

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

Present: James Guilmette, Chair; Earl Fournier, Vice Chair; Nicole Draper, Ed White, Steve Bourgeois, Members; Brian Savage, Town Administrator; Cathy Fournier, Town Clerk; Joseph Cava, Administrative Assistant; Matthew Sullivan, Chief of Police; Fr. Rob Spainhour; Sandy Skeels Kilburn; Ron Kilburn; Priscilla “Cyl” Connelly

\*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) October 18, 2022, Regular and Zoom Selectboard and Joint Meeting with Village Trustees

Mr. White made a motion to approve the Draft Minutes from the 10/18/22 Selectboard meeting pending the amended changes, seconded by Ms. Bourgeois. Motion carried.

- 2. Public Comments - None

- 3. Law Enforcement

- a) Swanton Police Chief Report

Chief Sullivan gave an update on 51 occurrences within Swanton including traffic stops, suspicious persons, driving under the influence, ticketed offences, and six arrests throughout the month of October. Other occurrences included illegal dumping near the Village Dam and Swanton Beach. Mr. White and Ms. Draper expressed thanks to Chief Sullivan for a matter that was discussed at the previous Selectboard meeting. Chief Sullivan expressed that the person in question is competent and not a flight risk to the community.

- b) Swanton Health Officer Monthly Report

Members of the Selectboard briefly reviewed the Health Officer’s monthly report.

- 4. Old Town Business

- a) Public Hearing LVRT Trailhead Project Grant Application

Mr. Savage said the grant application has been submitted, signed, and is currently under review. Mr. Fournier asked if the revised changes were submitted? Mr. Savage responded yes.

b) Country Club Estates Stormwater Permit Issue

Mr. Savage gave an update on the status of the catch basins stating that there is no sediment or signs of deterioration. This allows a period of 18 months during which time a new storm water permit could be applied for. Mr. Savage added that annual permit fee would amount to \$1,600.00 compared to the previous quoted amount of \$4,000.00.

c) Heating System of Swanton Public Library

Mr. Savage has inspected the library building. Mr. Guilmette asked if the plan included replacing the exterior heating/cooling coils? Mr. Savage responded that only the two furnaces were proposed at this time.

Mr. White made a motion for put out a bid for an RFP to replace the two furnaces at the Swanton Public Library, seconded by Ms. Draper. Motion carried.

d) MVU Sidewalk Update

Mr. Savage updated the Selectboard on a meeting that occurred last Wednesday on what needs to be done for this project. Mr. Savage has contacted Ms. Remmers at Northwest Regional Planning to obtain an updated cost estimate for culverts and catch basins associated with the Swanton Maplefields and the Town Garage's driveway. Mr. Bourgeois asked about funding for the project? Mr. Guilmette described the grant program as a 20% matching grant in addition to State VTrans funds.

5. New Town Business

- a) Father Rob Spainhour to discuss proposed Declaration of Inclusion  
Fr. Spainhour gave a summary on the declaration for inclusion including thoughts of safety to be a reality. This stems from the feelings of inclusion that a rural municipality can provide, and it is important to put this type of declaration in writing to reaffirm this creed. Ms. Kilburn added that members of the Town Selectboard have helped to draft this declaration of inclusion. Fr. Spainhour affirmed that we all have biases whether known or unknown.

Mr. Bourgeois asked for clarification on the unconscious bias paragraph of the declaration? Fr. Spainhour explained that his experience as a white schoolteacher had unconscious bias and impact on his students which were of predominantly African American descent. Ms. Kilburn clarified that this isn't about good and bad people, its about educating people to recognize where we come from.

Mr. Bourgeois expressed the need to have this statement vetted before advertising it. Mr. Fournier expressed similar concerns before advertising it on the new conjoined website between the Town and Village. Mr. Guilmette recommended having the Town's attorney look over this statement. In response to legal concerns, Ms. Kilburn added that most of the language contained within the declaration came from the Vermont League of Cities and Towns.

6. Community & Economic Development

Mr. Savage that there is nothing new to report. Ms. Draper added that the recent newsletter issued by Ms. Nance was very comprehensive.

7. Highway Department

- a) Beebe Road Update

Mr. Guilmette gave a brief update on the completion of Beebe Rd. paving.

b) Maquam Shore Road Culvert

Mr. Savage gave a brief update on the Maquam Shore Rd. culvert stating that according to Tyler Billingsly, the culvert would be delivered this week or next week.

c) Mower

Mr. Guilmette gave an update on the mower approved at the previous meeting, stating that the proposed mower has risen exponentially to \$13,077.00, compared to the previously approved \$11,599.00. Mr. Guilmette stated that every other equivalent mower is priced \$3,000-4,000.00 over the originally quoted price.

Mr. White made a motion to approve the revised mower cost of \$13,077.00 as long as this price will be honored, seconded by Ms. Draper. Motion carried.

d) Mack Dump Truck

Mr. Guilmette highlighted issues with the Mack dump truck mentioning that it has been losing fuel.

8. Any Other Necessary Business

Mr. Bourgeois asked about the plan discussed at the previous meeting to hire a building maintenance person, and whether this could be folded in with the job description of a current Town employee? Mr. Savage said they are still looking into it.

Mr. Bourgeois then transitioned to asking about the boundary line adjustment that was discussed at the previous Selectboard meeting? Mr. Guilmette discussed that the plot is landlocked which makes it difficult. Mr. Savage said an easement would allow access from the School road to the property. There will be a meeting with the Rowell's to discuss possible land swap and then a meeting with both the School and Rowell's to work out the details.

9. Correspondence

Mr. Savage briefly spoke about correspondence from Mr. George.

10. Public Comments (Reprise)

Ms. Draper mentioned what a success Halloween in the Park was last night, 10/31/22.

Mr. Guilmette mentioned help for setting up the flags in the park for Veteran's Day.

11. Upcoming Events

- a) Election Day – Tuesday, November 8, 2022 – Polls open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. – Swanton Village Municipal Complex, 120 First Street
- b) Planning Commission Meeting – Wednesday, November 9, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. – Town Office Building, 1 Academy Street
- c) Veteran's Day – Friday, November 11, 2022 – Town Office and Operations – CLOSED
- d) Regular and Zoom Selectboard Meeting – Tuesday, November 15, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. – Town Office Building, 1 Academy Street

e) Planning Commission Meeting – Wednesday, September 21, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. – Town Office Building, 1 Academy Street

12. Executive Session (Legal)

Ms. Draper made a motion to enter executive session at 7:58 p.m., seconded by Mr. White. Motion carried.

Mr. Fournier made a motion to exit executive session at 8:49 p.m., seconded by Ms. Draper. Motion carried.

No motions taken.

E. Adjournment – Mr. White made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m., seconded by Mr. Fournier. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joseph Cava  
Administrative Assistant

Received and filed by:

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Cathy Fournier, Town Clerk

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Date