

## **Townshend Selectboard Meeting Minutes - February 4, 2008**

**Present:**

Alene Evans  
Joseph Juhasz  
Henry Martin

Carole Melis  
Jeffrey Russ,  
Selectboard

**Participating Members:**

Richard Lucier (Lister) and Jim Boyle (B&B Associates);  
Kurt Bostrom, road foreman

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

The chair thanked Lister, Richard Lucier, and professional Appraiser, Jim Boyle for attending tonight's meeting. Board members stressed that this meeting is definitely not to find fault or personal inadequacies with anyone's work but there are areas which the Board questions.

Lucier talked about the necessity of the Listers to have the assistance of a knowledgeable person to call upon who has the computer expertise to electronically transmit information or forms driven by the State. He continued, this is the most important reason the Listers want to hire Boyle. The Board noticed that the Town was paying Boyle to "enter data", when in actuality he is using State and NEMRC software, to calculate new appraisals or redefine those found to be incorrect due to new regulations. Boyle spoke of the Listers working well together and that they are very familiar with the area. He could work one day a month and be on call. His hours would be minimal but would increase as the Town gears up in preparing its Grand List.

Lucier and Boyle both understood the concerns of the Board. Lucier indicated that they have a long list of properties to inspect and that it may be possible the State may insist on reappraising every 2 to 4 years. Boyle and Lucier left at 7:50 PM

**1b. Road** Foreman, Bostrom reported:

- need to purchase a new plow for "Bo's truck. He did notify VLCT of this incident;
- need more sand
- is having difficulty in getting salt. The State's salt shed in Jamaica has very little salt left, so we cannot borrow any more.
- He was given copies of UniFirst (uniform supplier) bills to investigate the billing and crediting of Bo's lost uniforms.
- He has not had time to start repairing the Compactor's body.

Road Commissioner Orders for weeks ending 1/26 and 2/4 were discussed with Bostrom and signed for payment. Bostrom left at 8:10 PM

**1a. Town Clerk and/or Treasurer:**

No action was taken by the Board on the Town Clerk's Memo explaining what was shredded in the Office.

*Martin moved to approve the **Minutes of January 21, 2008**, seconded by Melis. Earlier Melis had given the Clerk minor grammatical changes which were made. Minutes were approved as corrected, unanimously by the Board.*

*Martin moved to **Pay Bills and Sign the following Orders**, seconded by Melis*

SM07-08      \$9,987.87    Plus:\$ 91.50 from election grant &  
\$3038.75 from \$10,000 reserve to pay B&B's invoice

SMPR 08      \$4673.51

*unanimously carried and signed by the Board.*

**4. Old Business**

**Historical Preservation** – the Planning Commission provided the Board with a copy of Planning Commissioner, DeSiervo letter to the National Historical Preservation inquiring of a grant to renovate our Town Hall. Martin's only issue is the installation of a sprinkler system.

**Grant** – Our fire department received a \$500 grant and the Town was copied a letter regarding Keene Mutual Aid's receiving a grant.

**L&G new construction** - The Town was copied on L&G's transmittal to the Environmental Commission.

**Warning** – After calling Fisher & Fisher, Melis was given the advice on an Article in which the Select Board cannot appoint a tax collector. Accordingly, Melis has drafted an amended Article.

**CVPS's expansion** – continually receiving copies of those entities seeking appearance in CVPS's hearing; Townshend has applied.

**Valley Care** – provided a copy of their Progress Report to the Vermont Community Development.

**Insurance check** – Board received a copy of a \$4,653.17 check to repair damaged Truck #7.

**FEMA** – Town received \$352.98 from FEMA. Additional monies are still owed the Town.

**Town Meeting Lunch** – Grace Cottage Hospital has agreed to provide lunch on Town Meeting Day.

**Professional Auditor** – Martin has not received any response from Joseph Pieciak of Pieciak & Company regarding their statement of services provided. He proceeded to seek legal advice about the situation.

### **5. New Business**

*Martin moved to have Russ Plumbing repair the cracked septic pipe(s) found in the Town Hall basement, seconded by Evans, carried by the Board. Russ abstained.*

Select person, Juhasz, announced that he will be “living” in Montpelier as State Auditor Salmon has been called to active duty. He will avail himself to the Board to provide copies of appropriate State statutes or other information as they pertain to Town issues.

Melis conveyed some of her conversation with Oliver Olson, Jamaica Select person, who has been investigating the 1980 freeze on the amount of taxes paid by the States of Massachusetts and Connecticut to the Vermont Towns where flood control dams are built. He has also involved Rep. Hube.

### **6. Other Business**

Town Meeting – The Board agreed to warn for a workshop Monday, Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> 7:30 PM to discuss warning, budgets, personnel policies and Flood “ordinance”.

**7. Executive Session** – none at this time

**8. Next Meeting: Feb 18<sup>th</sup> and pre town meeting Feb. 26<sup>th</sup>**

*Russ moved to **Adjourn** at 9:15 PM, seconded by Melis, unanimously carried by the Board.*

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Davis, clerk for the Selectboard

