

TOWNSHEND SELECT BOARD

Draft Meeting Minutes

October 19, 2015

Present: Kathy Hege; Kit Martin; Irvin Stowell; Robert Wright; Kyle LaPointe

In Attendance: Joe Daigneault; Kurt Bostrom; Rep. Emily Long; Ruth Van Houlten; Bob DeSiervo; Richard Melanson; Craig Hunt

- 1. Call To Order:** Hege called the meeting to Order at 6:07 p.m.
- 2. Instructive Statement:** Hege read a prepared statement to Board members reminding them that Executive Session discussions need to remain confidential.
- 3. Approval of the Minutes:** Martin made a motion: **To approve the Minutes of October 5, 2015**, seconded by Stowell and carried by those present with one abstention.

4. Highway Department Report: Regarding the over-estimate charge by Springfield Paving, Bostrom said that while the contractual work on Athens and Grafton roads was in progress, he heard that miscalculations may have been made and clearly informed Springfield Paving that it would have to stick to the estimate it had given. Bostrom relayed that a representative of the company may wish to discuss this matter at a Select Board meeting and recommended to the Board that it not pay the unapproved excess of \$22,000 on the bill.

Bostrom admitted that while no map was ever made to show the locations along Grafton Road of the dead and hazardous trees needing to be cut, an allegation from Rice Tree Service that additional trees were marked for removal after their work began was un-founded. All trees were flagged for contractors to review and base their bids upon.

Asked about the Sterling truck, which the Select Board chose not to sell when the new International arrived, Bostrom said that it hadn't been driven since repairs were made at Patriot Motors late last Spring. Fuel leaks into the oil reservoir and the dump bed doesn't work properly. Wright reminded Bostrom that the reason for keeping it was to run it hard and not wear out the newer vehicles. Bostrom said that the crew had been too busy this Summer to undertake the needed repairs, but was intending to use the truck this winter for plowing and sanding.

With regard to roadside mowing, since none has been done, yet, Wright made a motion: **To wait on roadside mowing until next year**, seconded by LaPointe and carried by those present. Bostrom suggested booking reservations for a rental mower early, so that the Highway Department could accomplish the task next year, and Martin made a motion: **To instruct Bostrom to reserve a rental mower for use after July 1, 2016**, seconded by LaPointe and carried by those present.

- 5. Members of the Public:** LaPointe made a motion: **To suspend the rules in order to meet with members of the Public**, seconded by Wright and carried by those present.

The Board welcomed Representative Emily Long and lengthy discussion ensued regarding the two main issues between the Town of Townshend and the Townshend Dam, to wit: physical conditions at the lake and the payment-in-lieu-of-taxes agreement. Representative Long relayed having conversations with Jeff Crocker at the Agency of Natural Resources and with Representatives Oliver Olsen and David Deen.

DeSiervo reported that his calls to the Army Corps of Engineers had not been returned and informed the Board that a grassroots petition urging the Corps to return the lake to useable condition was circulating.

Long suggested that she and local officials might attend the meeting in December of the Connecticut River Valley Flood Control Commission, and Martin made a motion: To appoint Bob DeSiervo to represent Townshend at that meeting, seconded by Wright and carried by those present.

6: Reports: Law Enforcement: 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 checking account held a balance of \$1,095,852.80, prior to the payment of Warrants before the Board.

7. Warrants: LaPointe made motions to approve the following Warrants:

10191 Payroll \$8,663.54, seconded by Wright and carried by those present.

10192 Payroll Deductions \$3,533.02, seconded by Wright and carried by those present.

10193 General Fund \$6,751.55, seconded by Stowell and carried by those present.

10194 Highway Fund \$4,113.52, seconded by Wright and carried by those present.

10195 Equipment Fund \$949.23, seconded by Wright and carried by those present.

10196 General Fund \$5,855.00, seconded by Wright and carried by those present.

10197 Highway Fund \$197,109.68, seconded by Wright. Following discussion about the Springfield Paving bill containing unapproved over-charges, the motion failed to pass.

10198 Highway Fund \$175,041.12, seconded by Wright and carried by those present.

8. Correspondence: A letter of resignation was received from Auditor Eric Scott and Martin made a motion: **To accept the resignation of Eric Scott as an Auditor**, seconded by LaPointe and carried by those present.

A letter was also received from an individual indicating her desire to serve in the position of Auditor, if a vacancy opened up. Hunt was instructed to try and discover the intentions of Townshend's other two Auditors, since little or no auditing had been done

since Town Meeting, and to discover what the Select Board might do to legally remove them from office, should they not intend to perform their duties.

A letter from Laura Richardson was received informing the Board that December 4, 2015, was being scheduled for the Third Annual Holiday of Horses parade. LaPointe made a motion: **For the Select Board to acknowledge the scheduling of the Holiday of Horses event on December 4, 2015**, seconded by Martin and carried by those present.

9. Old Business: Officer Appointments: None at this time.

10. New Business: Errors and Omissions: The Board reviewed a request from the Listers Office to remove a campground trailer from the Grand List. LaPointe made a motion: **To remove Mark Parker's camper from the Grand List**, seconded by Wright. Following discussion, the motion failed due to a lack of clarity about what the Listers Office was requesting, and why.

Grace Cottage Hospital Lease Agreement: The Board briefly discussed the need to renew the lease that Grace Cottage Hospital holds with Townshend for land upon which the septic field used by both the hospital and Townshend Elementary School is located.

Contract for Work on the Town Plan: Martin made a motion: **To approve the contract proposal from the Windham Regional Commission for assistance in preparing the next five-year Town Plan, as recommended by the Planning Commission**, seconded by LaPointe and carried by those present.

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11. Other Business: None at this time.

12. Meeting Schedules: Regular Meeting: November 2, 2015, at 6:00 p.m.

13. Adjournment: LaPointe made a motion: **To adjourn at 8:57 p.m.**, carried by those present.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig K. Hunt