

**DRAFT MINUTES
TOWN OF SWANTON
SELECTBOARD MEETING
Town Office Building
1 Academy Street, Swanton, VT 05488
In-Person & By Zoom
Tuesday, August 15, 2023 @ 6:00 p.m.**

Present: Earl Fournier-Chair, Edward White Sr-Vice Chair, Nicole Draper, Cody Hemenway-Members, Cathy Fournier-Town Clerk, Brian Savage-Town Administrator, Christina Candels-Administrative Assistant, Jim Pratt-Lister, Kevin Lapan-Road Forman, Glen Gurwitt, Heather Lavoie, Kevin Nichols, Sandy Skeels-Kilburn, Ron Kilburn, Kevin Lothian, Lin-Zoom

A. Call to Order: Mr. Fournier called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

B. Pledge of Allegiance: Mr. Fournier let those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Agenda Review

D. Meeting Topics

1. Minutes

a) August 2, 2023 Special Selectboard Meeting

Mr. Hemenway a motion to approve the draft minutes from the 8/2/23 Special Selectboard Meeting as written, seconded by Mr. White. Motion carried.

2. Public Comments

Mr. White wanted to recognize the exceptional work Ms. Draper and the Swanton Rec Dept did putting on Cornfest. This was a wonderful family/community event.

3. Law Enforcement

a) Swanton Animal Control Report

Mr. Hemenway spoke about the June & July Animal Control report.

4. Expenditures

a) General Orders

Mr. Hemenway made a motion to approve the General Orders of 7/19/23 to 8/15/23 in the amount of \$137,744.87, seconded by Mr. White. Motion carried.

b) Highway Orders

Mr. White made a motion to approve the Highway Orders of 7/19/23 to 8/15/23 in the amount of \$35,855.57, seconded by Ms. Draper Motion carried.

- c) APRA Orders
No ARPA Orders 7/19/23 to 8/15/23.
 - d) Library Orders
Mr. White made a motion to approve the Library Orders of 7/19/23 to 8/15/23 in the amount of \$749.53, seconded by Mr. Hemenway Motion carried.
 - e) Highway/General Payroll Orders
Mr. Hemenway made a motion to approve the Highway/General Payroll Orders of 7/19/23 to 8/15/23 in the amount of \$32,162.82 seconded by Ms. Draper Motion carried.
 - f) Library Payroll Orders
Mr. White made a motion to approve the Library Payroll Orders of 7/19/23 to 8/15/23 in the amount of \$9070.09, seconded by Mr. Hemenway Motion carried.
5. Highway Department
- a) Brooklyn Street catch basin
Mr. Lapan updated the board on the catch basin located on Brooklyn Street. This will need to be disconnected from the Village sewer system. This basin collects stormwater. Mr. Savage suggested a meeting with Village & Town members to create a plan for this.
Mr. Fournier asked Mr. Lapan to look at the library parking lot to fill in some holes. He also questioned if there is a slope in the driveway between library and church to ensure this is not contributing to water in basement.
Mr. Fournier & Mr. Lapan have also been working on cost of fixing Swanton Hill Rd to address this in the near future.
6. Old Town Business
- a) Library Building Issues
Mr. Savage stated that the MOU has been signed by all parties for Swanton Historical Society, Swanton Library Trustees & Selectboard. Mr. Savage, Mr. Fournier & Ms. Draper will meet Wednesday morning with architect and representatives for gutters to address ongoing water issues. Thursday all board members will attend a meeting at the library with representatives to meet with basement contractor. Mr. White suggested getting more than one estimate for projects. Mr. Fournier stated that he would like to have representative from Library & Historical Society to attend meeting at the library Thursday.
7. New Town Business
- a) Set 2023 Tax Rate

Ms. Cathy Fournier reviewed 2023 tax rates. Residential rate will be 1.8718, Nonresidential rate will be 2.0404. This is Education and Municipal combined.

Mr. White made a motion to approve the tax rate 1.8718 for residential & 2.0404 for nonresidential for 2023, seconded by Ms. Draper. Motion carried.

- b) Mr. Kevin Lothian – discussion of Merchants Row real estate
Mr. Lothian discussed unsanitary conditions in a neighboring property on Merchants Row. These are ongoing concerns he has brought to the board before. Mr. Fournier explain he is still aware it is an ongoing issue. Due to circumstances and the law if we were to take legal action against property owner it is unlikely the Town would win. Mr. Savage explained that the State of Vermont Fire Marshall was working on violations, they were advised by there superiors to not pursue. Mr. Savage also explain to Mr. Lothian that since the neighboring business is open 24 hours that building owner has the legal right to protect his property 24 hours a day.
- c) Interview applicant for Lister Position
Mr. Kevin Nichols joined the table to discuss his interest in the Lister’s Position. Mr. Nichols told the board the work history he has that will contribute to his ability in the position.
Mr. Pratt shared how he felt Mr. Nichols ability to evaluate properties will contribute to his ability to work as a lister. There is a learning curve but he has the knowledge of buildings.

Mr. White made a motion to offer Mr. Kevin Lothian the Listers position, seconded by Mr. Hemenway. Motion carried.

Mr. Nichols will fill the position until Town meeting day when he plans to run for the rest of Mr. Pratt’s term.

- d) Discuss date for next regular Selectboard meeting.
There are no conflicts with board members.
- e) Discuss Community Calander.
Mr. Savage updated the board on his conversation with Mr. Fournier about upcoming events on the website.
Ms. Candels drafted a letter to share with community members if they would like to have events posted on the website and marque board.
Ms. Draper will share list of local stakeholders she suggests we send a letter to.
Ms. Candels will also reach out to website developer for assistance in streamlining this process.

8. Community and Economic Development

9. Any Other Necessary Business

- a) Mr. Hemenway discussed his recent ride along with Swanton Village Police.

b) Mr. White was happy to report that the Swanton Village Police has placed the Speed Cart on South River Street.

10.. Correspondence
None

11. Public Comment (Reprise)

12. Upcoming Events

a) Planning Commission – Wednesday -August 16, 2023, 6:30 pm– Town Offices

b) Special Selectboard Meeting – Tuesday – August 22, 2023, at 6:00 pm – Town Offices

c) DRB – Thursday – August 24, 2023– 6:00 pm – Town Offices

13. Executive Session (If needed)

E. Adjournment

Mr. White made a motion to adjourn at 7:32 pm, seconded by Mr. Hemenway motion carried.