

Townshend Select Board Meeting Minutes

December 22, 2008

Present:

Select Board - Alene Evans; Brud Sanderson; Carole Melis; Joseph Juhasz; Kit Martin (absent);

Members of the Public - Kurt Bostrom (Highway Foreman); Bob Crego (Valley Cares) ; Irv Stowell (arrived at 6:06); Jeff Russ; Paul Lewis (arrived at 7:00), Craig Hunt, Select Noard secretary

- 1. Call To Order:** At 6:00 P.M., Vice Chair Evans called the meeting to order and welcomed Bob Crego of Valley Cares, Inc., present for a Public Hearing to finalize funding transfers between the Town and Valley Cares, Inc. By general consent the Board decided to attend to regular business while waiting for any members of the public to arrive for that Hearing.

Melis made a Motion, regarding bills submitted from Willow Glen Builders for Town Common fountain work, that: **In exchange for a three-year Warranty on work completed by Willow Glen Builders, the Board would authorize payment of the \$4760.00 owed on the contract**, seconded by Juhasz and carried by those present. Evans requested that Kurt Bostrom solicit bids from contractors for cleaning and painting the cast iron fountain.

Evans recognized Irv Stowell, who gave a report on the costs of WSWMD's trash and recycling programs within the 17 member towns, and the anticipated costs to taxpayers in FY 2009-10 for WSWMD services. Stowell left at 6:21.

Melis made a Motion: **To have Evans sign on behalf of the Select Board the Valley Cares Development Grant Funding final reports**, seconded by Sanderson. Melis then asked Bob Crego why these reports were not due in September, as indicated on the forms. Bob Crego explained that additional time was granted to Valley Cares by the Project Manager to finalize the numbers making them due at the end of the year. The Motion was then unanimously carried by those present, and as Bob Crego briefly explained the history of funding use and the purpose of the documents, Evans signed the forms.

Juhasz asked about the need for the Town to conduct an A-133 Federal audit, and Bob Crego explained that because the Town of

Townshend directed those funds to the Valley Cares Partnership, the Partnership would be responsible for the cost of any audit, and Bob Crego agreed to forward a letter to the Board affirming that.

Melis made a Motion, **To adjourn the Public Hearing at 6:32 p.m.**, seconded by Juhasz and carried by those present. Bob Crego left at 6:34 p.m.

General discussion continued with Jeff Russ regarding the Town Common fountain, and the Board requested that all bids for fountain repairs / repainting be submitted by the first meeting in February.

Melis reported upon a notice from VLCT that State Highway aid payments to towns were not to be forthcoming in January 2009, with the amount projected by VLCT for Townshend to be as much as \$27,000.00. Juhasz explained that funding cuts by the State were going to become more severe in the coming months.

Bostrom discussed the need during the past week for use of a log truck to clear brush from the ice storm, mostly along Grafton Road, and Sanderson made a Motion, **To retroactively authorize the Highway Foreman to employ a log truck for 2 days, or a maximum of \$1600.00 in costs, to clear roadways**, seconded by Melis and carried unanimously by those present. Discussion continued with respect to specific ice storm damage, the possibility of FEMA funding to offset costs, and the need to hire, briefly, day labor to do chainsaw work. Bostrom and Hunt left at 6:50 p.m.

Sanderson asked what amount the Board had authorized to spend on architectural designs for the Town Hall. By general consent, the Board decided to review the budget appropriations for Town Hall renovations planning and wait until the January 5th meeting to authorize payments of a bill submitted by architect Wesner.

Paul Lewis of Willow Glenn Builders was recognized and was asked to provide a three-year warranty of his work upon the Town Common fountain, to which he agreed. Lewis left at 7:04 p.m.

The Board approved, by general consent, that Melis compose and send a letter to Gerold Noyes of the Department of Environmental

Conservation, regarding the Town Barn hazardous waste cleanup, and request that that department approve a plan to address the matter by deed restrictions and other oversight guarantees, as proposed by David Balk of DB Environmental Consulting.

At 7:15 p.m., Evans moved to have the Board enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel policies and issues. At 7:24 p.m., the Board returned from Executive Session. Evans made a Motion, **To have Joe Juhasz speak with Meri Roberts, and include Anita Bean and Joe Daigneault, if available, to determine her time spent doing bookkeeper, as opposed to Treasurer's, work,** seconded by Sanderson and carried by the Board.

The Board decided to conduct employee reviews of Hunt, Carlson and Roberts at the first meeting in February, with Bostrom to conduct an employee review of Highway Department employees in January.

The Board decided to have Hunt contact Davis and get corrections to the Personnel policy handbook drafted, as determined necessary by the Board during a previous meeting. It was requested that Hunt also follow up on the status of the E-911 reporting forms, and on cell phone service to be provided by VTA; for Juhasz to contact VLCT about the deadline for applying for a municipal loan to fund the purchase of the John Deere backhoe; and for Sanderson to contact Joe Lovergine regarding finish work to be done on the Town Hall cabinets.

In brief discussion about a request by Glenn Beattie for the Board to provide a casual advisory to the Elementary School Board, regarding whether to continue providing bus service, or setting bus replacement money into a reserve fund, two members were in favor, and two were opposed.

2. **Adjournment:** Juhasz made a Motion, **To adjourn at 7:45 p.m.,** seconded by Melis and carried by those present.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig K. Hunt, secretary