

approved: 12/27/18

TOWNSHEND SELECT BOARD

Meeting Minutes

December 11, 2018

Present: Kathy Hege; Robert Wright; Will Bissonnette; Steven Frisk; Crystal Mansfield

In Attendance: Joseph Daigneault; Charles Marchant; Craig Hunt

1. **Call To Order:** Hege called the meeting to Order at 6:15 p.m.
2. **Approval of the Minutes:** Frisk made a motion: **To approve the Minutes of December 4, 2018**, seconded by Bissonnette and carried by those present.
3. **Additions and Deletions:** Correspondence was added.

4. **Members of the Public:** Bissonnette made a motion: **To suspend the rules and take the Agenda out of order to meet with the public**, seconded by Frisk and carried by those present. Charles Marchant, president of the Townshend Historical Society, was welcomed and informed the Select Board that the Historical Society had prepared a budget proposal for repairs on the West Townshend stone arch bridge, as requested. Marchant had delivered that proposal to Frisk and offered to attend any meeting of the Select Board in which special highway project budgets were to be discussed.

Marchant also told the Select Board that the Historical Society was working to draft a letter to truckers that frequently use the West Townshend stone arch bridge with guidance on to how to reduce vibration when crossing the bridge. Maintenance on the historic bridges that no longer are used for traffic will be attended as opportunity allows, Marchant explained, but the bridge over Fair Brook, needs the most serious repairs. The Historical Society is in discussion with the Stone Trust and hoping that masons from the Trust might take it on as a project.

Marchant also expressed his appreciation for the removal of a large pine tree at Wiswell Cemetery.

5. **Warrants:** Wright made motions to approve the Warrants, all seconded by Frisk:

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| 121101 Payroll | \$ 12,176.35 | carried by those present. |
| 121102 Taxes | 4,995.08 | carried by those present. |
| 121103 General | 12,500.00 | carried by those present. |
| 121104 Highway | 1,485.56 | carried by those present. |
| 121105 General | 627,826.40 | carried by those present. |
| 121106 Equipment | 8,936.03 | carried by those present. |
| 121107 General | 750.00 | carried by those present with one abstention. |
| 121108 General | 8,775.48 | carried by those present. |
| 121109 General | 45.76 | carried by those present. |

6. Reports: Highway Report: Frisk reported that he and LeCours had examined the ditch and culverts at Martin's on Route 35 and, after cleaning out a portion of the ditch and opening one of the culverts, had drained about 4 inches of standing water from the adjacent field. Frisk also reported that the new snow blower for the sidewalks had just arrived and that, after being treated with a rust preventative, would be stored at the Fire House.

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

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer reported that the People's General Fund Sweep account had a balance of \$1,058,651.56 and that there was \$27,474.90 in the checking account.

7. Correspondence: Hege read a card of Thanks from the Community, Hope and Action group for use of the Town Hall.

Hege then made reference to proposed FCC rulings and consequential changes to the funding structure of community television stations like BCTV. In anticipation of those changes, Cor Trowbridge, Executive Director of BCTV, was requesting that Townshend help to underwrite BCTV's costs at \$.85 per capita, or, \$1,000.00, in fiscal year 2020.

Hege referenced a three-page letter from Kevin Burke, president of the Townshend Business Association, complaining of criticisms received during and after the Pumpkin Festival. That letter and the response which Hege publicly presented are attached to these Minutes for the record.

8. Old Business: West Townshend Bridge Speed Limit: Mansfield made a motion: **To adopt an ordinance limiting to 5 mph the speed on the stone arch bridge on Back Windham Road in West Townshend,** seconded by Bissonnette and carried by those present.

Personnel Policy: The Select Board discussed changes in the draft Townshend Personnel Policy.

Town Hall Use Policy: The Select Board briefly discussed the draft Town Hall Use Policy and Bissonnette made a motion: **To adopt the Town Hall Use Policy, as drafted,** seconded by Mansfield. In further discussion, Wright objected that insurance requirements would be an onerous burden and limit, or prohibit, local and informal use of the Town Hall. When called, the motion then failed to be carried by those present.

Common Use Policy: The Select Board briefly discussed the draft Town Common Use Policy and Mansfield made a motion: **To adopt the Town Common Use Policy, as drafted,** seconded by Bissonnette and carried by those present, with one opposing.

FY20 Budget: The Select Board began discussion regarding Townshend's FY20 municipal and highway budgets. Richard Melanson of BCTV explained that budget discussions were not generally recorded and retired from the meeting.

9. New Business: None at this time.

10. Executive Session: None at this time

11. Other Business: None at this time.

12. Meeting Schedules: Regular Meeting: December 27, 2018 @ 5:00 p.m.

13. Adjournment: Mansfield made a motion: **To adjourn at 8:22 p.m.,** carried by those present.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig K. Hunt