



TOWN OF TOWNSHEND

Selectboard

PO Box 121 Townshend, Vermont 05353

Selectboard Meeting Agenda

January 24, 2023 6:00 PM

Townshend Town Hall

Approved: 2/14/2023

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

Not Present: Steven Frisk

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

1. **Meeting Call to Order:** Lake calls the meeting to order at 6:00pm.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Wright makes a motion to approve the January 10, 2023 Selectboard meeting minutes. Marrow seconds the motion. Motion carries 4-0-0.
3. **Additions and Deletions:** None
4. **Members of the Public:**
 - a. Andrea Seaton & Doug DiVello, from Grace Cottage Hospital, appear in front of the Board to inform the Board and the public of the proposed plans for a new Family Health Clinic building. Doug DiVello gives back ground information on the need for the expansion of the clinic. He reports that since 2018 the number of patients seen has gone from 20,000 to 32,000 patients per year. This is significant increase with no additional space or staff. He states that this restriction effects service and the health of the patients. As a result Grace Cottage is proposing an expansion in the form of a new 27,000 square foot clinic building located on the Grace Hospital Campus. The expansion will result in every provider having an office and 2-3 exam rooms to see patients. This creates more efficiency and allows for the hiring of 1 - 2 additional providers to service patients.

DiVello reports that there are two major hurdles in the timeline of the proposed 18 million dollar expansion. The first is obtaining a Certificate of Need from the Green Mountain Care Board. The Board's job is to curtail Healthcare spending and to ensure that the cost of the expansion is not going to be paid for by the patients. He states that Grace Cottage needs to convince the Board to invest 18 million dollars in Townshend. The application for the CON will be processed in March or April of 2023. The Funding of the project is to start with a 5 million dollar seed donation that has been committed. There is a goal of raising 10 million dollars through fundraising. The remaining balance will be raised through financing.

The second hurdle to cross is the Act 250 Commission. This Commission needs to approve of the project. The architects will work with the Commission to achieve their approval.

Wright raises several points and concerns. First, he raises the issue of waiting times in the exam rooms to see a provider. Second, he raises the concern about having parking on the same side as the building to reduce the need to cross the road. Third, he raises the concern that any 27,000 square foot building does not have a comparison to fit in aesthetically. Fourth, he raises the concern of septic issue with a large building and parking areas. Finally, he raises the issue of prioritizing Townshend residents when serving patients, and not to subcontract them out to other facilities.

DiVello responds that he believes those concerns will be addressed through working with the Architects and the Act 250 Commission. He states that the service concerns point to the need to expand. He states that he plans to schedule opportunities to inform and engage with town residents regarding the planned expansion.

Swiger asks if the planned expansion will effect the ER renovation. DiVello says that it will not effect the ER renovations that are due to be completed the end off this May.

DiVello concludes his presentation with the announcement that Grace Cottage has entered into a contract with the Windham County Sheriff's department to provide law enforcement for 40 hours a week during normal business hours. In addition to providing law enforcement at the hospital, the officer will be provide traffic enforcement on Route 35 by the hospital with 60% of the fees going to Townshend. The officer will also be available to provide other services.

Swiger asks, in working with the Brattleboro Retreat, what percentage increase will there be in behavior health patients services. DiVello states that they expect a 5- 7% increase in behavioral health patients. DiVello states that he believes the contract with the Sheriff's department is a win win for Townshend. The officer starts Monday.

5. Correspondence:

a. Windham County Sheriff's Office: Lake reports that there is a meeting being held on February 9th from 10am - Noon at the EMS Academy in Newfane. The meeting is for towns with no law enforcement departments. Lake invites the Board to attend.

6. Warrants: Wright makes a motion to pay warrants 1 - 6;

1. Payroll:	\$11,304.65
2. Payroll Taxes:	\$4,859.99
3. General Fund:	\$6,718.84
4. Highway:	\$1,299.26
5. Highway:	\$5,253.25
6. Highway Equipment:	\$2,626.54

Total: \$32,062.53

Marrow seconds the motion. Motion carries 4-0-0.

7. **Reports:**

1. **Highway:** Holt gives the report. Frisk has informed her that the new Town Garage boiler will be installed this Friday.

2. **Treasurer:** Lake gives the report. Lake reports that the true balance in the General Fund is \$227,728.00. Lake reports that the M&T Bank statement reports \$1,301,478.49 in the municipal investment fund and \$30,000.00 in the checking account.

3. **Town Clerk:** Lake gives the report. Lake report that the Town Clerk took in \$1,487.00 in fees and services.

4. **Chair: Lake** reminds the Taft Road residents to get their letters of concern into the Selectboard. He states that the letters are due by the next Selectboard meeting on 2/14/23. After that the Selectboard will not take any more letters. After that date the Selectboard will take a look at them.

8. **Old Business:**

a. **Common Use requests:**

1. Grace Cottage 5K Run: Swiger makes a motion to accept Grace Cottage's Common use request for May 13, 2023 for the 5K Run. Wright seconds the motion. Motion carries 4-0-0. The Selectboard authorizes Chair Lake to sign on their behalf.

2. Grace Cottage Fair Day: Wright makes a motion to approve Grace Cottage's Common use request for 7/31/23 through 8/6/23 for Far Day. Marrow seconds the motion. Motion carries 4-0-0. The Selectboard authorizes Chair Lake to sign on their behalf.

9. **New Business:** None

10. **Executive Session:** None

11. **Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting:** Tuesday, February 14, 2023 at 6pm.

12. **Adjournment:** Marrow makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. Swiger seconds the motion. Motion carries 4-0-0. The meeting is adjourned at 6:45pm.