

approved: 01/06/14

**Townshend Select Board
Minutes
December 16, 2013**

Present: Select Board: Hedy Harris; David Dezendorf; Chad Greenwood; Scott Chase

In Attendance: Joe Daigneault; Jason and Christina Titus; Irvin Stowell; Lew Burski; Bob Spencer, (WSWMD); Richard Melanson (BCTV); Craig Hunt

1. Call to Order: Harris called the Meeting to Order at 6:08 p.m.

2. Members of the Public: Dezendorf moved, **To set aside the rules in order to speak with members of the public**, carried by general consent. Jason and Christina Titus of J.T. Logging were welcomed and explained to the Board that as a Performance Bond was being obtained for logging municipal land above the Town gravel pit, they would like to have Townshend return the cash bond given last month as security. Dezendorf then made a motion, **To authorize the treasurer to provide J.T. Logging with a check in the amount of \$7,400.00 as soon as the surety bond arrives**, seconded by Chase and carried by those present.

3. Approval of the Minutes: Dezendorf made a motion: **To approve the Minutes of December 2, 2013**, seconded by Greenwood and carried by those present.

4. Additions and Deletions: None at this time.

5. Warrants: Dezendorf made motions to approve the following Warrants:

WARRANT 1216-1 Payroll \$9,677.19, seconded by Chase and carried by those present.

WARRANT 1216-2 Payroll Tax \$3,780.68, seconded by Chase and carried by those present.

WARRANT 1216-3 Tax Sale Reimbursement \$9,599.19, seconded by Chase and carried by those present.

WARRANT 1216-4 T.E.S. and L.G.U.H.S. \$591,956.07, seconded by Greenwood and carried by those present.

WARRANT 1216-5 General Fund \$49,791.34, seconded by Chase and carried by those present.

WARRANT 1216-6 Highway Fund \$29,486.68, seconded by Chase and carried by those present.

WARRANT 1216-7 Equipment Fund \$8,070.40, seconded by Greenwood and carried by those present.

WARRANT 1216-8 General Fund \$6,150.00, Dezendorf made a motion: **To table any payments to Marazoff Assessing Services until further notice**, seconded by Chase and carried by those present.

WARRANT 1216-9 General Fund \$110.37, seconded by Chase and carried by those present.

WARRANT 1216-0 Equipment Fund \$20,804.00, seconded by Greenwood and carried by those present.

6:30 p.m. 6. Reports: Highway: Dezendorf reported that the Highway Department has been busy plowing and were trying to reduce the amount of sand being applied. Trees that need cutting in the Town's rights-of-way are in the process of being marked and prioritized.

Law Enforcement Report: None at this time.

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

Treasurer's Report: Daigneault reported that the General Fund checking account had a current balance of \$992,574.30 and that outstanding tax payments from the 1st quarter totaled \$42,801.64, and from the second quarter, \$85,257.79.

Emergency Management Report: Dezendorf briefed Board members on the First Annual Holiday of Horses Parade held December 15th.

7. Correspondence: A letter from the Townshend Library Trustees, expressing frustration in resolving issues with account balances since Hunt replaced Ellison as bookkeeper, was discussed. Hunt admitted to mistakes and misunderstandings and has been trying to get these matters cleared up, but the process has been slow.

8. Old Business: L & G - R.O.W. Dezendorf again briefed Board members about conversations pertaining to construction of a roadway to the rear of Town Hall and said that he is awaiting the opinion of V-Trans about a possible curb cut and access off of Route 30.

Municipal Health Insurance: Hunt reported that employees receiving municipally-funded health insurance were being signed up for the Platinum Plan through Blue

Cross Blue Shield instead of Vermont Health Connect, which has failed to be able to process applications fully. Insurance coverage shouldn't be interrupted for these employees as the new year starts. Hunt said that he should have definitive co-pay costs by the next meeting.

Because of policy changes, the potential provision of both dental and vision care coverage and the options given to employees to select different plans, Hunt urged the Select Board to re-write the Town's policies offering coverage.

7:10 p.m. Townshend Transfer Station: The Board welcomed Irvin Stowell, Bob Spencer and Lew Burski to conversation about the future of Townshend's transfer station. With new State mandates looming, costs increasing and a failing compactor truck, Townshend faces a decision about making a substantial investment in modernizing its facility to more-efficiently serve the public, or getting out of the rubbish and recycling business altogether. Spencer argued that Townshend is ideally positioned geographically to capitalize on the new recycling mandates and believes that significant engineering and development costs could be reduced through available grants and a continuing partnership with WSWMD. Lengthy discussion ensued.

8:05 p.m. 10. New Business: Nothing at this time.

11. Other Business: Nothing at this time.

12. Executive Session: Dezendorf made a motion: **To enter Executive Session at 8:10 p.m. to discuss legal and personnel matters**, seconded by Chase and carried by those present.

The Select Board returned from Executive Session at 9:12 p.m., and as a result no actions were taken.

13. Meeting Schedule:

Regular Meeting: January 6th at 6:00 p.m.

14. Adjournment: Chase made a motion: **To adjourn at 9:15 p.m.**, carried by those present.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig K. Hunt, assistant