

approved: 02/27/18

TOWNSHEND SELECT BOARD

Meeting Minutes

February 13, 2018

Present: Kathy Hege; Will Bissonnette; Robert Wright; Irvin Stowell; Steve Frisk;

In Attendance: Joseph Daigneault; Ezlerh Oreste, (BCTV); Craig Hunt

1. Call To Order: Hege called the meeting to Order at 6:07 p.m.

2. Approval of the Minutes: Stowell made a motion: **To approve the Minutes of January 23, 2018**, seconded by Bissonnette and carried by those present.

3. Additions and Deletions: To New Business, discussion of the Tree Warden's Report was added.

4. Reports: Highway Report: The Highway Report was briefly delayed pending the Foreman's arrival.

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

Treasurer's Report: Daigneault reported that the General Fund Sweep account held a balance of \$ 1,078,545.68 and that the Checking account held \$ 30,000.00

5. Warrants: Wright made motions to approve the Warrants:

021301 Payroll \$ 10,574.67, seconded by Frisk and carried by those present.

021302 Taxes 4,218.35, seconded by Frisk and carried by those present.

021303 General 7,127.80, seconded by Frisk and carried by those present.

021304 General 2,582.66, seconded by Frisk and carried by those present.

021305 General 250.00, seconded by Frisk and carried by those present.

021306 General 35.75, seconded by Stowell, but failed to carry by those present.

021307 General 1,506.45, seconded by Frisk and carried by those present.

021308 Highway 3,162.35, seconded by Stowell and carried by those present upon the Highway Foreman's arrival.

021309 Highway 1,462.80, seconded by Frisk and carried by those present.

021310 Highway 10,287.00, seconded by Frisk and carried by those present.

021311 Highway 528.78, seconded by Frisk and carried by those present.

021312 Equipment 3,192.00, seconded by Frisk. Frisk and Bostrom then discussed the use of tire chains, how quickly they wear because driven on pavement and how they chew up truck tires. As a result of the conversation, Frisk predicted that winter driving

policies would be modified before next year. The motion, when called, was carried by those present.

021313 Equipment 7,451.36, seconded by Frisk and carried by those present

021314 Equipment 3,275.22, seconded by Stowell and carried by those present.

021315 Highway 6,797.84, seconded by Bissonnette and carried by those present.

6. Highway Report: Frisk asked Bostrom about the use of sand and salt and Wright asked Bostrom about excessive plowing of minor snow accumulations and needless driving on overtime wages. Hege relayed that Grafton Road on February 5th, was the subject of numerous complaints, though it was plowed repeatedly. Bostrom replied that the roads are checked regularly and that extra efforts are required to keep passage safe, especially as sand and salt are used as sparingly as possible. As for Grafton Road on February 5th, Bostrom said it was his fault for misjudging and applying too little salt at the beginning of his run, causing that which melted to subsequently refreeze and create a mess.

Sterling Truck Bid: Hege read an offer for received for the Sterling plow truck in the amount of \$14,250.00 and Bissonnette made a motion: **To accept the offer to purchase the Town's 2007 Sterling truck in the amount of \$14,250.00 by Barry Berard**, seconded by Stowell and carried by those present. Hunt was instructed to contact Berard and arrange for the transaction.

Loader RFP: Hunt requested that the Board decide upon a deadline for the receipt of cost estimates for the new front end loader and a date of March 27, 2018 was set.

Road Standards Certification: Hege made a motion: **For the Select Board to sign the Road Standards and Network Inventory Certification for 2018**, seconded by Bissonnette and carried by those present.

Mailboxes: Following brief discussion about Townshend's Winter Maintenance Policy and, particularly, how to handle mailboxes hit by plows, Bissonnette made a motion: **To reimburse owners for the cost of a buying a mailbox hit by a Town snowplow, plus 50% of that cost.** The motion failed for lack of a second.

Bridge #42: The Select Board was informed of conversations Hunt and Bostrom had had with Archie Clark regarding the replacement of Bridge #42 on West Hill Road. Clark had proposed that the project begin on February 26, 2018. Bostrom stated that the crane and materials transported on a frozen road would do little damage and that he had made arrangements with the Highway Department in Wardsboro to plow and sand Townshend's roads west of Bridge #42, as necessary. It is anticipated that West Hill Road would be closed to through traffic for approximately two weeks. The Board instructed Bostrom to coordinate sign posting with Clark and inform Hunt of the start-date so that letters could go out to residents.

Hazard Trees: Bissonnette asked Bstrom if the Highway Department kept a list of hazard trees and Bstrom stated that there were many trees that needed to be cut, but that a list was unnecessary since it was known where they were.

7. Members of the Public: None at this time.

8. Correspondence: Hege read a letter from Phil Moriarty expressing his belief that the Select Board went too far in a January 15th motion intended to prevent Open Meeting Law violations. Moriarty requested that the Board reconsider strictly requiring that Minutes be taken if a quorum gathered at, "anytime for any reason." Hege then summarized a proposal currently being considered in Montpelier that would declare that a meeting was held if even two members of an elected body communicated indirectly through a third party, and the Board decided to let its policies stand for the time being.

Correspondence was received announcing that Grace Cottage Hospital Fair Days would be held on August 4th and booths would be set up on the Town Common between July 27th through August 5th. Hege and Hunt will draft a letter in response to remind GCH of policies regarding the use and care of the Town Common.

9. Old Business: Court Update: Hege relayed that the Johnson tax sale matter had been delayed for almost 60 days because the Court required that papers be served by the Sheriff's office, which had failed to find the defendant.

NEMRC Contracts: Following brief discussion, Bissonnette made a motion: **To sign the Disaster Recovery Agreement with NEMRC, running from November 1st through October 31st**, seconded by Stowell and carried by those present.

Stowell made a motion: **To sign the CAMA Software Agreement with NEMRC, running from May 5th through May 4th**, seconded by Bissonnette and carried by those present.

Bissonnette made a motion: **To sign the Software Support License with NEMRC, running from July 1st through June 30th**, seconded by Stowell and carried by those present.

10. New Business: Tree Warden's Report: Hege read the Tree Warden's Report submitted to the Town Report Committee and published in the 2018 Annual Town Report. Board members then discussed aspects of the report which they believed were misleading, untrue or unnecessarily accusational.

11. Executive Session: Bissonnette made a motion: **To find that premature general public knowledge of the terms of a proposed contract would clearly place the**

municipality at a substantial disadvantage if the discussion were held in open session, seconded by Wright and carried by those present.

Stowell then made a motion: **To enter Executive Session with Hunt at 7:35 p.m. under 1 V.S.A. 313 (a)(1)(A) for discussion of contract terms**, seconded by Bissonnette and carried by those present.

The Board returned from Executive Session at 8:10 and, as a result, Hege will discuss needs for new technology with the Town Clerk and authorize replacements of necessary components.

**12. Meeting Schedule: Pre-Town Meeting: February 26, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.
Regular Meeting: February 27, 2018 @ 6:00 p.m.**

13. Adjournment: Stowell made a motion: **To adjourn at 8:14 p.m.**, carried by those present.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig K. Hunt