

**Townshend Select Board  
Minutes  
October 1, 2012**

**Present: Select Board:** David Dezendorf; Kit Martin; Jeff Russ; Chad Greenwood

**In Attendance:** Kim Ellison; Joe Daigneault; Kurt Bostrom; Deputy Tyler Cook; Holly Hockertlotz; Richard Melanson (BCTV); Craig Hunt

**1. Call to Order:** Dezendorf called the Meeting to Order at 6:02 P.M.

**2. Approval of Minutes:** Greenwood made a motion: **To approve the Minutes of September 17th, September 24th, and September 30th,** seconded by Russ and carried by those present.

**3. Additions and Deletions:** A contract proposal for fiscal year 2013-14 from RESCUE was added to Correspondence: invitation to the annual BCTV meeting was added to New Business, and ancient roads added to Old Business.

**4. Reports: Highway Department Report:** Bostrom briefly reported that he was preparing the Highway Department's budget proposal for FY 2013-14 which would include new signage and that a flagger training course was tentatively scheduled for November 29th. He also informed the Board that Vermont Local Roads would be sending through a draft Winter Maintenance Policy for his and the Select Board's review.

He reported that the rear end saddles on T-8 were being replaced and that T-9 was being sent in for service due to a continuing fuel filler leak.

Lengthy discussion ensued about replacing T-7 and how much to seek from the Vermont Equipment Loan Fund. Estimates for a fully-equipped Ford F-550 approximated \$77,000, and the Board instructed Ellison to submit a loan application prior to the October 15th deadline in the amount of \$30,000.

Dezendorf reported that the water at the Town Garage was being tested for contaminants due to odor and that sediment in the filter suggested that the well pump might need to be raised.

**Law Enforcement:** WCSD Deputy Cook informed the Board that traffic stops doubled in September, (143), compared to August, (72), mostly for speeding. Discussion about the frequency of stops on Route 30 in West Townshend suggested that enhanced traffic-calming signage might be appropriate.

**Health Officer's Report:** Hockertlotz reported that investigations of illegal dumping and possible soil contamination at a residence in West Townshend continued.

Greenwood asked about local government responsibilities during drought conditions if private residential wells were to fail and Hockertlotz informed the Board of its authorities to request assistance from the State, should emergency require.

**Bookkeeper's / Treasurer's Report:** Ellison reported that tax receipts from the first quarter remained about 6.0% outstanding and that the checking account balance was approximately \$459,000. She reminded the Board of its need to make a decision on the TRANSCO tax revisions.

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

**Emergency Management Director's Report:** Dezendorf updated Board members on a joint Emergency Management exercise with Grace Cottage Hospital and local schools scheduled for November. He also provided information regarding traffic control and emergency medical response plans for the upcoming Grace Cottage Hospital Poker Walk and the Pumpkin Festival.

**5. Members of the Public:** Hokertlotz engaged the Board in lengthy discussion about an incident involving a dog rescued by the Sheriff's Department and sheltered by her over the weekend, requiring an emergency meeting of the Select Board on Sunday, September 30th, to appoint Townshend's Constables as animal control officers.

**6. Warrants:** Martin made motions to approve the Warrants:

**WARRANT 1003-5 Payroll Tax \$2,671.62,** seconded by Greenwood and carried by those present.

**WARRANT 1003-2 Highway Fund \$1,952.43,** seconded by Greenwood and carried by those present.

**WARRANT 1003-3 Equipment Fund \$4,343.59,** seconded by Russ and carried by those present.

**WARRANT 1003-4 Payroll \$7,553.52,** seconded by Russ and carried by those present.

**WARRANT 1003-1 General Fund \$14,279.41,** seconded by Russ and carried by those present.

**7. Correspondence:** A request from the Townshend Congregational Church for a letter from the Select Board supporting a structural improvement grant was received and approved. Hunt was instructed to convey the Select Board's support.

A letter from Windham Solid Waste Management seeking approval for a Hazardous Household Waste pick-up in Townshend on November 3<sup>rd</sup> was given to Hunt to have the chair sign, subsequent to assurance of a contingency plan for emergency spills being in place.

A proposed contract from RESCUE for the 2013-14 fiscal year was received and taken under advisement.

**8. Old Business: East Hill Road Project Update:** Dezendorf reported that plans developed by Stevens and Associates had been submitted to V-Trans for approval and that bids for the project would be solicited, hopefully, around November 1st.

**Cemetery Rights of Way:** Dezendorf reported that work would commence this week at the Holland-Bixby-Brigham cemetery. There was nothing to update on rights-of-way to other cemeteries at this time.

**Mill Brook Stream Mitigation:** Dezendorf explained that brush cleared along Mill Brook from below Leland & Gray High School would have to be removed by Dale Clark since the High School would not permit piling of it. Following brief discussion, Martin made a motion: **To approve a revised contract with Clark for brush removal along the streambed in an amount not to exceed \$300.00**, seconded by Greenwood and carried by those present.

**Dam Road Trees:** Russ reported that the Royces had verbally agreed to have trees costing \$2500.00, and guaranteed for one year, planted by Newfane Greenhouse. Subsequently, Russ made a motion: **To purchase trees from Newfane Greenhouse and have Newfane Greenhouse plant them on Royce's property contingent upon an end agreement with Royce stipulating completion of Townshend's obligations**, seconded by Martin and carried by those present.

**Municipal Timber:** Dezendorf reported having looked at the boundaries at the gravel pit and agreed to request that the timber inspector submit a proposal for cutting timber at both the gravel pit and at the Grafton turn properties.

**Fuel Metering System:** Dezendorf informed the Board that the system should be operational by December.

**Fire Department Boiler:** Dezendorf reported that the Fire Department approved the installation of a small electric hot water heater, but felt that conversion of the new boiler from steam to hot water heat was too expensive. The water test results received, however, indicated that the heavy presence of iron in the water would dramatically reduce the service life of the boiler if it remained in use to make steam.

**Ancient Roads:** Greenwood expressed his belief that the Special Meeting on Ancient Roads did not go well and lengthy discussion ensued regarding how much background research was required before the Board took a stance. Martin, Russ and Greenwood agreed that decisions made by the Board to keep certain roads should have been declared at the meeting on September 24th.

**9. New Business: BCTV:** An invitation of Board members to the annual BCTV meeting on October 3rd was discussed and Russ said that he would try and attend.

**GMP Smart Meters:** Following brief discussion, Martin made a motion: **For Townshend to express its will to opt out of having, "Smart meters," installed by Green Mountain Power on municipal buildings,** seconded by Greenwood and carried by those present.

**10. Other Business:** Nothing at this time.

**11. Executive Session:** Martin made a motion: **To enter Executive Session at 8:33 P.M. to discuss personnel matters,** carried by those present.

At 8:45 P.M., the Board returned from Executive Session on a motion by Dezendorf. As a result of Executive Session, no action was taken.

**12. Meeting Schedules:**

**Budget Workshop:** October 9, 2012 @ 5:30 P.M.

**Regular Meeting:** October 17, 2012 at 6:00 P.M.

**13. Adjournment:** Russ made a motion: **To adjourn at 8:47 P.M.,** carried by those present.

Respectfully submitted:

Craig K. Hunt, assistant