

Committee to Study Town Governance

May 25, 2017 (Townshend Town Hall 7 p.m.)

Attending: Joanna Snelling, Philip Moriarty, Al Haumann, and Will Bissonnette

1. Call to Order: Mr. Bissonnette called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.
2. Minutes/Notes of previous meeting: Minutes of the previous meeting approved without exception.
3. Additions and deletions: Mr. Moriarty asked Mr. Bissonnette to confirm the current committee composition with the Selectboard.
4. Members of the Public: none
5. Review and discussion of draft presentation: Ms. Snelling distributed a working draft of a progress report. Suggestions for changes and perhaps the addition of an executive summary were made. Possible appendices (finances, improved community participation, applicable statutes for examples) were suggested. Others are possible. Specific areas of concern were touched on, especially ongoing concerns around town finances. Ms. Snelling will craft another interim report including an executive summary.
7. Legal obstacles: Mr Moriarty: The need for professional legal advice in the area was clear since there was disagreement as to the need for legislative approval.
8. VLCT follow up questions: Mr Bissonnette: Vermont League of Cities and Towns will do a training session for everyone interested. There is a cost of about \$410 for this. The committee felt the widest possible attendance at such an event would be valuable.

VLTC has a recruitment package that might be helpful if a town manager or assistant is desired. This could cost \$4,000 — \$8,000.

At various times, the committee returned to #5 for more discussion.
9. Formulation of duties for next meeting: Ms. Snelling will create a second draft of a progress report which she will give Mr. Moriarty to “pretty up”.
10. Set date for next meeting: the next meeting will be at 7:00 p.m on Wednesday, 7 June.
11. Adjournment: the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Philip Moriarty