Daniel's opinion but expressed that too much money has already been spent on a project that hasn't started construction and any deviations to the existing plan would be too costly to the Town.

Ms. Draper made a motion to accept the modified timeline to present to TCE for the MVU/Route 78 Sidewalk Project, seconded by Mr. Fournier. Motion carried.

5. New Town Business

a) Lamoille Valley Rail Trail

Ms. Draper reviewed correspondence from Mr. Clark about lighting and other site improvements to request funds amounting to \$800.00 to start accumulating a cost estimate for the long-term plan and establishment of a community center.

Ms. Draper made a motion to approve an additional \$506.00 request by Mr. Clark to pay for an invoice from Cross Consulting Engineers for previous work to create a site plan for the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail Terminus on Robin Hood Dr. in addition to the previously approved \$1,700.00 to update the site plan with lighting, bathrooms, etc. and prepare a construction estimate for a total of \$3,006.00 from the ARPA funds, seconded by Mr. Fournier. Motion carried.

b) Planning Commission Grant

Mr. Daniel raised the appointment of Corey Parent to assist the Town with changes for the 2023 Municipal Plan with members of the Selectboard. Mr. Guilmette asked about Mr. Parent's fees and whether they would be within the proposed budget? Ms. Giroux responded yes that Mr. Parent is aware of the financial limitations of the Town. Mr. Fournier asked about a plan for public involvement? Mr. Daniel responded that Mr. Parent has an aggressive outlook on Municipal Plan edits.

Mr. Fournier made a motion for Ms. Giroux and Ms. Nance to draft a contract to accept Corey Parent to audit the Municipal Plan, contingent that the contract does not exceed \$19,600.00 budgeted by the Town, seconded by Mr. White. Motion carried.

6. Community & Economic Development

a) Letter of Support for Green Mountain Knitting/Green Mountain Welding

Ms. Nance discussed a letter of support for Green Mountain Knitting to move from Milton, VT into the old Mylan building in Swanton with a tentative occupational status by 2022 year's end. In addition, Ms. Nance also discussed a letter of support for Green Mountain Welding to move their shop along Route 7 in Swanton. The grant funding for Green Mountain Knitting and Green Mountain Welding would come through state funds administered by the Franklin County Industrial Development Corporation (FCIDC).

Mr. Fournier made a motion to accept the letter of support from Green Mountain Knitting and Green Mountain Welding with Mr. Guilmette administering the contract, seconded by Mr. White. Motion carried.

b) Swann Valley Cheese Plant

Ms. Nance expressed that there has been interest in converting the Swann Valley Cheese plant to produce goat and sheep cheese. Ms. Nance expressed that the only existing limitation is procuring the agricultural land and livestock to support this venture.

c) Phase II Riviere Hotel Demolition Study

The lead levels contained within the Riviere Hotel are not as high as originally assumed according to Ms. Nance, but the demolition of the Riviere Hotel still needs Section 108 Review through the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation for the impacts of its demolition.

7. Highway Department

a) Beebe Road Update

Mr. Guilmette said that paving would begin on Wheeler Round tentatively tomorrow, then transition to Beebe Road soon afterwards.

b) Maquam Shore Road Culvert

Mr. Guilmette reviewed an email from Tyler Billingsley, engineer, to replace the existing culvert on Maquam Shore Rd. The existing culvert's deteriorated condition places an increased importance on replacing it this year, 2022. Mr. Fournier raised concerns about the unexpected cost to replace the culvert. Mr. Guilmette recommended utilizing ARPA funds to prevent the Town from taking out a loan to pay for the replacement culvert.

Mr. Fournier made a motion for Mr. Guilmette to speak with Tyler Billingsley from East Engineering to expedite the process of getting this project out to bid with a contingent deadline for contract bids by August 15, 2022, seconded by Mr. White. Motion carried.

8. Expenditures

a) General Orders (6/22/2022 through 7/19/2022)

Mr. White made a motion to approve the General Orders of 6/22/2022 through 7/19/2022, seconded by Ms. Draper. Motion carried.

b) Highway Orders (6/22/2022 through 7/19/2022)

Ms. Draper made a motion to approve the Highway Orders of 6/22/2022 through 7/19/2022, seconded by Mr. White. Motion carried.

c) Library Orders (6/22/2022 through 7/19/2022)

Mr. White made a motion to approve the Library Orders of 6/22/2022 through 7/19/2022, seconded by Ms. Draper. Motion carried.

d) Payroll Orders (6/22/2022 through 7/19/2022)

Ms. Draper made a motion to approve the Payroll Orders of 6/22/2022 through 7/19/2022, seconded by Mr. White. Motion carried.

9. Any Other Necessary Business - None

10. Correspondence

a) Email from Swanton Arts Council

The Renaissance Festival proposed by the Swanton Arts Council has been postponed until Summer 2023 to allow more time for planning and to secure licensing.

11. Public Comments (Reprise)

Mr. Fournier expressed concerns about the plans for Route 78 and the lack of consideration that is being given for safety and use of such a well-traveled road. Ms. Fournier added that part of the challenge stems from land occupied by the Missisquoi Valley Wildlife Refuge and federal hoop jumping that would be involved to secure easements.

12. Upcoming Events

- a) Planning Commission Meeting – Wednesday, July 20, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. – Town Office Building, 1 Academy Street
- b) Board of Civil Authority Tax Appeal & Abatement Hearings – Thursday, July 21, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. – Town Office Building, 1 Academy Street
- c) DRB Meeting – Thursday, July 28, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. – Town Office Building, 1 Academy Street
- d) Regular and Zoom Selectboard Meeting – Tuesday, August 2, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. – Town Office Building, 1 Academy Street

13. Executive Session (Personnel)

Mr. White made a motion to enter executive session at 8:20 p.m., seconded by Mr. Fournier. Motion carried.

Mr. Fournier made a motion to exit executive session at 8:57 p.m., seconded by Ms. Draper. Motion carried.

No motions taken.

- E. Adjournment – Mr. Fournier made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:58 p.m., seconded by Ms. Draper. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joseph Cava
Administrative Assistant

Received and filed by:

Cathy Fournier, Town Clerk

Date