



TOWN OF TOWNSHEND

Selectboard
PO Box 121 Townshend, Vermont 05353

Selectboard Meeting Minutes

December, 14, 2021 6:00 PM

Approved 12/28/2021

Townshend Town Hall
and Zoom Virtual Meeting

Call to Order: Lake calls the meeting to order at 6:00pm

Present: Sherwood Lake, Allison Dercoli, Rob Wright, Steven Frisk

Not Present: Haley Felker

In Attendance: Peter Kelleher, BCTV Tech, Connie Holt, via ZOOM: Helen Holt.

Approval of Minutes: Wright moves to approve the Selectboard meeting minutes below. Frisk seconds the motion. Motion carries 4-0-0.

1. Approval of minutes of the November 23, 2021 regular Selectboard meeting.
2. Approval of minutes of the November 29, 2021 Select Board budget meeting.
3. Approval of minutes of the December 6, 2021 Selectboard budget meeting.

Additions and Deletions:

1. Wright makes a motion to approve the minutes from the 12/13/21 Selectboard budget meeting. Dercoli seconds the motion. Motion carries 4-0-0.

Members of the Public:

1. **Town Clerk, Ellenka Wilson**, raises, with the Selectboard, the issue of holding an Australian ballot vote at Town Meeting due to the Covid rates. She also pointed out the increased voting participation in last years' Australian ballot. She is waiting for the Governor to authorize towns to do as they wish regarding Town Meeting.

Wright makes a motion to take the meeting agenda out of order. Risk seconds the motion. Motion carries 4-0-0.

2. **Christy Bately from SeVeds Strategies** makes a request for funding and gives a presentation on the organization's work for 2021. The request is that Townshend fund SeVeds at \$3.00 per person. Approximately 1,232 residents would equal a \$3,696.00 funding donation. Lake informs her that the Social Services Committee decides on appropriations. The Selectboard will notify them of the request.

3. **Betsy Thomason** from Jamaica speaks on the ineffectiveness of surgical masks. Lake informs her that until the Governor issues a mask mandate (which he does not think will happen) Townshend is leaving wearing of masks up to individuals.

4. **Lee Marinoff from the Young Farmers Program** presents on her organizations' work with children. She raises the issue of towns using the ARPA funds for children. She invited Townshend to join with other towns to put out best practices for children. If Townshend is interested she volunteered to come back the Selectboard to discuss in more detail. Lake suggests she also presents to the school board.

5. **Tasha Labrie** announces the Holiday Horse Parade taking place Sunday, Dec. 19th at 11:00am. She asks for the endorsement and approval from the Selectboard. Wright makes a motion to allow the Holiday Horse Parade using the same protocols from the last few years. Frisk seconds the motion. Motion carries 4-0-0.

6. **Laura Richardson** reports on the ongoing attempt to decorate the Gazebo with a tree and lights. They have run into some vandalism and asks the Selectboard to ok efforts by Warren Beattie to secure the lights from vandalism. Wright makes a motion to allow Warren Beattie to do what is necessary to secure the lighting on the Gazebo. Frisk seconds the motion. Motion carries 4-0-0.

7. **John Evans from the Planning Commission** discusses the speeding situation in town. Planning commission is working on getting signage to get drivers' attention to slow down to the speeding limit. Lake suggests that the planning commission put together a plan and bring it back to the Selectboard. Frisk points out that if it pertains to Rt.30 then the planning commission will need to bring it to the State, VTrans District 2. Evans agrees to keep the Selectboard informed.

Correspondence:

1. Email from Michael Meyer to Steve regarding resolving road dispute. Frisk reports that the issue was a resident's car blocking the road. He spoke to the resident and the matter has been resolved.

2. Letter from William Lindsey regarding speed limit in front of Grace Cottage. Lake reports that the speed limit is set by the state of Vermont. He stated that the Selectboard will pass along the concern to law enforcement.

6. **Warrants:** Wright makes a motion to approve warrants 1 though 7. Frisk seconds the motion. Motion carries 4-0-0.

Payroll:	\$14,711.21
Payroll Taxes:	\$5,216.46
General Fund:	\$27,213.26
General Fund:	\$179.78
Highway:	\$5,214.27
Highway:	\$240.00
Equipment:	\$13,285.46

7. **Reports:**

1. **Highway:** Frisk reports on the small nuisance storm that happened recently. They are tracking another storm for Saturday, Dec. 18th.

2. **Treasurer:** Lake reports that there is the following funds in the towns accounts;

Municipal Investment Fund: \$1,365,980.92

Checking Account: \$30,000.00

3. **Town Clerk:** Lake reports that the Clerk's report is included in the packet.

4. **Chair:** Lake reports that the Selectboard are close to finishing the budget and will present at the next board meeting on 12/28.

8. **Old Business:** None

9. **New Business:**

1. Windham County Humane Society 2021-2022 contract (retro): Lake reports that the contract with Windham County Humane Society for housing animals was not signed for 2021. They have sent us a contract to sign. Frisk makes a motion to authorize Selectboard Chair Lake to sign the 2021 contract with the Windham County Humane Society. Dercoli seconds the motion. Motions carries 4-0-0.

3. Rescue Inc. contract: Lake reports that we have received a 3 year contract from Rescue Inc. The cost was approximately \$116,000.00 for three years. We will receive the final numbers in the spring, but have budgeted \$38,500.00 for fiscal year 2023.

4. Lake reports that the Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) annual dues has been paid.

5. Fire Truck Repair: Lake reports on the need to repair Fire Truck #4. Lake describes the failing pump issue and the need to get on it now before it worsens. By doing the \$13,085.55 of repairs now, we lengthen Truck #4's longevity by 4 to 5 years. This give us time to raise money for the purchase of a new truck when needed. Frisk makes a motion to go with Perkins repair quote not to exceed \$13,085.55. Wright seconds the motion. Motion carries 3-0-1 (Lake abstains).

10. **Executive Session:** None

11. **Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting:** Tuesday, December 28, 2021 at 6:00pm.

12. **Adjournment:** Wright makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. Frisk seconds the motion. Motion carries 4-0-0. Meeting is adjourned at 6:54pm.