

approved: 01/02/12

**Townshend Select Board
Minutes
December 19, 2011**

Present:

Select Board: Hedy Harris; Bruce Bills; Jeff Russ; Steve Ovenden; David Dezendorf

In Attendance: Kim Ellison; Joe Daigneault; Bob DeSiervo; Kurt Bostrom; Ryan Hockertlotz; WCSD Deputy Fellows; Robin O'Neill; Mike Bills; Craig Hunt

1. Call to Order: Harris called the Meeting to Order at 6:07 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes: Ovenden made a motion: **To approve the Minutes of December 5, 2011, and the Special Meeting Minutes of December 8, 2011,** seconded by Harris, and carried by those present.

3. Additions and Deletions: Harris requested adding discussion of the proposed Speed Limit Ordinance on State Forest Road, and Ancient Roads Hearing.

4. Warrants: Bills made a motion: **To approve the Warrants of December 19, 2011,** seconded by Dezendorf, and carried by those present.

General Fund	\$ 262,967.67
(L & G: \$ 253,467.70)	
Highway Department	\$ 70,823.03
(Irene: \$ 17,620.00)	
(Equip. Loans: \$ 38,132.80)	
Payroll	\$ 8,901.19

5. Reports: Town Clerk's Report: The Board reviewed the Town Clerk's cash-journal reports from the prior two weeks.

Law Enforcement Report: WCSD Deputy Fellows briefed Board members on enforcement of the two hour parking limit at the Townshend Common, and will begin a parking enforcement watch along Route 35 north as soon as the Town has new signs put up.

Bookkeeper's / Treasurer's Report: Ellison reported upon receipt of the \$156,000.00 reimbursement from the State for the paving project on Windham Hill Road, and discussed plans to meet with FEMA representatives this week to wrap up the paperwork for Tropical Storm Irene.

Highway Department Report: Bostrom reported to the Board that the grader had been out of service due to needed hose and belt replacements, but was again up and running.

He informed the Board, during lengthy discussion with members of the public, about installation of the replacement culvert on the Dam Road. The footings, Bostrom said, should be delivered in mid-January with the culvert arch following, thereafter, and currently bids are being sought from contractors for the necessary dirt work. By the end of February, he felt, the road should be open again to traffic.

Bostrom also conveyed that the new Highway Department plow truck was being painted and accessorized this week, and was confident in its delivery prior to January 1st.

Townshend Fire Department Report: Russ reported that Jeffers Plumbing had the new boiler for the Fire Station on order, and Daigneault confirmed that Fire Department funds would help defray some of the costs of the temporary heaters.

Dezendorf and Ellison initiated discussion about potential problems with Workers Comp. insurance coverage for volunteer fireman who are not fully active, or who have not been certified through training programs.

Emergency Management Director's Report: Dezendorf provided a status update on his efforts to secure Hazard Mitigation grants, and get municipal radio licenses recertified.

6. Members of the Public: Bob DeSiervo again questioned the Board about why it has taken so long to make repairs to the Dam Road, and why so many apparent missteps have occurred. All agreed on the obvious difficulties of trying to work with multiple Federal and State agencies, and different engineers, who are simultaneously working on a hundred other major disaster projects within the area.

Discussion with DeSiervo, a member of the Town Hall Renovation Committee and the Planning Commission, then shifted to the need for fire doors and the imminent installation of the fire alarm system in the Town Hall by

CountrySide, and the Board's approval for the placement of motion detectors in the building at the same time.

Hockertlotz requested that the Board consider placing an Article in the WARNING for Town Meeting to extend the terms of elected Constables, so that town investment in training local law enforcement officials would not necessarily be limited to just a one year term.

Listers Bills and O'Neill briefly discussed the need for reappraisal bids from selected firms, and Hunt agreed to meet and coordinate with the Listers to move the contact and bidding process along.

Bills then asked whether Ancient Roads Hearings would be held to discuss individual roads, and Board members indicated that all roads would be discussed with the public hopefully at a single hearing. By general consent, the Board then agreed to schedule an Ancient Roads Public Hearing for January 30, 2012, in the Town Hall at 7:00 p.m.

7. Correspondence: None at this time.

8. Old Business: Speed Limit Ordinance: Harris discussed with Board members the desirability of lowering the speed limit on State Forest Road, perhaps to 25 m.p.h., and the Board decided to postpone consideration of a new ordinance until after reviewing whether posting it at 35 m.p.h., and having that limit enforced, proved effective in improving traffic safety.

9. New Business: None at this time.

10. Executive Session: At 9:25 p.m., Harris made a motion: **To enter Executive Session under 1 VSA 313-3, Appointment of Public Officers.**

The Board returned from Executive Session at 9:31 p.m., and as a result, Dezendorf made a motion: **To appoint Richard Lucier as a Lister until March 6, 2012,** seconded by Bills, and carried by those present.

11. Meeting Schedules:

Public Informational Meeting with Dr. Hasaj:
Town Hall - December 20th at 7:00 p.m.
Select Board Meeting: January 2nd at 6:00 p.m.

12. Adjournment: Bills made a motion: **To adjourn at 9:33 p.m.,** carried by those present.

Respectfully submitted:

Craig K. Hunt, assistant