

Townshend Select Board Public Hearing Minutes July 18, 2011

Present:

Select Board: Hedy Harris; Bruce Bills; Steve Ovenden; Ryan Hockertlotz; Jeff Russ

In attendance: Bob Crego; Becca Schaefer; Kurt Tietz; Amon DeWitt; Priscilla Lyman; Ali Evans; Barbara Bedortha; Craig Hunt

Call to Order: Harris called the Public Hearing of the Board to Order at 5:30 p.m., and Bob Crego read the WARNING. Crego then explained the application process for a Community Development Grant for the West River Valley Assisted Living facility to construct an additional twelve housing units intended mostly for the benefit of low-income seniors.

Discussion ensued, with Evans asking about the future use of the neighboring Carlise house, and Crego responding that it was hoped to become a rental unit for which the town would continue to receive taxes. Tietz asked whether additional parking areas would be paved, expressing his concerns about further increase in water runoff. Bedortha and DeWitt added that runoff continued to be a problem, and that since construction of the original facility, area wells were filtering more sediment.

DeWitt noted that venting from the current septic system was obnoxious to area residents, and questioned whether it was being properly maintained. Crego responded that the new parking area would be permeable to storm waters, and that the septic system was appropriately designed and maintained according to schedules mandated by the designer. He offered, however, that the vents might be elevated following evaluation of the odor issue, which he hadn't noted to be objectionable.

Harris asked about future tax revenues from the construction of the new units, to which Crego estimated, based upon current formulas, that the town would likely receive between \$8,500 and \$8,800.

Tietz complained that the Public Hearing followed the Select Board's decision to apply for the Community Development Grant, and he and DeWitt requested that special attention be paid to water quality, runoff, and septic issues as the plans proceeded.

Adjournment: Harris adjourned the Public Hearing at 5:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig K. Hunt, administrative assistant