

Townshend Selectboard Meeting Minutes – Jan 7, 2008

Present:

Alene Evans
Joseph Juhasz, 7:30
Henry Martin

Carole Melis
Jeffrey Russ,
Selectboard

Participating Members:

Joseph Daigneault, fireman; Kurt Bostrom, road foreman

The vice chair ***called the Meeting to Order*** at 7:00 PM and recognized ***Participating Member***.

The questions asked by Joseph Daigneault, Treasurer of the Townshend Volunteer Fire Department regarding fiscal year vs. calendar year budgets were answered by the Selectboard. He still remained confused as to when the Keene Mutual Aid assessment of \$10,631.00 would be paid as the budget reflected only \$9500.

Daigneault was please to report that the Dept. had received a \$500 grant for the Vermont Community Foundation.

The Fire Dept would like to reestablish using the Town's gasoline. The Board, informed Daigneault, that no one has ever accused anyone of misusing or taking gasoline from the Town. After discussion *Evans moved to allow the Fire Department to use the gas from the Town Barn tank, seconded by Martin, carried by the Board.* The Board instructed the road foreman to get a minimal amount. Daigneault left at 7:30 PM

1b. Highway foreman's report, given by Kurt Bostrom:

- The crew and equipment have been handling the many snow storms and he has had no problem in getting salt or reordering another 2,000 yards of sand
- While driving Truck 8 he was involved in an automobile accident. The other driver's insurance company, Encompass, has been in correspondence.
- The Compactor needs a great deal of body work as it might not pass inspection Bostrom believes that putting money into repairing it would be to the Town's best advantage. He was asked to get the necessary parts for repair. Discussion followed on the collection of solid household waste. The chair asked that everyone think about returning to using tokens vs paying cash for your bag of waste.
- Evans was told that a road crew person was seen sanding near Mike Charles' driveway for the delivery of his hay. The chair stated that the Board stands behind him, as being in command and the road crew will follow the procedure of getting his permission to use town equipment.
- Brian White from Brookline Rd will be operating the snow blower.
- Juhasz was informed that McFadden of the Tax Department had retired. His replacement advised Juhasz that our FEMA money was in the hopper and should be received within a week or more.
- Bostrom was asked to remove the snow on the westerly side of Route 30, which will have to be trucked away as people believed that the snow, piled on the Common, had too much salt which would kill the trees.

Martin moved to pay and sign the following, seconded by Russ,

Highway Orders week ending: 12/15 and 12/22, *unanimously carried by the Board.*

Bostrom left at 8:15 PM.

1a. Town Clerk and/or Treasurer:

The Town Treasurer provided a copy of the Municipal Equipment Loan's check.

The Board discussed Article #9 of last years Town Warning, passed by those in attendance, to pay the Equipment Fund \$50,000. After discussion the Board will *instruct the Town Treasurer that this \$50,000 can be added to the Equipment Fund on this date and she must assure and provide the Board with documents that this expenditure was book kept as a 2007-08 expense, so moved by Martin, seconded by Evans and unanimously carried by the Board.* Proceeds of this transaction is to pay off the loan with TD Banknorth for Truck #8.

As old business: Martin reviewed the Treasurer's Nov. 17th Memo and to discuss the cleaning of Town Hall heating ducts and new filters. After discussion, *Melis moved to accept the quote, \$1330.00 from Catamount to clean the duct work and to instruct their clerk, Davis, to work in cooperation with the Town Treasurer as to timing, etc. seconded by Martin, carried by the Board.* Evans no

And it appears that the new procedure in getting the mail is working to the Board's satisfaction.

2. The chair instructed their clerk to provide copies of the ***Minutes of Dec 10, 17 & 28th*** for approval at their Jan 21st meeting.

3. Martin moved to ***Pay Bills and Sign the following Orders***, seconded by Russ,

SM07-08 #14	\$34,822.63
SMPR 08 #12	\$ 1,964.76
SM07-08 14A	\$36,032.34

Martin will call Tim Fogg of Pieciak Company for more information on their bill before payment is made and the status of the Town's present financial department. Evans spoke of the urgency to approve the Town's Personnel Policies.

4. Old Business

The chair was updated on the following:

- Those expressing to appear at the VELCO hearings
- The awarding of the Town's insurance to Vermont League of Cities and Towns.
- Mary Jane Grace suggested to Evans other means for the Town to get documentation proving the Wolfe Clinic should be considered tax exempt. Martin will sign the letter to Grace Cottage Hospital requesting additional information.
- Richard Carusona's request of a driveway access had a contingency that the Board writes at letter to the abutter, Steve and Clare Adams explaining that the Town received the old Route 30 from the Government when the Dam was built.

Town Hall Armoires – Litchfield updated Evans, by e-mail, that he will be providing the Board with a written estimate to build them.

State reply to our 2007 reappraisal – letter dated Dec 12th from Dept of Taxes (William Johnson) accepted John Boyle's explanation to their questions about Townshend's 2007 reappraisal

VT Coalition of Municipalities – no action taken on this correspondence

Next budget workshop – Wednesday night inviting the Road foreman to discuss the Highway's 2007-08 budget.

5. New Business

- Melis questioned the affect of the COD number, reported by Property Value and Reviews Certificate of Equalization on Property Value (Effect 1/1/2008), between assessment and true value as being inequitable. Juhasz volunteered to find what impact the COD has.
- Fisher and Fisher's letters of January 4, 2008 announcing his rate increase and proposing that Town establish specific times as to when to meet with him. He will be asked if he would bill on a fiscal year.
- VLCT's Dec 5th Memo explaining Renewal of Contributions – no action taken
- The Board was unable to accept Walter Meyer's resignation as Lister because it did not clarify his intentions. He stated that he would still work if no one applied for the position.
- *Martin moved to sign off on signing the Fire Protection of our curtains done by VT Painted Theater Curtains, seconded by Evans, unanimously carried by the Board*
- The Board's clerk will verify Townshend mileage before they sign the VT Certificate of Mileage
- Announcement and books on ANR's Jan 31st meeting to discuss their Draft Basin 11 Water Quality Mgmt Plan (books in file)

6. Other Business – no action taken

St of Vermont: WW permit 2-2937 to Peter Morgan; application from Mark Stevens
Cert of Insurance Griswold, Renaud, Valley Crane

7. Executive Session – none at this time.

8. Time of Next Meeting: regular meeting, January 21st.

*Melis moved to **Adjourn at 9:30PM**, seconded by Evans, unanimously carried by the Board.*

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Davis, clerk for the Selectboard.