

# TOWNSHEND SELECT BOARD

January 19, 2015

**Present:** Kathy Hege; Dale West; Robert LeCours; Carole Melis; Kyle LaPointe

**In Attendance:** Joe Daigneault; Anita Bean; Karen Meyer; Richard Melanson; Craig Hunt

**1. Call To Order:** Hege called the meeting to Order at 6:01 p.m.

**2. Approval of the Minutes:** Melis made a motion: **To approve the Meeting Minutes of January 5, 2015**, seconded by West and carried by those present.

Melis made a motion: **To approve the Special Meeting Minutes of January 13, 2015**, seconded by West and carried by those present.

**3. Additions and Deletions:** Added was the need for an Executive Session.

**4. Warrants:** Melis moved to approve the following Warrants:

**10191 Payroll \$11,238.03**, seconded by LaPointe and carried by those present with one abstention.

**10192 Payroll Deductions \$4,617.30**, seconded by LaPointe and carried by those present.

**10193 General \$11,242.04**, seconded by West and carried by those present.

**10194 Highway \$12,891.81**, seconded by West and carried by those present.

**10195 Equipment \$3,732.39**, seconded by West and carried by those present.

**10196 General \$1,833.40**, seconded by LaPointe and carried by those present with one abstention.

**10502 Payroll Deductions \$5,948.30**, seconded by LaPointe and carried by those present

**5. Members of the Public:** Anita Bean was welcomed and requested that the Board reconsider its decision to change the Town's co-funding percentage of employee Health Care Insurance costs and reconsider its decision to make that change effective January 1, 2015, rather than July 1, 2015.

Discussion ensued with Bean arguing that the current budget was not adversely impacted by higher premium expenses and that a promised condition of her employment, when elected, was 80% co-payment of the premium costs by the Town. The mid-year change in the co-payment amount was going to cost her more than \$800.00.

West expressed his belief that the change in Town funding from a percentage of cost to a fixed amount was in the financial best interest of the Town and that any changes in the Town's co-payment amount should align with the January 1<sup>st</sup> healthcare contract.

Hege explained that nothing in Townshend's Personnel Policy provided the surety of a specific funding mechanism and that if the Select Board was to reconsider its decision, it could only poll those who originally voted on the measure.

Melis then made a motion: **To reconsider the Select Board's decision to make Townshend's healthcare policy co-payment obligations effective January 1, 2015**, seconded by LaPointe. The motion, when called, failed to carry.

**6. Reports: Highway:** None at this time.

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

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

**Treasurer's Report:** Daigneault reported that the General Fund balance was \$518,204.78 prior to the approval of Warrants. For the Treasurer, the Board then signed a re-authorization form for the municipal credit card.

**7. Correspondence:** Hege read a letter of resignation from Gaila Gulack as an Emergency Management Deputy and the Board accepted her resignation with regret.

**8. Old Business: FEMA Update:** Hunt reported that the reimbursement request to FEMA for last years East Hill project was completed and had been submitted.

**Select Board Draft Town Report:** LaPointe made a motion: **To approve the draft Select Board Report, seconded by West and carried by those present.** Hunt was instructed to provide the Auditors with a signed copy.

**Transfer Station Attendant Job Description:** Hunt was requested to contact Bob Spencer at Windham Solid Waste Management District for copies of transfer station job descriptions.

Hege informed the public that Townshend's station attendant, Arnold Cole, had slipped and hurt his leg, but was expected to be back at work on January 21<sup>st</sup>. Hege expressed the Select Board's appreciation for Corey Sleeper, who has been filling in for Cole, and asked that his employment be made official. Melis then made a motion: **To employ Corey Sleeper at Townshend's transfer station during Cole's absence**, seconded by LeCours and carried by those present.

**Payroll Timesheets:** Following brief discussion, Melis reaffirmed that all employee payroll timesheets had to be turned in by Friday, if pay was expected the following week.

**Streetlights:** Melis made a motion: **To have the Select Board accept and sign the Efficiency Vermont Incentive Agreement**, seconded by LaPointe and carried by those present.

**9. Members of the Public:** Karen Meyer, Leland & Grays Winter Activities Coordinator, requested that the Select Board permit its use of the upstairs meeting room in Town Hall on Wednesday afternoons for student activities, overseen by Paul Weber. Following lengthy discussion, in which Hege expressed her concerns about noise in this public place of business, LaPointe made a motion: **To permit Leland & Gray to use the upstairs at Town Hall for its Winter Activities Program on Wednesday afternoons at a rate of \$10 per use**, seconded by LeCours and carried by those present.

**10. New Business: RESCUE:** Melis made a motion: **To sign the FY 2016 Rescue Inc. contract**, seconded by West and carried by those present. Following discussion, in which it was requested that the per capita assessment and Executive summary be reviewed in advance of signing, the motion failed to carry by those present, with one abstention.

**TFD Brush Truck:** LaPointe made a motion: **To sign the agreement with the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, for Townshend's continued use of excess property**, seconded by West and carried by those present.

**11. Other Business:** None at this time.

**12. Executive Session:** West made a motion: **To enter Executive Session at 7:40 p.m. under 1 V.S.A. A13e & f to discuss legal matters**, seconded by LaPointe and carried by those present.

The Board returned from Executive Session at 9:53 p.m. and, as a result, Hege will be seeking the Town attorney's advice.

**13. Meeting Schedules:** Budget Workshop: Jan. 22nd @ 6:00 p.m.  
Public Hearing: VCDP Grant Close-Out Jan. 28<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 p.m.  
Public Hearing: Hazard Mitigation: Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 6:30 p.m.  
Regular Meeting: Feb. 2nd @ 6:00 p.m.

**14. Adjournment:** LaPointe made a motion: **To adjourn at 7:55 p.m.**, carried by those present.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig K. Hunt