



TOWN OF TOWNSHEND

Selectboard
PO Box 121 Townshend, Vermont 05353

Selectboard Meeting Minutes
December 13, 2022 6:00 PM
Townshend Town Hall
Approved: 12/27/22

Present: Sherwood Lake, Katie Marrow, Rob Wright, Steve Frisk, Rob Swiger

In Attendance: Galen Robinson - BCTV, Connie Holt - SB Assistant

1. **Meeting Call to Order:** Lake called the meeting to order at 6:00pm
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Swiger makes a motion to approve the minutes of the November 22, 2022 Selectboard meeting. Marrow seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0-0.
3. **Additions and Deletions:** Lake goes over the additions to the agenda.
 1. New Business (9a): Health Inspector's resignation
 2. New Business (9b): Windham Central Town Hall Use Request
 3. Correspondence (5a): Letter concerning condition of Peaked Mtn. Road
4. **Members of the Public:**
 1. State Senator Nader Hashim states he is here to hear from Selectboards in his district in preparation for taking office in January. He hopes to hear the concerns of the communities he represents and to open a line of communication with him. Lake raises the issue of a need for law enforcement in Townshend. He states that we need help in slowing down the traffic. Frisk raises the issue of stalled road grant money. Albert Litchfield, from West Townshend, talks about the problem of commercial trucks, in particular, speeding on Rt. 30 through West Townshend. Lake adds that small towns simply do not have the funds that the sheriff's department is charging for traffic enforcement. Jill Devine, from West Townshend, states that she has video's of the trucks speeding through West Townshend at 70mph. She is willing to email them to Senator Hashim. Frisk adds that there is a lot of data from the radar speed signs that he can share as well.

Bob DeSiervo asks the Senator for funding to support the work of DVFiber. The organization has made a lot of progress in getting internet service to more people.

Wright raises the issue of the lack of taxes paid by the Federal Gov't for the Dam. He states that there are over 1,000 acres in the Dam park and the Army Corp of Engineers only pay \$9,665.00 in PILOT payments. Any regular taxpayer in Vermont would have to

pay a lot more. Frisk adds that on top of that we have to pay to use the road. Holt adds that the Army Corp of Engineers is required to maintain a recreational area. They are not maintaining the beach and swimming area. DeSiervo points out that the system of dams in VT/NH help the states of Massachusetts and Connecticut from flooding. He added that studies have shown that Springfield alone has saved over \$40,000,000.00 in damage costs, and Townshend is getting just a pittance of funds. Wright states that he believes that everyone should be required to pay the same rate in taxes. Wright hopes that Senator Hashim can help us in this matter. Hashim says that he is available to discuss this issue more off line. Hashim asks why this came to be. DeSiervo states that it was and is an agreement between Vermont, New Hampshire, Mass. and CT. It is the CT River Commission and all of this parties need to agree on the tax rate. Lake states that this issue for the Selectboard has been going on for years. Hearing no other issues, Lake thanks the Senator for coming to the meeting.

2. Bob DeSeirvo bring to the attention of the Board the outstanding job Andy Snelling is doing in his work with DVFiber.

3. David Taddai speaks before the Board about an issue that happened on Peaked Mountain Road on Monday morning. He describes the unsafe road conditions at around 7:45am because Peaked Mountain Road had not been sanded. His wife and two children rolled their truck. They got out unhurt but the truck is totaled. He voices the concern that the Selectboard had been discussing the high cost of sand and wants to know if the town has decided to use less sand. He also wants to know why the road was plowed but not sanded, It did not get sanded until 9:30am that morning. Frisk answers that the road crew does a first pass of plowing with the sand in the truck because they need the weight in the truck. The second pass is to sand. Taddai states that he talked to Kurt Bolstrom who said that he always sanded on the second pass. Frisk points out that they had only done one pass on that road at the time that the accident happened. Taddai says that the road was sheer ice and it is unacceptable that the road was not sanded until 9:30am. Frisk explains that the road crew was down a truck because we are down one driver. We also had a truck get stuck on Townshend Acres. We had to go and retrieve that truck, so we were behind schedule. Frisk states that having read the letter, the Selectboard has not instructed him to cut back on sand. Frisk has not instructed his employees to cut back on sand. Sand is not the issue; it is a timing issue. Taddai states that as long as it was timing issue and not that the town is cutting down on sand as a way to save money. He further states that he thinks that plowing and sanding at the same time in that short stretch of road would not be unsafe. It would not require much sand and safety would be ensured. Lake reiterates that nothing has been changed in the way the road crew does its work. Frisk adds that he understands the concern and what Taddai is requesting. Wright ask that Taddai in situations such as this he call the Town Highway Department and not Kurt Bolstrom. Taddai says it was not his first call; he was doing research on this and called Kurt to prepare for tonight's meeting. Lake ends the conversation stating that the Selectboard will take it under advisement and look at it.

5. **Correspondence:**

6. **Warrants:** Wright make a motion to pay warrants 1 - 9.

1. Payroll:	\$9,880.77
2, Payroll Taxes:	\$4,225.34
3. General Fund:	\$34,693.48
4. General Fund:	\$633,151.53
5. General Fund:	\$14.99
6. Highway:	\$54,262.74
7. Highway Equipment:	\$2,922.11
8. Highway Equipment:	\$225.27
9. Library:	\$6.96
Total:	\$739,383.19

Frisk seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0-0.

7. **Reports:**

1. Highway: Frisk reports that the Town Garage will need a new boiler to replace the current boiler that was installed on 2008. Ostermen brought it to our attention when they installed the tanks a few years back. We recently switched to DeadRiver who also said that the boiler needs to be replaced. Boiler is leaking water, the heat exchanger is on its way out, and you can no longer parts for this boiler. He is looking into the costs of getting a new boiler.

2. **Treasurer:** Lake gives the Treasurer's report. The general fund true balance is \$233,746.00. The bank report shows a balance of \$2,043,151.28 and \$30,000.00 in the checking account.

3. **Town Clerk:** Lake gives the Clerk's report. The Town Clerk has processed \$420.50 in fees and services.

4. **Chair:** We have received a PILOT check in the amount of \$8,290.18. Also, we are in the process of putting together a policy for the short term concerning the use of the building. The impression that the Selectboard is not allowing people to use the building is not true, Pretty much anyone who has insurance has been able to use the building. The change is that if it is a public meeting or a meeting that requires the open meeting law requirements it can not be held upstairs. The stair chair is not properly operational which means there is no way to get them and their mode of transportation to the second floor. So, if it is a public meeting it will have to held on the first floor or somewhere else. With that, I have requested the use of Dutton Gym for Town meeting this year. The School Board has approved my request.

8. **Old Business: None**

9. **New Business:**

1. Windham Central Town Hall Use Request: Windham Central is requesting the use of Town Hall second floor for a non-public meeting on January 12, 2023. Swiger

makes a motion to allow the School Board to use the second floor on January 12, 2023 and to waive the fee. Marrow seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0-0. The Board authorizes the Chair to sign on their behalf.

10. **Executive Session: N/A**

11. **Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting:** Tuesday, December 27, 2022

12. **Adjournment:** Wright makes a motion to adjourn. Marrow seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0-0. The meeting is adjourned at 6:33pm.