

**MINUTES
TOWN OF SWANTON
SELECTBOARD MEETING
In-Person & By Zoom
Town Office Building
1 Academy Street, Swanton, VT 05488
Tuesday, September 6, 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; Joel Clark; Betsy Fournier; Jon Nielson; Sandy Skeels Kilburn; Ronald Kilburn; Sophie Vibert; Jesse LeClair; Elisabeth Nance, FCIDC; Linda (ZOOM User); Pam McCarthy (ZOOM User); Darci Laroche Benoit (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) August 23, 2022, Regular and Zoom Selectboard Meeting

Mr. White motion to approve the Draft Minutes from the 8/23/22 Selectboard meeting, seconded by Mr. Rocheleau. Motion carried.

- 2. Public Comments

- 3. Law Enforcement

- a) Swanton Police Chief Report

Chief Sullivan delivered a summary of occurrences including 14 traffic stops with one ticketed issuance, 2 arrests, 3 thefts, 3 boating incidents, and 3 welfare checks. Mr. Rocheleau asked about calls and complaints in association with the ATV ordinance that was adopted a month ago? Chief Sullivan said there were some increases in complaints within the Village on Canada St., but overall complaints were fairly moderate. Mr. Guilmette asked about the lack of speed related incidents on the report? Chief Sullivan described that speed is a factor when it is specific to the offense, but other factors included in the report was suspicions of impairment versus a speeding violation.

- 4. Old Town Business

- a) LVRT Update – Joel Clark

Mr. Clark had a good conversation with the State’s rail trail program discussing the proposed site plan presented at previous Selectboard meetings. The committee had positive remarks for the plan noting action steps to achieve the overall goal. Next steps include the site walkthrough in October to evaluate the proposed plan against what currently exists. As part of this application, there would need to be a public hearing to collect input from the community. Mr. Clark expressed having this public hearing in October to coincide with the application deadline in November. Mr.

Clark then passed out a draft letter for abutting property owners for the Selectboard's review. Mr. Fournier recommended adding the public hearing to the letter to abutting property owners.

Mr. Rocheleau made a motion for Cross Consulting Engineers to delineate the wetlands not to exceed \$1,000.00, seconded by Mr. White. Motion carried.

b) Sign Resolution for VCDP Grant for Abenaki Nation of Missisquoi

Mr. Savage passed out the resolution for members of the Selectboard to sign.

c) Engineering Contract for MVU Sidewalk Project

Mr. Savage passed the contract to Mr. Guilmette to sign.

5. New Town Business

a) Swanton Recreation Commission – Discussion of Funding and Feasibility – Betsy Fournier

Ms. Fournier began by discussing the Recreation Commission and passing out supporting materials associated with Swanton Recreation. The consensus according to Ms. Fournier from the Recreation Commission is to upgrade the existing facilities with ARPA funds. The use of an indoor facility would expand storage capabilities, but also expand programming for indoor recreation opportunities like Zumba classes. Mr. Guilmette asked about the capacity of the proposed indoor space? Ms. Fournier responded that the space would be the rough size of an elementary school gymnasium. Mr. White asked about where the estimates came from in Ms. Fournier's report? Ms. Fournier responded that the cost estimate came directly from Cross Consulting Engineers. Mr. Clark expanded upon the proposed location from delineated wetlands.

Jumping beyond the vision, Ms. Fournier gave a breakdown of expenses versus income along with unanticipated expenses that can be offset by revenue. Ms. Kilburn asked about the Notch Summer Camp and their use of a proposed facility? Ms. Fournier responded that this would be an indoor safety feature when inclement weather drives these outdoor programs indoors. Mr. Rocheleau called for a maintenance plan for how to take care of the new building and grounds, so it doesn't fall to the taxpayers. Mr. Fournier asked whether the primary access would be on Jewett St. or Blake St.? Ms. Fournier expressed that they do have an easement on Blake, but for the purposes of safety, Jewett would be the primary entrance and exit.

Mr. Clark continued by opening the door for grant funding to help support the funding for this project. If the overall project came to \$1.6-1.8 million, Mr. Clark recommended budgeting \$800,000.00 from the ARPA funds with additional support coming from a potential bond vote. For an \$800,000.00 bond based upon a household worth of \$300,000.00 would come to around a \$40.00 increase in taxes per year to support Swanton Recreation's mission. Mr. Fournier recommended an increased bond vote, not only to budget for Swanton Recreation, but other community facets like the Downtown and community welcome center. Mr. Rocheleau asked about the plan's relevance to the Fourth Street property? Ms. Fournier said that Fourth Street would be good overflow for younger t-ball sports fields and day camps.

Moving forward, Mr. Guilmette asked what the next stages would be? Mr. Clark responded that the design and permitting process would be the next

step, but this is contingent upon ARPA funds for approval and voters approving a bond. Mr. Fournier mentioned the gap of a daycare facility as part of this project. Ms. Fournier expressed that this is a need, but the licensing would be too extreme to implement upfront. Mr. Clark echoed Ms. Fournier's concerns adding to the liability of operating a daycare. Mr. Rocheleau added the amount of financial support needed to meet the minimum daycare requirements could also create an upfront liability for the Town.

b) Personnel

As of September 30, 2022, Mark Rocheleau will be stepping down from his position as Vice-Chair of the Selectboard. Ms. Fournier thanked Mr. Rocheleau for his time and support during his time on the Selectboard.

6. Community & Economic Development

a) Elizabeth Nance (Executive Session)

7. Highway Department

a) Maquam Shore Road Culvert

Mr. Guilmette alerted the board that the culvert is ordered, and everything is moving on schedule.

b) Paving Project Update

Half of the topcoat on Route 78 is complete according to Mr. Fournier.

8. Any Other Necessary Business

a) Tentative Interview THO Applicant (Executive Session)

Mr. Fournier made a motion for Mr. Savage to contact the THO applicant's references with the agreement of \$350.00 per month plus mileage, seconded by Mr. Rocheleau. Motion carried.

b) Discussion of Revolving Loan Fund from VCDP Grant of Leader Evaporator

Mr. Savage recommended modeling the revolving loan fund after the Village's fund agreement. Mr. Fournier will be checking in with Tim Smith through the Franklin County Industrial Development Corporation (FCIDC). Mr. Savage continued saying that the Selectboard has sole discretion over this type of fund for granting loans.

9. Correspondence

Mr. Savage raised the idea of a local cannabis control board for the municipality after meeting the State's regulations when retail cannabis sales come into effect on October 1, 2022.

10. Public Comments (Reprise) - None

11. Upcoming Events

- a) Regular and Zoom Selectboard Meeting – Tuesday, September 20, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. – Town Office Building, 1 Academy Street
- b) Planning Commission Meeting – Wednesday, September 21, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. – Town Office Building, 1 Academy Street

c) DRB Meeting – Thursday, September 22, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. – Town Office Building, 1 Academy Street

12. Executive Session (Personnel, Legal)

Ms. Draper made a motion to enter executive session at 8:16 p.m., seconded by Mr. Rocheleau. Motion carried.

Mr. Fournier made a motion to exit executive session at 9:16 p.m., seconded by Ms. Draper. Motion carried.

Mr. Rocheleau made a motion for James Guilmette to sign the economic initiative incentive, seconded by Mr. Fournier. Motion carried.

E. Adjournment – Mr. Fournier made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 p.m., seconded by Mr. Rocheleau. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joseph Cava
Administrative Assistant

Received and filed by:

Cathy Fournier, Town Clerk

Date