

approved: 04/10/18

TOWNSHEND SELECT BOARD

Meeting Minutes

March 27, 2018

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

In Attendance: Joseph Daigneault; Brandon Canevari; Richard Melanson, (BCTV);
Craig Hunt

1. **Call To Order:** Hege called the meeting to Order at 6:00 p.m.

2. **Approval of the Minutes:** Bissonnette made a motion: **To approve the Minutes of March 15, 2018**, seconded by Frisk and carried by those present.

Wright made a motion: **To approve the Special Minutes of March 21, 2018**, seconded by Bissonnette and carried by those present.

3. **Additions and Deletions:** None at this time.

4. **Members of the Public:** Bissonnette made a motion: **To take the Agenda out of order to accommodate members of the public**, seconded by Hege and carried by those present.

Brandon Canevari was welcomed and expressed his interest in accepting an appointment to one of the vacant seats on the Planning Commission. Following brief discussion with members of the Select Board, Bissonnette nominated: **Brandon Canevari to a five-year seat on the Townshend Planning Commission**, carried by those present.

5. **Correspondence:** None at this time.

6. **Old Business:** None at this time.

7. **New Business: Compost Bags:** Following discussion about whether the Town should continue subsidize the provision of compostable food-scrap bags to the public, Bissonnette made a motion: **To continue to provide compostable bags to the public**. The motion, however, failed for lack of receiving a second.

Officer Appointments: The Board reviewed the 2018-19 list of necessary and discretionary Select Board appointments and Frisk made a motion: **To appoint the following to one year terms:**

Rob Wright, Inspector of Wood and Timber

Rob Wright, Inspector of Shingles

Kristina Wright, Fence Viewer

Joseph Daigneault, Weigher of Coal

Kathy Hege, Townshend's Representative to RESCUE Inc.

Will Bissonnette, Representative to the Windham Regional Commission

carried by consent of those present:

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

032701 Payroll \$10,892.27, carried by those present with one opposed.

032702 Taxes 4,510.52, carried by those present.

032703 General 4,040.02, carried by those present.

032704 General 12.49, motion **FAILED** to carry by those present.

032705 General 10,164.00, carried by those present.

032706 Highway 10,976.64, motion **FAILED** to carry by those present.

032707 Highway 264.84, carried by those present.

032708 Equipment 320.00, motion **FAILED** to carry by those present.

032709 Equipment 1,850.00, motion **FAILED** to carry by those present.

032710 General 102.39, amended by Bissonnette to **\$97.39**, seconded by Frisk and carried by those present.

9. Reports: Town Clerk's Report: The Select Board received the Town Clerk's cash journal report from the previous weeks.

Treasurer's Report: Daigneault reported that the General Fund Sweep account held a balance of \$821,058.45 and that the Checking account held \$ 11,267.96.

Highway Report: No report from the Highway Department was given due to the Foreman's absence. Hege noted that the Select Board had been made aware that a truckload of salt was delivered to the State Highway shed in Jamaica on March 21st. The Select Board was not informed about the request for salt by the State, the terms of the transaction, or the reason for Townshend equipment and personnel to make the delivery, even though the full Select Board met with the Foreman on the evening of March 21st.

Hege then read a prepared statement, (for the record, attached to these Minutes), reflecting upon the Select Board having been, "ambushed," collectively and, as individuals, personally attacked by members of the Public at the meeting held with the Highway Foreman in the Town Garage on March 21st.

10. Executive Session: Frisk made a motion: **To enter Executive Session at 6:35 p.m. under 1 V.S.A. 313(a)(3) to evaluate the job performance of an employee**, seconded by Bissonnette and carried by those present.

The Select Board returned from Executive Session at 8:20 p.m. and, as a result, no action was taken.

11. Meeting Schedules: W.R.C. Energy Plan Meeting: April 9, 2018 @ 6:30 p.m
Regular Meeting: April 10, 2018 @ 6:00 p.m.

13. Adjournment: Wright made a motion: **To adjourn at 8:25 p.m.,** carried by those present.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig K. Hunt

ATTACHMENT

On our regular meeting night when Kurt Bostrom's wife called me to tell me it was his birthday and that she needed him for a planned celebration she asked if he could submit a report in writing in his absence. I told her that we had questions about the bills and that we would need to schedule another meeting to meet with him. That evening the board talked at length, on camera, about what day everyone could get together for another meeting and it was decided then, at the warned meeting, that we would meet with Kurt on Wednesday the 21st. The decision was made in open session and there was nothing threatening or nefarious about our intentions.

On the 21st at 5:00PM the board met at the Town Garage and was ambushed by members of the public for no apparent reason. There was nothing on the agenda other than warrants and the possible appointment of two Planning Commission members. The attack seems to have been pre-orchestrated in defense of Kurt and his position and was personal in nature. The expressed sexual euphemism that was used in accusation against the board was best suited for a middle school locker room. It was vulgar and inappropriate and way beyond what is considered to be civil discourse in mixed company. Add to that the fact that it was a completely unwarranted attack on five people who wanted nothing more than to get some delinquent bills paid because they had not had an opportunity to ask questions of the one person who could answer them. Is that not the select board's job? I hope that the individuals watching this video will take a moment to reflect upon the fact that the five of us are paid a combined total of \$4,000 per year to deal with this type of behavior. Have we really come to the point as a Town where the board cannot discuss town business without other people interjecting personal attacks for imaginary offenses? There was no hidden select board agenda on the 21st and I take great offense that someone, anyone, was spreading false rumors to the contrary.

Kathy Hege