

approved: 09/25/18

TOWNSHEND SELECT BOARD

Meeting Minutes

September 11, 2018

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

In Attendance: Joseph Daigneault; Kurt Bostrom; Rick Hege; Steve Tavella; Brandon Canevari; Andrew Snelling; Richard Melanson, (BCTV); Craig Hunt

- 1. Call To Order:** Hege called the meeting to Order at 6:02 p.m.
- 2. Approval of the Minutes:** Frisk made a motion: **To approve the Minutes of August 28, 2018**, seconded by Bissonnette and carried by those present.
- 3. Additions and Deletions:** From Old Business, an estimate for a water filtration system at the Fire station was deleted.
- 4. Members of the Public:** Frisk made a motion: **To take the Agenda out of order and meet with members of the public**, seconded by Wright and carried by those present.

West River Valley Thrives: Steve Tavella, Director of West River Valley Thrives, was welcomed and provided the Select Board with an introduction to WRVT and how it strives to promote healthy communities and, especially, prevent substance abuse among youth. WRVT leases space at LGUHMS and works with educators, counselors, parents and mentors, law enforcement officials, healthcare workers, businesses, civic groups and faith-based organizations to provide resources and sponsor activities that encourage and support positive lifestyle choices.

Hege asked Tavella about the association between Townshend's Community Hope and Action group and WRVT, and Tavella explained that WRVT works with CH&A and other grassroots groups to help organize events and raise funds. WRVT is itself an extension of Youth Services in Brattleboro, a registered 5013c organization that provides a legal and financial umbrella over the activities.

Planning Commission: Village Center Designation: Andrew Snelling and Brandon Canevari of the Planning Commission were welcomed and Canevari reiterated the Planning Commission's recommendation that the Select Board pursue reinstating official Village Center Designation recognition for Townshend. Canevari explained that the term would be for eight years, with three year-renewals and that Village Center Designation would provide for tax credits and various municipal, commercial and private developmental grant and loan opportunities.

Hege asked if the Planning Commission had conducted any surveys to ascertain whether there was any local need or desire for grants and Canevari indicated that, other than those for municipal infrastructure projects, the Commission had not.

Mansfield asked whether Village Center Designation would provide local controls over development within the village, (alluding to Zoning), and the belief was that, by design, it would provide tools to encourage growth, rather than mechanisms to restrict it.

After discussion, Mansfield made a motion: **To have the Select Board support the Planning Commission's application for and pursuit of attaining Village Center Designation for Townshend**, seconded by Bissonnette and carried by those present.

Planning Commission: Act 174 Compliance: Andrew Snelling explained that important aspects of Vermont's Act 174, (Town Energy Planning) were not incorporated into the revised Town Plan that was adopted last year and that the Windham Regional Commission could help Townshend modify the Plan's energy section. Strengthening that energy section would give the Town more land use authority and empower the Town with, "substantial deference," as opposed to merely, "due deference," with the Public Utility Commission in matters of siting approval for energy generation facilities. An Act 174 compliant energy policy should provide more local control as Vermont strives to generate 90% of its energy needs from renewable resources. The Planning Commission recommends that the Select Board request the Windham Regional Commission to support and assist the update to Townshend's Town Plan.

Following discussion, Bissonnette made a motion: **To have the Select Board sign a letter addressed to the Windham Regional Commission expressing Townshend's interest in further development of the energy element of the 2017 Town Plan toward becoming Act 174 compliant**, seconded by Frisk and carried by those present.

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

091101 Payroll **\$10,786.54.** Following discussion with Bostrom about time-clock use and vacation time scheduling, the motion was carried by those present.

091102 Taxes **3,811.97,** carried by those present.

091103 General **3,200.00,** carried by those present.

091104 General **8,151.63,** carried by those present with one abstention.

091105 Highway **5,655.22.** Following discussion about the expense of the un-metered use of liquid magnesium chloride and Bostrom's promise to look into a flow meter for the spreader, the motion was carried by those present.

091106 Equipment **1,570.42,** carried by those present.

091107 General **13.44,** mileage reimbursement request failed by those present.

6. Reports: Highway Report: Bostrom reported that the paving of Grafton Road and that roadside mowing would begin within a week. Fitzpatrick, he said, was continuing to crush gravel.

Upon hearing from Bostrom that the John Deere 755 tractor had un-repairable problems, Bissonnette made a motion: **To have Hunt investigate putting the mowing and sidewalk snow-blowing out to bid by local maintenance contractors**, seconded by Mansfield and carried by those present.

Bostrom provided the Board with State-bid specifications and a quote on a new 1-ton truck from Lucky's Equipment and said that other dealers had also been contacted.

Town Clerk's Report: The Town Clerk's cash journal report from the prior two weeks was received and reviewed.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's report conveyed that the People's General Fund sweep account held a current balance of \$1,537,421.68 and that \$29,814.45 was in the checking account.

7. Correspondence: None at this time.

8. Old Business: Listers Request: The Board discussed at length a request from the Listers for new equipment, but tabled any decisions until Mike Bills was available to discuss the matter with the Board.

Common Road: Board members agreed to review a draft of the Common Use policy preliminary to considering any specific road restrictions.

Town Report: Bissonnette agreed to research the possibility of contracting for the composition and publication of the annual Town Report.

9. Executive Session: None at this time.

10. Other Business: Daigneault's question about making payments to the schools was answered with the fact that the Town had yet to receive invoice amounts from the Department of Education.

11. Meeting Schedules: Regular Meeting: September 25, 2018 @ 6:00 p.m.

12. Adjournment: Mansfield made a motion: **To adjourn at 7:29 p.m.**, carried by those present.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig K. Hunt