

Approved: 09/03/13

**Townshend Select Board  
Minutes  
August 19, 2013**

**Present: Select Board:** Kit Martin; Hedy Harris; David Dezen Dorf; Chad Greenwood; Scott Chase

**In Attendance:** Joe Daigneault; Kurt Bostrom; Becky Nystrom; Cynthia Davis; Robert Crego; Becca Schaefer; Rich Melanson (BCTV); Craig Hunt

**1. Call to Order:** Martin called the Meeting to Order at 6:00 P.M..

**2. East Hill Project Contract:** Dezen Dorf made a motion: **To award Amedon Construction the contract for East Hill Road repairs for an amount not to exceed \$136,201.00,** seconded by Greenwood and carried by those present.

**3. Approval of the Minutes:** Dezen Dorf made a motion: **To approve the Minutes of August 5, 2013,** seconded by Greenwood and carried by those present with one abstention.

**4. Additions and Deletions:** Mileage reimbursement policy was added to New Business: Caisse's legal action, and Ancient Roads were added to Old Business. New Compactor was added to Highway Report.

**5. Warrants:** Dezen Dorf made motions to approve the following Warrants:

**WARRANT 0819-01 Payroll \$9,820.56,** seconded by Harris and carried by those present.

**WARRANT 0819-02 Payroll Tax \$3,579.39,** seconded by Harris and carried by those present.

**WARRANT 0819-3 General Fund \$5,850.54.40,** seconded by Harris and carried by those present.

**WARRANT 0819-04 General Fund \$143.58,** seconded by Harris and carried by those present with one abstention.

**WARRANT 0819-05 Highway Fund \$3,643.77,** seconded by Greenwood and carried by those present.

**6. Reports: Highway:** Bostrom reported that LeCours was on schedule and doing a good job trying to make two passes on the roadsides with the mower. He asked whether Tarbell would be attending to the turnout at the Grafton turn where logs had been staged, or whether the highway crew should

fix the area. Greenwood and Chase said that they would examine it and talk to Tarbell about it.

Bostrom reported that new winter tires for the trucks cost about the same as re-treads and discussion ensued about how the chains ruin tires prematurely and what might be done to realize some savings.

Bostrom then provided the Board with costs of new Freightliner, Western Star, International and Mack trucks, less trade in on the Sterling, with bodies fabricated either by Osgood or TENCO. Following lengthy discussion, a consensus formed that the Western Star 400 outfitted by TENCO at a price of just under \$125,000 seemed the best deal. Dezendorf requested that the Board not make any purchase commitments until the Grand List was approved and tax rates were set. The Board agreed.

Martin reminded the Board that the compactor needed to be replaced and asked Bostrom about a used truck for sale in Pennsylvania. As Bostrom thought it was still available, Harris made a motion: **To authorize Bostrom to purchase the compactor in Pennsylvania for a price not to exceed \$25,000**, seconded by Greenwood. Debate about the need for a rubbish truck was weighed against not knowing when tax revenues might be coming in, or whether the tax rates would be affordable. Dezendorf again urged that the Board delay any spending at this time. When the motion was called, it failed by those present.

**7. Members of the Public:** Martin asked to suspend the rules in order to meet with members of the public, and welcomed Bob Crego and Becca Schaefer of Valley Cares. Following discussion about the final documents in the Vermont Community Development Grant, Dezendorf made a motion: **To approve the contract for Administrative Services and Program Management, as presented**, seconded by Harris and carried by those present.

Becky Nystrom was then welcomed and reported that delinquent taxes for FY 2012-13 were what was expected and stood at about \$200,000.

Rick Hege was welcomed and gave the Board an update on the Rural Education District Study Committee's proposal to bring school consolidation to a public vote on October 8th. If any one Town, either Townshend or Newfane, Jamaica or Brookline votes against a new Windham Central Education District, the formation will fail. There is, however, little time to prepare for the vote by Australian ballot, Hege informed the Board, as public hearings must be scheduled and held, absentee ballots prepared and petitions signed for candidates to represent all of Towns and govern

the new district, should the vote pass. Lengthy discussion ensued.

**8. Law Enforcement Report:** None at this time.

**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 \$30,000 in the General Fund checking account and \$162,873 in the Sweep account.

Dezendorf requested that the Treasurer pursue a Line of Credit in the amount of \$350,000, and discussion revolved around the need to set the tax rate and get tax bills out in order to use, "anticipation of taxes," as collateral.

Hunt informed the Board that though the extended deadline for filing the Grand List with the State was August 14th, another delay didn't see it get filed until today. Hopefully, the State will approve it quickly and forward the educational tax rates by the end of the week. Board members agreed to meet in special session as soon as the figures became available and Daigneault agreed to begin printing the tax bills as soon as the Select Board established the rates.

Given the needs for municipal revenue and the needs of the schools, if the bills don't go out next week, the first quarter taxes won't be received until October.

**Emergency Management Director's Report:** Nothing at this time.

**9. Correspondence:** None at this time.

**10. Old Business: Reappraisal:** Dezendorf gave Board members a briefing on the Grievance Hearings that he, Harris and Hunt attended on August 9th. On behalf of the municipality, the Listers and the assessor were presented with 28 individual grievances questioning ownership of lands incorrectly attributed to the Town; a veteran's exemption for an individual listed as a non-resident because for more than a year, deceased; 17 acres of tax-exempt land obviously missing from Leland & Gray; an increased appraisal of a single Class 4 roadway; and over-valued and under-valued Town properties.

Harris said that even those these 28 were properly filed, only a half-an-hour was allocated for discussion of all of them and she was hoping for additional time to ask about Federal and State land evaluations and irregularity in commercial appraisals.

Dezendorf said that as Statute required written responses within two weeks from the Listers and the assessor that the Board would have to wait to see what the results were before deciding how to pursue these matters further.

**R.O.W. at Leland & Gray:** Following brief discussion, the Board gave general consent to engaging the Town's attorney for legal opinion about opening the right-of-way behind Town Hall that Leland & Gray is obliged to provide.

**Ancient Roads:** Harris informed the Board that she would prepare an outline for the next meeting so that the Board could re-engage in its deliberations on Ancient Roads.

**Fire Station Study Committee:** Nothing at this time.

**11. New Business:** Dezendorf made a motion: **For the Select Board to approve the WSWMD plan to hold a Hazardous Waste Collection in Townshend on November 8th**, seconded by Greenwood and carried by those present.

**Mileage Reimbursement:** Following brief discussion, Dezendorf made a motion: **For the Select Board to revise the mileage reimbursement policy to include claim specifics of where an individual travelled to and record mileage in one-tenth's of miles**, seconded by Harris and carried by those present. Hunt was instructed to prepare a standard form.

**12. Other Business:** The Select Board scheduled its next regular meeting for Tuesday, September 3rd, because of the Labor Day holiday.

**13. Executive Session:** Dezendorf made a motion: **To enter into Executive Session at 8:55 P.M. to discuss legal matters and contractual matters**, seconded by Greenwood and carried by those present.

Harris made a motion: **To return from Executive Session at 9:35 P.M.**, and, a result of Executive Session, no action was taken.

**14. Meeting Schedules:**

**Regular Meeting:** September 3rd at 6:00pm.

**15. Adjournment:** Harris made a motion: **To adjourn at 9:17 P.M.**, carried by those present.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig K. Hunt, assistant