

**Townshend Select Board
Minutes
February 20, 2012**

Present:

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

In Attendance: Kim Ellison; Joe Daigneault; Kurt Bostrom; Deputy Jessica Fellows; Ryan Hockertlotz; Ed Marrinan; Martha Spencer; John Spencer; Carole Melis; Mike Bills; Susanna Palmer; Craig Hunt

1. Call to Order: Harris called the Meeting to Order at 6:05 P.M.

2. Approval of Minutes: Dezendorf made a motion: **To approve the Minutes of February 6, 2012, February 8, 2012, and February 15, 2012,** seconded by Ovenden, and carried by those present.

3. Additions and Deletions: Russ requested adding discussion of the recently fallen cold shed door at the Town Garage.

4. Warrants: Dezendorf made a motion: **To approve the Warrants of February 20, 2012,** seconded by Bills, and carried by those present.

General Fund	\$ 7,537.31
Highway Department	\$ 39,236.83

5. Reports: Law Enforcement Report: Fellows reported that all was mostly quiet in Townshend.

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

Bookkeeper's / Treasurer's Report: Ellison gave reports upon property tax receipts and bank account balances.

Highway Department Report: Bostrom reported that the Dam Road culvert project appeared to be on schedule, and suggested that since there was still retreatment money left in the budget, that the Town resurface this Spring that part of the road that Bazin Brothers isn't contracted to do.

Asked about installation of speed limit signs on State Forest and West Hill Roads, Bostrom informed the Board that the ground is too frozen and it would require a jack-hammer to set the posts.

Bostrom reported that supplies were holding well, but that the 544 loader was in need of brake work estimated at \$2200.00

Russ told Bostrom that the wind had finally taken the cold shed door down, and Bostrom admitted knowing that one of the hangers was broken, but said that he'd get it fixed.

In further briefings, Bostrom said that he'd contact Brud Sanderson for an update on East Hill Road studies, and have Gould & Sons get the Plumb Road culvert installed. Since the weather was so good, he said, his priority would be to start cleaning out Town ditches.

Emergency Management Report: No update at this time.

6. Correspondence: Dezendorf made a motion, **To approve and have the chair sign the license agreement with Walter and Andrea Royce,** (pertaining to construction activities on their properties adjacent to the Dam Road culvert), seconded by Ovenden, and carried by those present. Harris then signed the agreement.

Russ made a motion, **To approve the applications from River Market for licenses to sell liquor and tobacco products,** seconded by Dezendorf, and carried by those present.

7. Old Business: Reappraisal: Though the Select Board came to this meeting intent upon final deliberations about and decision upon a reappraisal contractor, Mike Bills informed the Board that solicitations from the Listers office stated an end date of February 23, 2012. Dezendorf questioned why the Listers had informed the Select Board of finalizing the interview process on February 13th, and having the Select Board compare bids and look at the Listers office recommendations in a Special Meeting called for that purpose on February 15th. Bills answered that the Listers thought they were done, until discovery that the company they had recommended was not recommended by other towns. Lengthy and heated discussion about the fairness of the selection process ensued. Finally, Dezendorf made a motion, **To postpone a decision for reappraisal until after the deadline of February 23, 2012,** seconded by Harris, and carried by those present.

Ancient Roads: Ovenden provided the Select Board members with a work sheet he'd drafted listing all of the ancient roads identified by the Ancient Roads Committee,

the public comments received on particular roads and suggesting possible Select Board actions and timeframes. Lengthy discussion with members of the public followed.

8. Executive Session: Dezendorf made a motion: **To enter into Executive Session at 7:35 P.M. with Mike Bills and Susanna Palmer to discuss legal matters,** seconded by Harris, and carried by those present.

At 7:56 P.M., the Select Board returned from Executive Session and as a result, no action was taken.

9. New Business: Citing V.S.A. 55 § 2662, Dezendorf made a motion: **To instruct Hunt to prepare a WARNING for a Special Town Meeting on April 2, 2012, in order to ratify the actions taken at the Town Meeting to be held on March 6, 2012,** seconded by Harris, and carried by those present. Hunt advised that the WARNING would be available in the office on Tuesday for Board member signatures, with the hope of getting it posted on Wednesday, February 22nd.

Board of Health: Following brief discussion about the pile of trash at the premises of Dunham on Grafton Road, Dezendorf made a motion: **To have Harris and Russ speak to Dunham about getting this cleaned up,** seconded by Ovenden, and carried by those present.

Town Hall: Following brief discussion, Dezendorf made a motion: **To contract with Country Side for the installation of a motion detector in each of the three offices at Town Hall, and one motion detector in the basement,** seconded by Ovenden, and carried by those present.

Redistricting: Harris and Dezendorf briefed Board members on meetings with Senators Galbraith and White regarding redistricting plans, passed by the Vermont House of Representatives to put a section of Townshend into Representative Moran's district.

10. Meeting Schedules:

Pre-Town Meeting: February 27th at 6:00 P.M.

Select Board Meeting: March 5, 2012 at 6:00 P.M.

11. Adjournment: Bills made a motion: **To adjourn at 8:50 P.M.,** carried by those present.

Respectfully submitted:

Craig K. Hunt, assistant