

**Townshend Select Board
Minutes
August 5, 2013**

Present: Select Board: Kit Martin; David Dezendorf; Chad Greenwood; Scott Chase

In Attendance: Cory Freshee; Joe Daigneault; Anita Bean; Rick Hege; Kathy Hege; Janet Stowell; Cynthia Davis; Thomas Chase; Ali Evans; Steve Van Ormand; June Van Ormand; Deputy Tyler Cooke; Robert Crego; Becca Schaefer; Rich Melanson (BCTV); Craig Hunt

1. Call to Order: Martin called the Meeting to Order at 6:00pm and Dezendorf opened five sealed East Hill reconstruction bids, reading each aloud.

Amedon Const.	\$136,201.00
Renaud Bros. Const.	186,645.50
Bazin Bros. Const.	211,803.50
Weaver Const.	172,530.28
A.S. Clark	253,454.85

By general consent, the Select Board asked Cory Freshee of Stevens & Associates to review all of the bids for compliance with the proposal and make a recommendation to the Highway Commissioners. Martin asked that the Highway Commissioners then select and notify the winning contractor of the decision that the full Select Board would ratify at the August 19th meeting.

2. Members of the Public: Martin asked to suspend the rules in order to meet with members of the public, Steve and June Van Ormand and Ali Evans. Evans introduced the Van Ormands, requesting that the Select Board advise them if it could be of any assistance in their dispute with Richard Carusona and the Sugar Maple Village Condominium Association.

Mrs. Van Ormand then provided the Select Board with a history of difficulties that they have had with Mr. Carusona and Martin informed her that while there might be a water quality issue that could be investigated by Townshend's Health Officer, the Select Board had no jurisdiction over legal disputes or law enforcement matters.

3. Approval of Minutes: Dezendorf made a motion: **To approve the Minutes of July 15, 2013**, seconded by Greenwood and carried by those present.

4. Additions and Deletions: Martin requested adding the written resignation of an employee under Correspondence and a liquor license application under New Business.

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

WARRANT 805-01 Payroll \$9,786.13, seconded by Greenwood and carried by those present.

WARRANT 805-02 Payroll Tax \$3,547.96, seconded by Chase and carried by those present.

WARRANT 805-03 General Fund \$37.40, seconded by Chase and carried by those present.

WARRANT 805-04 General Fund \$3,543.82, seconded by Chase and carried by those present.

WARRANT 805-05 Highway Fund \$4,940.29, seconded by Greenwood and carried by those present.

WARRANT 805-06 Equipment Fund \$607.95, seconded by Greenwood and carried by those present.

WARRANT 805-07 General Fund \$97.39, seconded by Greenwood and carried by those present.

WARRANT 805-08 General Fund \$181.54, seconded by Greenwood and carried by those present.

WARRANT 805-09 Payroll \$6,556.25, seconded by Chase and carried by those present.

WARRANT 806-01 Payroll Tax \$2,596.79, seconded by Chase and carried by those present.

6. Reports: Highway Department: Greenwood reported that preliminary estimates for a new plow truck cab and chassis were between \$68,000 and \$71,000, with the dump body and plow likely to add another \$53,000. Though \$85,000 in taxes was approved at Town Meeting and the remainder of the cost has been approved by the Vermont Equipment Loan Fund, the new truck is not yet on order due to the delay in raising tax revenues.

Dezendorf reported that T-9 was going to need new tires and discussion ensued about how much the Town is spending on tires the service life of which are being reduced by winter chains.

Dezendorf also announced that Springfield Paving will begin work on Deer Valley, State Forest and East Hill Roads in September.

Chase complained that a culvert on Peaked Mountain Road that needs cleaning has not been attended, despite having been brought to the Foreman's attention a few weeks ago.

Law Enforcement Report: Depute Cooke reported that though traffic was down, patrolling had been continuing with an emphasis on the center of West Townshend.

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

Bookkeeper's / Treasurer's Report: Daigneault reported that there was \$158,353 in the General Fund checking account and that delinquent taxes had dropped to \$203,500 in total outstanding.

Emergency Management Director's Report: Dezendorf briefed the Board on traffic management during Grace Cottage Hospital Fair Days.

7. Members of the Public: Thomas Chase was recognized and reiterated his complaint against the Town Clerk addressed in a letter to the Secretary of State and copied to local State officials and the Select Board. His complaint is that he believes he has been treated unfairly by being prevented from photocopying or being charged to photograph old Town records.

Chase requested permission from the Select Board for copying privileges because his research is necessary to a lawsuit he's been pursuing since 2009.

Town Clerk, Anita Bean, explained to the Board that Chase has been extended all courtesies, but that he's been taking record books out of the office and taking hundreds and hundreds of flash photographs. The books are very old and are deteriorating and Bean is simply trying to enforce a posted policy for keeping them secure and intact, a policy that is standard practice in Town Clerks' offices Statewide.

Martin told Chase that the Select Board has absolutely no jurisdiction over the Town Clerk's office or the policies which are set to preserve municipal artifacts, but hoped that an amicable solution to his complaint could be reached.

Becca Schaefer and Robert Crego from Valley Cares were recognized and reviewed with Board members closing documents on the Community Housing and Development grant

that Townshend is facilitating. Martin apologized for delays in getting the language in these documents approved, but stated that because Board members had not seen the correspondence between the Town's attorney and Harris in this matter and because it appeared that problems still existed in the Terms, more work was needed.

Lengthy discussion ensued, with Schaefer and Crego promising to forward the Board's concerns to the attorneys for resolution.

8. Correspondence: The Select Board received and accepted with regret the resignation of Annie Mae Gervais, effective at the end of August.

9. Old Business: Reappraisal: Martin and Dezendorf briefed Board members on their visit to the Department of Taxes, Property Evaluation and Review. Martin summarized their two-hour meeting with William Johnson by reiterating Johnson's opinion that the Grand List would be accepted when lodged by the August 15th deadline and that the municipality would not be obliged to provide the schools with revenue until after the first tax receipts arrived.

Dam Road FEMA Reimbursement: Dezendorf reported that FEMA was seeking further clarification on the extra paving costs for the Dam Road after the culvert was installed.

Fire Station Study Committee: Nothing at this time.

10. New Business: Liquor License: The Board reviewed an application for a liquor license from the West River Community Center and Dezendorf made a motion: **To approve the liquor license application of the West River Community Center,** seconded by Greenwood and carried by those present.

11. Other Business: Nothing at this time.

12. Executive Session: Dezendorf made a motion: **To enter into Executive Session at 8:25pm to discuss legal matters and contractual matters,** seconded by Greenwood and carried by those present.

Dezendorf made a motion: **To return from Executive Session at 9:12pm,** seconded by Chase and carried by those present. As a result of Executive Session, no action was taken.

13. Meeting Schedules:

Regular Meeting: August 19th @ 6:00pm

14. Adjournment: Dezendorf made a motion: **To adjourn at 9:15 P.M.**, carried by those present.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig K. Hunt, assistant