

Townshend Selectboard Meeting Minutes – January 21, 2008

Present:

Alene Evans
Joseph Juhasz
Henry Martin, chair

Carole Melis
Jeffrey Russ,
Selectboard

Participating members:

Fredrick Hege, WEB; Kathleen Hege and David Dezendorf, Townshend Elementary School Board Members; Kim Leibow, auditor; Arthur Monette, Planning Commissioner, Steven Adams, WT resident and Kurt Bostrom, road foreman

At 7:00 PM the chair called the ***Meeting to Order*** and recognized ***Participating Members:***

Townshend's Web master, Rick Hege, inquired as to what was the Town's policy on on-line posting from flyers that contain advertising of an income producing company? He could adjust the Town Clerk's computer to "scan" in an entire flyer, instead of repeatedly typing it. The Board agreed with his concerns and these types of "events/flyers" should receive Board approval before posting it on-line and the event coordinator could be charged for this posting.

Hege, Rescue's President, informed the Board that Rescue had signed another 3-year lease with Grace Cottage Hospital. His response that he believes Rescue's responding to all fire calls was probably a procedure of protocol established by Keene Mutual Aid answered Martin's question. The Board believes that these types of non-emergency responses will increase the Town's cost in having Rescue.

Auditor, Kimberly Leibow, told those present that the Town Report will be completed on time and sent to the printer Saturday morning and she will call those who want to proofread the printer's copy (blues) of the Town Report before it goes to press.

K. Hege and D. Dezendorf indicated that the School's portion of the Town Report is finished. The two Boards discussed meeting dates to sign the 2008 Town Meeting Warning, possibly this Friday, if School Board has a quorum; if not Monday, January 28th at 6:30 PM at the Townshend Elementary School. Heges, Dezendorf & Liebow left at 7:35 PM.

Arthur Monette, chair of the Planning Commission (PC), presented a request composed by PC, Elizabeth Garfield, asking the Selectboard to write an endorsement letter to be attached to another application for \$5,000 (Town matching) grant to study renovating the Town Hall. The Town has already received a \$4,000+ grant, which is matched in the PC's budget. The Board's consensus was to support this request and to have their clerk compose an endorsement letter, by tomorrow, to be signed by the chair. Monette left at 7:50 PM.

Steven Adams, of Faverau Corners, West Townshend whose property abuts the Stein's property which Richard Carusona proposes to develop, made a presentation which located the properties and pictures of this area's topography. Martin noted that all parties had received copies of the Army Corp of Engineers response to Carusona's request to gain access over their property, in which Carusona was informed that he must provide the Corp with additional documents and engineering plans. Until then, the Corp will not consider his proposed development. *The Town will write Carusona a brief note that in light of the Corp's response, the Townshend Board will take no further action, until the Army Corp of Engineers has approved with his proposal, moved by Melis, seconded by Martin, unanimously carried by the Board.* Adams left 8:10 PM

1b. Highway Foreman, Kurt Bostrom's report:

- Compactor: he has been unable to find "local" Parkmor parts or service persons, closest is Rhode Island; he suggested in house cosmetic repairs - replacing the fenders, fixing the back door, etc. as the truck itself in great shape. In order to create some of these cosmetic improvements the Town will have to by a mig welder and die grinder. He also found a second hand Packmor for sale for \$9,600 in Massachusetts. The Board agreed that the Compactor needs to be fixed but took no action.
- He will make the presentation at Town Meeting on the purchase of a new backhoe.
 - o The Board discussed how and where to present this expenditure in the 2008 Town Meeting Warning which resulted in a special article to allow the town's people to consider and address this purchase
 - o A clear presentation will have to be made, clarifying its purchase and options of financing.
- The Town believes that Vanness Thomas' insurance should cover the cost of replacing her windshield, as her letter of Jan. 18th indicated a town truck threw a stone cracking it.
- Bostrom reported that while backing up School House Rd to sand, he backed into Rev. Stanley's car which was parked on the curve in the road, destroying his spare tire cover.
- A discussion pursued on posting or not posting town roads during mud season. Bostrom explained while he was road foreman in Jamaica and Wardsboro their roads were never posted. The Town really can't prevent the worst trucks, those who deliver fuel or gas to the residents, from driving on the roads. Loggers know if their log truck will damage a road and if so that they are responsible for repairing it.

Martin moved to sign Highway Orders dated: 12/29, 1/5, 1/12 and 1/19, seconded Russ, unanimously carried by the Board.

1a. Town Clerk / Treasurer's reports:

Town Clerk - Melis spoke to Bean, Town Clerk, on her Memo to charging each department for copies made on the Town Clerk's copier. Melis explained that all expenditures eventually are paid out of one pocket.

Town Treasurer – provided copies of her unanswered e-mails re: appraisals and tax billing of the Heins Home and Wolfe Clinic. It appeared from her e-mail that there could have

been some misunderstanding that the Town voted the Heins Home exempt from paying the municipal, not the educational tax.

The Board agreed that the Town Treasurer's Office should be charged the entire NEMRC's \$1,000 contract for computer/software services: why split out the costs to other departments, it still comes out of one pocket.

The Board took time to read the ***Minutes of the month of December and January 7th, 2008*** *Martin moved to approve them, seconded by Evans. Discussion and corrections were made to December 17, 2007 minutes motion made to accepted the corrected minutes, unanimously carried by the Board.*

3. Pay Bills and Sign Orders:

SM07-08	#14	\$16,183.05 (not paying B&B Associates & Pieciak's entire invoice)
SM07-08	#13	\$ 1,053.67

Discussion followed on bills received from Pieciak and B&B Associates resulting in a note to Pieciak and inviting the Listers and Jim Boyle of B&B to the Board's next meeting.

4. Old Business:

VELCO – the Board agreed to enter its Notice to Appear and Petition to Intervene in the Vermont Transco, LLC and Vermont Public Service Corporation collectively called VELCO to become a participating party at their hearings on their application to increase electricity by constructing new towers within their existing right-of-way.

Air Ducts – Scheduled by Davis & Wasung the air ducts will be cleaned by Catamount on January 31st, it will be an all day process, very noisy.

Certificate of Mileage – The Board signed the State's 2008 Certificate of Mileage.

Letter to Attorney General – Both Evans and Melis were told that their office does not have the resources to pursue the situation that the Town has with the Treasurer.

5. New Business:

- Judy Holden's request to be exempt from the Town Hall rent when she holds Mommy's Market. The proceeds go to her non profit Lisa's scholarship fund.

- Received from the State of Vermont Operations Division notification to submit, within 60 days, the Town's 2008 financial highway plan.
- Received Property Valuation and Review's Annual Report on state wide assessments
- Attorney R. Fisher called the chair to discuss the opportunity presented to him to represent L&G in their new construction process. The Board agreed that Fisher representing L&G would be a conflict of interest, should the Town need legal opinion when issues arise before or during their construction period.
- Martin has been trying to contact Oliver Olson (Jamaica Selectperson) to discuss the possibility of Townshend joining in their quest to acquire reimbursement of additional taxes on the lands lost when the flood control Dams were built on the West River to protect the properties in Massachusetts and Connecticut. Representative Hube has been contacted for follow up.

6. Other business:

Mark Stevens obtained WW-2-2974 permit

7. Executive Session: none at this time.

8. Date of Next Meeting: Monday, Jan. 28th joint meeting at Grade School 6:30 PM to sign 2008 Town Meeting Warning.

At 10:40 PM Melis moved to adjourn, seconded by Martin, unanimously carried by the Board.

Respectively submitted,

Cynthia Davis, clerk of the Selectboard