

## **Townshend Select Board Minutes**

### **Special Meeting November 10, 2008**

#### **Select Board:**

Kit Martin, Chairman; Alene Evans; Brud Sanderson; Carole Melis; Joe Juhasz, by phone

#### **Members of the Public:**

Effie Chamberlain; Dale Davis, Town Barn Committee; Jon-Michael Muise, Townshend Garden Committee; Jaime Cone, Brattleboro Reformer

**1. Call To Order:** Martin called the meeting to order at 6:05 P.M., connection was made with Juhasz by speaker phone, and Martin recognized Effie Chamberlain of Valley Cares. Ms. Chamberlain made reference to a Valley Cares publication from 2004 which forecast tax payments to the Town from Valley Cares within 10 percent of the current assessment, and, referring to a report in the Brattleboro Reformer of November 4, 2008, requested that the Select Board send a letter to the editor in order to clarify that report. Ms. Chamberlain offered a letter drafted by her suggesting what the Select Board might want to include.

Martin read the letter aloud to Juhasz, and moved: **to enter Executive Session at 6:10 P.M. to discuss the matter with the Board**, seconded by Evans and unanimously carried by those present.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 6:25, the call with Juhasz was ended, and Martin proposed that the Board draft a letter in response to the Brattleboro Reformer article of November 4, 2008. Ms. Chamberlain was thanked by those present and left at 6:32 P.M.

Dale Davis was recognized and Martin suggested that the Select Board reappoint the Townshend Town Barn Committee to continue with its work subsequent to the Town vote of approval on November 4, 2008. Discussion ensued with particular concern for the necessity to address the environmental cleanup at the garage site prior to any other substantive work being done. Melis noted that in the proposal approved by the Town, \$30,000 had been budgeted for that cleanup, but that better estimates were needed, and a source of short term funding in anticipation of securing the bond. Hunt reminded the Board that such a committee, if appointed to provide recommendations to the Board, would be composed of individuals volunteering their time, have no decision-making authority, and except for incidental expenses, such as postage and phone calls, no authority to spend taxpayer money.

Evans made a motion: **to reappoint the Town Barn Committee to continue with work on this project, but without using the Select Board's name in any official capacity**, seconded by Martin and unanimously carried by

those present.

In other business, Martin read a fax memo from Gaye Rowe of the Office of the State Treasurer to Meri Roberts, Bookkeeper for the Select Board, received on November 5, 2008, denying the Town's application to the Vermont Municipal Equipment Loan Fund for financing the backhoe, because not received in the State office prior to the October 15, 2008 deadline. Melis made a motion: **to restart the process and submit the application prior to the April 15, 2009 deadline**, seconded by Sanderson and unanimously carried by those present.

Jon-Michael Muise arrived at 6:45 P.M., to thank the Board for its support of the Townshend Garden Committee, and promised to provide the Board with a progress update on the Committee in the future. Mr. Muise left at 6:50.

Martin made a motion: to enter into Executive Session to discuss drafting a letter to the Brattleboro Reformer, seconded by Evans and unanimously carried by those present. The Board came out of Executive Session at 7:20 P.M., and after discussion, the secretary was asked to type a draft letter to the Brattleboro Reformer for Select Board members to review prior to the next meeting.

Martin suggested that in order to expedite and simplify Town budget deliberations, that Evans and Davis, with the Bookkeeper and Town Treasurer, draft a preliminary budget for presentation to the Select Board, and that Board members divide into groups for budget review. Melis moved: **to have the Board divide into groups for budget review**, seconded by Evans and unanimously carried by those present.

Melis moved: **to adjourn at 7:30 P.M.**, seconded by Sanderson and unanimously carried by those present.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig K. Hunt, secretary