

approved 10/24/14

TOWNSHEND SELECT BOARD

Meeting Minutes

October 6, 2014

Present: Kathy Hege; Robert LeCours; Dale West; Carole Melis

In Attendance: Joe Daigneault; Kurt Bostrom; Michael Charles; Lynn Decker; Otto Tarbell; Nancy Tarbell; Richard Melanson; Craig Hunt

1. Call To Order: Hege called the meeting to Order at 6:02 p.m.

2. Approval of the Minutes: Melis made a motion: **To approve the Special Meeting Minutes of September 15, 2014**, seconded by LeCours and carried by those present.

Melis made a motion: **To approve the Public Hearing Meeting Minutes of September 15, 2014**, seconded by LeCours and carried by those present.

Melis made a motion: **To approve the Meeting Minutes of September 15, 2014**, seconded by LeCours and carried by those present.

3. Additions and Deletions: Added to Correspondence was a letter from Lisa's Love and a letter from Adriane Esquivo. Added to Old Business was FEMA update, Stone Arch Bridge repair update, Cemetery R.O.W. update, and TFD truck auction concerns. Added to New Business was an Educational Funding Resolution request.

4. Ancient Roads: Melis made a motion: **To suspend the rules and take up consideration of Ancient Roads with members of the public**, seconded by West and carried by those present.

West made a motion: **To preserve Maggie Ladd Road as a Class IV road and have it placed on the V-Trans map**, seconded by Melis and carried by those present.

West made a motion: **To preserve Sam Farr Road as a Class IV road and have it placed on the V-Trans map**, seconded by Melis and carried by those present.

West made a motion: **To discontinue Styles Brook Extension as a Class IV road**, seconded by Melis and carried by those present.

West made a motion: **To preserve Joy Brook Road as a Class IV road and have it placed on the V-Trans map**, seconded by Melis. Discussion ensued with Charles as to the length of Joy Brook Road, and subject to further research, the Board decided to continue it at least as far as the Jennison Farm Road, so called. The motion then carried by those present.

West made a motion: **To preserve Decker Camp Road as a Class IV road and have it placed on the V-Trans map**, seconded by Melis. Discussion ensued with Decker and Tarbell as to the correct approach to the Decker Camp Road from Simpson Brook Raod. Subject to further research to determine the appropriate access, the motion was carried by those present.

West made a motion: **To preserve Manning Road as a Class IV road and have it placed on the V-Trans map**, seconded by LeCours and carried by those present.

West made a motion: **To not research further, or further pursue keeping Fisher Road as a Town road**, seconded by Melis and carried by those present.

5. Warrants: West moved to approve the following Warrants, all seconded by Melis:

10601 Payroll	\$ 8,672.77 , carried by those present with one abstention.
10602 Payroll Tax	\$ 3,311.80 , carried by those present.
10603 General	\$ 1,664.22 , carried by those present.
10604 Highway	\$ 10,178.40 , carried by those present.
10605 Equipment	\$ 3,349.31 carried by those present.
10606 General	\$ 843.66 , tabled by those present.
10607 General	\$ 2,068.97 , carried by those present.
10608 Highway	\$ 23.42 , carried by those present.
10609 Equipment	\$ 1,074.98 , carried by those present.
106010 General	\$ 2,091.07 , carried by those present.
106011 General	\$ 52,681.00 , carried by those present.
106012 General	\$ 13,310.00 , carried by those present.

6. Reports: Highway: Bostrom reported that the new plow truck had been taken from DeLurey to TENCO for fabrication of the body. Hege asked about the anticipated delivery date and why a completion date had not been made part of the contract, as it had been in the past. Bostrom explained that, at the time of ordering the truck last Spring, mis-communications between the Highway Commissioners and him led to some contractual oversights. TENCO, he said, has told him that the truck should be ready in December.

Bostrom reported that winter salt had begun to arrive, that sand should be coming in soon, and that the roadside mowing was almost completed. He assured Hege that the un-expected delivery charge for the mower would include the cost of its return.

Tree cutting along Grafton Road is scheduled to begin at the end of October.

