

Townshend Select Board Meeting Minutes

October 20, 2008

Present:

Kit Martin, Chair
Alene Evans, Vice-Chair
Carole Melis
Joseph Juhasz, by phone
Brud Sanderson

Participating Members:

Kathy Hege (TSB), David Dezendorf (TSB),
Glen Beattie (TSB subcommittee),
Richard Lucier (Lister), Mike Finnegan,
Kurt Bostrom (Road Foreman)
Cynthia Davis, Bill Shuttleworth (VTA),
Harry Colombo (VTA), Gene Currie (VTA)

1. **Call To Order:** At 6:58 P.M., chairman Martin called the meeting to order and connection was made with Juhasz in Montpelier by speakerphone:
2. **Members of the Public:**
Dick Lucier (Townshend Lister) was recognized and asked about the Errors and Omissions letter of September 18th, and if he knew what errors and omissions insurance coverage covered. Juhasz requested a copy of Listers minutes and correspondence, and all documentation of Valley Cares reevaluation deliberations, if any, not yet given over to Atty. Fisher, and offered to connect with our insurance representative to clarify our policy. Discussion ensued as to the Town's bonding against loss due to mistakes versus adjustment due to tax abatement; the difficulties of interpreting Act 75; the desire for improving interdepartmental communications; and the Listers need for full-staffing. Lucier left at 7:16 P.M.

Juhasz provided an update on the audit services of Fisk, Reed and Love of Bennington, to whom the Town's financial statements have been sent for preliminary review, estimations of cost to do both a regular audit, and a Federal audit specific to A133. Juhasz went off-line at 7:24 P.M.

Kathy Hege (TSB Chair) addressed the Board regarding TSB's intent to isolate school business on Town Meeting Day by issuing Warning separate and distinct from that of the Town - to prevent there being a co-mingling of Articles, and uphold Act 68 requirements that School

District and Town business remain severed and independent of one another. Martin asked how this would change Town Meetings from the way they had been conducted in the past, and was advised by Hege and Dezendorf that any changes would mostly be in parliamentary procedure - that School District business would be Warned to be taken-up at a set time, either immediately following the election of a Moderator, or following the lunch break, but because Warned distinctly from that meeting to conduct matters specific to the Town of Townshend, would be coincidental to the Town Meeting, but not concurrent or a part of it. Martin expressed seeing no particular obstacles with the proposed change in format, but asked that the Select Board have time to ponder the matter and meet with the TSB at a future date.

Hege informed the Board of a meeting held with the CFO of WCSU, regarding recurrent School District cash-flow problems, and requested that the Town make certain funds available to the School District 10 days, rather than 20 days after taxes are collected. After discussion, Melis moved: **To make a minimum of \$50,000 available to the Townshend School District within ten days of taxes being collected**, seconded by Martin and unanimously carried by those present.

Glen Beattie (TSB School Bus subcommittee Chair) informed the Board of a survey being sent to students' parents regarding the future of bus transportation services, and asked the Board to consider the impact upon parking and traffic flow on Routes 30 and 35, and around the Town Common, if the bus were no longer provided. After brief discussion, the Board requested that Beattie provide the Board with data resulting from the survey, and a projection of the car count, if possible. Hege, Dezendorf and Beattie left at 7:52 P.M.

Bill Shuttleworth of VTA was recognized and explained to the Board the VTA's commitment to bring wireless telecommunications services to all areas of Vermont by 2010, and, in particular detail, the role of Townshend, Vermont as a test platform in VTA's ongoing studies. Limited service in Townshend is set to begin within the next few weeks, as soon as matters with E-911 are worked through. Lengthy general discussion followed, and Shuttleworth specifically assured the Board that neither Townshend nor State taxpayers would

incur any costs. Bostrom left at 8:25 P.M. and Shuttleworth, Colombo, Currie, and Finnegan left at 8:40 P.M.

The Board briefly discussed the duration of these meetings and Martin made a motion: **To change the start-time of regular Select Board Meetings, beginning on November 3rd, to 6:00 P.M.**, seconded by Sanderson and unanimously carried by those present.

