

TOWNSHEND SELECT BOARD

Workshop DRAFT Minutes

August 10, 2017

Present: Kathy Hege; Steve Frisk; Will Bissonnette

In Attendance: Joanna Snelling; Cynthia Davis; John Evans; Craig Hunt

Hege convened the Select Board workshop with the Townshend Governance Advisory Committee at 6:37p.m.

Committee member Joanna Snelling was welcomed. Bissonnette, Select Board member and chairman of the Advisory Committee, briefly explained the investigative efforts of the Committee to identify administrative and managerial deficiencies and, with Snelling, summarized the findings that the Committee presented in its June 7, 2017 report. Without suggesting courses of action or promoting particular solutions, the Committee endeavored to honestly highlight the potential advantages and disadvantages of changes to Townshend's governing structure.

Lengthy discussion ensued about the effects of a technological culture and an aging demographic upon the recruitment of individuals willing and qualified to take locally-elected office, seek municipal employment, or volunteer to provide community service.

The Governance Advisory Committee will formally present the Select Board with a recommendation to hold a public hearing to further consider the issues and, with a consultant from the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, examine the legal authorities and the financial consequences of implementing reforms.

Evans advocated that the Select Board act within its present authority and without hesitation to initiate any remedial changes it determines to be in the best interest of the Town.

As no other business was brought to the Select Board at this time, the Workshop ended at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig K. Hunt