

MINUTES
TOWN OF SWANTON
SELECTBOARD MEETING
In-Person & By Zoom
Town Office Building
1 Academy Street, Swanton, VT 05488
Tuesday, September 20, 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; Patrick Parah; Joel Clark; Betsy Fournier

*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) September 6, 2022 - Regular and Zoom Selectboard Meeting

- Mr. White made a motion to approve the Draft Minutes from the 9/6/22 Selectboard meeting, seconded by Mr. Rocheleau. Motion carried.

- 2. Public Comments

- Mr. Parah shared a report of a dog that was hit and died.

- Mr. Guilmette will be finishing out his term as Chair of the Selectboard ending in March 2023.

- 3. Law Enforcement

- a) Swanton Animal Control Officer Monthly Report

- Ms. Draper has gone out and taken animals into procession to return to their owners.

- 4. Old Town Business

- a) Discussion of Survey of Land acquired in Tax Sale

- Mr. Savage shared the results of the land that was surveyed. Part of this land includes an access road that MVU built to allow vehicular traffic out to the batting cages. Mr. Rocheleau asked about the liability of the school utilizing this road on land that they don't own? Mr. Savage recommended a boundary line adjustment. Mr. Guilmette added that some of this land abuts the Town Garage.

- b) Discussion of establishment of Revolving Loan Fund from VHCB Grant

- Mr. Savage reminded members of the board about the outline that was distributed at the last Selectboard meeting and confirmed it met the approval of the folks in Montpelier. Mr. Fournier asked about the loan figure in comparison to the \$50,000.00 loan fund amount? Mr. Savage responded that the initial figure was based upon the Village's but could be

tweaked to better reflect the Town. Mr. Guilmette asked for clarification on business owners who buy versus rent their business spaces. Mr. Savage responded that both scenarios are treated the same. Mr. Fournier raised a point on eligibility and who this loan fund could apply to. Mr. Guilmette responded that it could apply to any business operating within the Town and the Village on a first come first serve basis.

Mr. White made a motion that the interest rate would be a flat 2% interest rate with a max loan amount of \$15,000.00, seconded by Ms. Draper. Motion carried.

5. New Town Business

a) Naming of new road off from Woods Hill Road

Mr. Savage said the proposed names are Brayden Way or Brayden Lane to comply with E911 and NMRC.

Mr. Rocheleau made a motion to accept the road name of Brayden Way, seconded by Mr. White. Motion carried.

b) Friends of Northern Lake Champlain

Mr. Fournier recommended involving the Friends of Northern Lake Champlain to assist with the challenges of Maquam Bay.

6. Community & Economic Development

a) Scheduling Final Public Hearing – Leader Evaporator VHCB Grant

Mr. Savage informed the board that a public hearing, warned 15 days in advance would be required, and recommended coinciding it with the 10/18/22 Selectboard meeting.

7. Highway Department

a) Paving Update

Mr. Guilmette gave a brief paving update on the status of paving on Wheeler Round and Beebe Rd. The paving on Wheeler Round has been completed and Beebe Rd. will begin once the work proposed on County Rd. has been confirmed. Mr. Guilmette also informed the board that the price of paving is starting to come down.

b) Maquam Shore Road Culvert Update

Mr. Guilmette gave a brief update on the status of the Maquam Shore Road culvert.

c) Sand & Salt Prices

Mr. Guilmette informed the board that the price of sand has gone up, so the Town wasn't able to purchase as much as it had in previous years due to cost prohibitions.

8. Expenditures

a) General Orders (8/24/2022 through 9/20/2022)

Mr. Fournier made a motion to approve the General Orders of 8/24/2022 through 9/20/2022, seconded by Mr. Rocheleau. Motion carried.

b) Highway Orders (8/24/2022 through 9/20/2022)

Mr. White made a motion to approve the Highway Orders of 8/24/2022 through 9/20/2022, seconded by Mr. Rocheleau. Motion carried.

c) Library Orders (8/24/2022 through 9/20/2022)

Mr. Fournier made a motion to approve the Library Orders of 8/24/2022 through 9/20/2022, seconded by Mr. White. Motion carried.

d) Payroll Orders (8/24/2022 through 9/20/2022)

Mr. White made a motion to approve the Payroll Orders of 8/24/2022 through 9/20/2022, seconded by Ms. Draper. Motion carried.

9. Any Other Necessary Business

a) Joint Meeting with Village Trustees on 9/26/22 at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Savage raised the point that there will be a deliberative session to discuss points of mutual interest between the Town and the Village.

10. Correspondence

a) Swanton Beach Letter of Support Proposal

b) Letter from Cross Consulting Engineers

Mr. Clark gave the Selectboard an update on funding for Cross Consulting Engineers design fees. The engineering firm is looking for 90-95% down. The proposal of a bond presented at the last Selectboard meeting would help to complete the project including the proposed construction costs including engineering, design, stormwater, and permitting. Mr. Guilmette asked about the best way to proceed. Mr. Rocheleau recommended earmarking the funds from ARPA now to understand the difference needed from a bond to reduce the burden on the taxpayers.

Mr. Rocheleau made a motion to set aside \$600,000.00 of the ARPA funds for the establishment of a community center at the recreation fields, seconded by Mr. White. Mr. Guilmette, Mr. Rocheleau, Ms. Draper, and Mr. White voted aye; Mr. Fournier voted nay. Motion carried.

Mr. White made a motion to set aside \$107,000.00 of the proposed \$600,000.00 to complete engineering assessments, seconded by Mr. Fournier. Motion carried.

Mr. Guilmette stated that there are letters of concern from residents of Leduc Dr. including Lisa Meunier, Cindy Choiniere, and Aaron Hoague about the proposed tree removal for the LVRT parking area.

11. Public Comments (Reprise) - None

12. Upcoming Events

- a) Planning Commission Meeting – Wednesday, September 21, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. – Town Office Building, 1 Academy Street
- b) DRB Meeting – Thursday, September 22, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. – Town Office Building, 1 Academy Street
- c) Regular and Zoom Selectboard Meeting – Tuesday, October 4, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. – Town Office Building, 1 Academy Street

13. Executive Session (If Needed) - None

E. Adjournment – Mr. Rocheleau made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m., seconded by Ms. Draper. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joseph Cava
Administrative Assistant

Received and filed by:

Cathy Fournier, Town Clerk

Date