3. Approval of Minutes:

Martin made a motion: **To approve the Minutes of September 15, 2008**, seconded by Melis, and after discussion and corrections made by Melis and Evans, unanimously carried by the those present, as amended.

Martin made a motion: **To approve the Minutes of September 29, 2008**, seconded by Melis, and after discussion and corrections made by Melis and Martin, unanimously carried by the those present, as amended.

Melis made a motion: **To approve the Minutes of October 6, 2008**, seconded by Martin, and after discussion and corrections made by Melis and Evans, unanimously carried by those present, as amended.

4. Reports:

4a. Town Clerk's Report: none at this time.

4b. Treasurer's Report: none at this time.

4c. Bookkeeper's Report: none at this time.

5. Highway Foreman's Report:

Evans relayed to the Board Bostrom's assessment that approximately \$5000 will be needed to replace tires on Town vehicles, and Martin conveyed report of an incident of recycling container misuse, cost of which, to the Town, he will ask Bostrum to tally.

6. Warrants: Martin made a motion: To pay the Warrants, seconded by Evans and unanimously carried by those present.

Payable Oct. 20th	\$25,292.25	Fund General Fund
	\$ 6,580.46	Payroll

7. **Old Business:**

Town Barn Project: A brief discussion occurred regarding the forthcoming vote on November 4th, and whether the Select Board, as a body, endorsed the proposal of actually replacing the Town Barn, as proposed, or endorsed the proposal as a referendum of the public will. Evans objected to placement of the “Select Board” as return address on the informational flier, mailed out, explaining that having done so communicated to the public that the Board was promoting the project. Melis argued that since the Board had signed the Warning for the November 4th vote, the Board had accepted being bound to the proposal by the outcome of that vote. Martin argued that issuance of the Warning put the proposal before the public for decision, but that because the Select Board had never voted on the proposal, specifically, it had taken no official stance. No action was taken at this time.

Town Hall Parking: Melis raised a question as to the right-of-way between the Dutton Gym and the Town Hall, for which a draft letter to Emily Long, chair of the Leland & Gray School Board, had been prepared but apparently never sent. No action was taken at this time.

Town Hall Cabinets: Hunt was asked to contact Al Litchfield for an assessment of modifications needing to be completed prior to cabinet staining and finishing, and Sanderson offered to ask Lovergine to provide a sample of matching stain color for the Board to see.

Town Common Fountain: Martin offered to follow up on work to be initiated by contacting Jeff Russ.

Ancient Roads: No action was taken at this time.

Streetlights: After discussion, Melis moved: **To table any action to turn off streetlights this fall, but reconsider plans this coming spring**, seconded by Sanderson, and unanimously carried by those present.

Travel/Mileage Reimbursement: Melis reminded the Board that the present rate of reimbursement for travel was \$0.25, and that the figure needed to be updated to reflect more-realistic costs. Hunt was

asked to try to find out how much money had been spent on travel reimbursement during the preceding year.

Davis distributed copies of the Personnel Policy in final form to the Board.

Floodplain/Building/Septic Ordinances: Melis reminded the Board that the Floodplain Ordinance, as modified, was before the Planning Commission for review.

8. **New Business:** None at this time

9. **Correspondence:** Martin read a letter from VLCT requesting that the Townshend Select Board adopt a resolution opposing state funding cuts in local highway aid programs. Melis moved: **To sign the resolution**, seconded by Martin and unanimously carried by those present.

Martin read and moved: **To sign agreement with The Army Corps of Engineers conveying to The Town of Townshend license to use the road across the top of the dam through December 31, 2013**, seconded by Melis, and unanimously carried by those present.

Cory Sleeper's letter dated October 15, 2008 was read. Melis moved: **To accept Cory Sleeper's resignation from the Planning Commission with regret**, seconded by Martin, and unanimously carried by those present.

10. **Executive Session:** None at this time.

11. **Meeting Schedules:**

October 21st at 6:00 p.m. Budget Workshop
October 27th at 7:00 p.m., Special Town Barn Meeting
October 28th at 6:00 p.m. Budget Workshop
November 3rd at 6:00 p.m. Regular Meeting

12. Melis moved: **To adjourn at 10:10 P.M.**, seconded by Sanderson and unanimously carried by the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig K. Hunt, secretary