Bostrom informed the Board that the compactor was going to need fuel-tank bracket, battery box and exhaust system repairs and requested a decision about buying another truck before putting more time and money into the old one. Discussion ensued with the Board asking Bostrom and Hunt to look into prices and availability of other trucks.

LeCours requested that the Board decide on an amount of gravel to crush and, following discussion, Melis made a motion: **To put out an RFP request with a due-**

date return of October 17th and approve \$36,000 for the crushing of gravel at the Town pit, seconded by West and carried by those present.

Law Enforcement Report: None at this time.

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

Treasurer's Report: Daigneault reported that the General Fund checking account held a balance of \$692,149.49 prior to the payment of Warrants just approved.

7. Correspondence: Fairpoint: West made a motion: To authorize Fairpoint to replace eight utility poles on East Hill Road, per Work Order number 273607, seconded by Melis and carried by those present.

Army Corps of Engineers: Hege acknowledged receipt of a Permit from the Army Corps of Engineers to proceed with replacement of the Grafton Road culvert.

Lisa's Love: Hege read a letter from Judy Holden expressing appreciation to the Town of Townshend for permission to use the Town Hall for Mommy's Marketplace.

Auditor's Resignation: Hege read a letter from Adriane Esquivo resigning as an appointed Townshend Auditor. Melis made a motion: **To accept the resignation of Adriane Esquivo as an Auditor,** with regret, seconded by West and carried by those present.

TFD Truck Auction: West brought before the Board his concern about not having placed a minimally-acceptable bid amount on the fire truck to be sold at the Townshend Auction Gallery. Hege reminded West that it was he that brought TFD's request to sell the vehicle to the Select Board for approval and that no restrictions, or conditions, were presented to Board at that time.

8. Members of the Public: None at this time.

9. Old Business: FEMA Reimbursement: Hunt reported that he'd be trying to work with Ron Pentkowski at the Vermont Department of Public Safety to get the East Hill Road project reimbursement forms finalized and submitted to FEMA this week.

Stone Arch Bridges: Hunt updated the Board on plans to have Townshend's historic stone arch bridges assessed for repairs.

Cemetery Rights-of-Way: Melis expressed the need for information on the present access corridors to each of the cemeteries needing a formal right-of-way, prior to preparation of a draft deed intended to permanently guarantee municipal access.

10. New Business: Flood Plain Ordinance: Hege read a letter from Planning Commission chairman, Art Monette, requesting that the Select Board adopt the Flood Plain Ordinance approved by the Planning Commission at its meeting on September 24th. West made a motion: To adopt the Flood Plain Ordinance submitted by the Planning Commission, seconded by LeCours. Discussion followed with Melis raising concerns primarily about the allocation of duties to the Administrative Officer. When the motion

was called it failed to pass by those present, and Hunt was requested to bring the Select Board's concerns to the Planning Commission.

At 8:05 p.m., Hege asked for a short recess, moved by Melis and carried by those present.

At 8:15 p.m., the Board returned from recess and Hege called the meeting back to order.

Healthcare Costs: Hege presented a 2015 spreadsheet of Healthcare costs to Board members for assistance in their preparation of municipal budget proposals and modification of the Town's healthcare provision policies.

Education Funding Reform: Hege summarized a request being circulated to Vermont Select Boards that calls for adoption of a resolution to cap education property tax rates at FY 2015 levels. Discussion ensued with Board members agreeing that the mechanism of capping tax rates without a freeze in spending increases would only further burden resident homeowners. Melis then made a motion: **To pass the Education Funding Reform Resolution, as presented**, seconded by West and the motion was defeated by those present.

11. Other Business: None at this time.

12. Executive Session: Melis made a motion: **To enter Executive Session at 8:40 p.m. for personnel evaluations**, seconded by West and carried by those present.

At 10:25, the Board returned from Executive Session and, as a result, Hege will meet with employees individually to go over the Board's findings.

13. Meeting Schedules: Budget Workshop: Oct. 14th @ 6:00 p.m.
Regular Meeting: Oct. 20th @ 6:00 p.m.

14. Adjournment: Melis made a motion: **To adjourn at 10:27 p.m.**, carried by those present.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig K. Hunt