

Townshend Selectboard Meeting Minutes - March 3, 2008

Present:

Alene Evans
Joseph Juhasz
Henry Martin, chair

Carole Melis
Jeffrey Russ,
Selectboard

Participating members:

Kathleen Hege, chair and David Dezendorf, TES
Keith Clark, Sheriff, Richard Carusona, Brud
Sanderson, Stevens Associates, Arthur Monette, (PC) and Kurt
Bostrom, road foreman

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

Kathleen Hege, chair, and David Dezendorf of the Townshend District School Board requested the **withdrawal of the School's portion** from the Town's Capital Expenditure Reserve with interest (\$19,410.46+/-) before April 1st.

Side note: the School's 3rd quarterly payment was received on time. Left at 7:05

Sheriff Clark explained that the Windham County Sheriff's Department does not have 24 hour dispatch service or police coverage. If some one has an emergency they must call **911**. Open communication exists on their availability to handle or assist in an incident between the 2 law enforcement agencies. Martin was concerned that the only service provided Townshend residents are to have verification of their vehicles VIN number.

Sheriff Clark will provide information on traffic tickets issued and the amount of monies paid to the State/Town.

Sheriff Clark reminded everyone of the Windham County Sheriff Department's Open House, Wednesday, March 19, 2008 at 6:00 pm to hear concerns and input of information not featured in your monthly billing. Left at 7:30 PM

After reading about ancient roads, **Richard Carusona** had questions and, in his mind, some of the issues remain unclear so he decided to attend tonight's meeting to find out *who gets the land?* He was advised that it would depend upon how to locate an ancient road to determine if it was discontinued, effective statues or if the "road" land was deeded to abutting land owners. Members repeated that the Town was not going to get in the middle of a personal dispute. Carusona came prepared with copies of his "file" for everyone. Board members conferred that further research of the records is needed before determination of classification, ownership, rights-of-way etc. of this road which Carusona plans use to bring in heavy equipment to dig test pits on the Stein property. He left at 7:55 PM

Brud Sanderson, from Stevens Associates presented, for discussion, the new plans locating the Town's deeded right-of-way to the back of the Town Hall behind Dutton Gym's anticipated addition.

He also reviewed a conceptual concept for additional parking behind the Town Hall, accessed through L&G.

Sanderson responded to Planning Commissioner, Arthur Monette question that additional hydro studies would have to be done to allow the Town to hook into L&G's septic system. Monette suggested, for consideration, installing a new septic system on the Town's leased land.

After reviewing the Impact Questionnaire, *Martin moved to sign the Municipal Impact Questionnaire associated with L&G's ACT 250 in accordance with the revised plan SKC-3, seconded by Evans.* This questionnaire *does not include response from the Fire Department, Rescue or Police.* Sanderson was given the signed Impact Questionnaire.

David Liebow, possible nominee for Town Moderator, spoke of procedures to be conducted at Town Meeting: the Moderator will not allow personal attacks on job performance and will remove person(s) from the meeting after being warned 3 times to stop; to allow everyone to speak before allowing previous persons to speak again and our State representatives will be instructed that they have 7 minutes to make their presentation and 3 minutes for questions.

All agreed with Evans suggestion to invite resident's to have dialogue with the Board on subjects such as: disposal of solid waste (compactor), repairing sidewalks, ancient roads, parking, etc. under Non-Binding Business. Sanderson left at 8:20pm; Liebow left at 10:10 PM

1c. Kurt Bostrom, highway foreman: budget, backhoe, storms, equipment, personnel reported:

- The rear end of Truck #3 is being repaired/replaced, approx. cost \$8,000. Martin asked that the highway crew nurse the town equipment as long as they can and felt that the backhoe Article should not be changed.
- The Board addressed the fact that the Highway Department needs new trucks, which can take up to 8 – 10 months for delivery and enough time to seek finances.
- Additional salt and sand has been ordered
- Bostroms response to Melis' inquiry as to why individual road crew are allowed to call the Sheriff's Department was that he is not at their location for knowledge of the vehicles make, model or license for removal.

Road Commissioner's Orders 2/25 & 3/1 were discussed and signed.

Arthur Monette, Planning Commissioner (PC) announced his presence to hear Carole Melis' update on the **Floodplain Ordinance**.

Arthur Monette, Planning Commissioner (PC) asked to hear an update on the draft of the proposed Flood Plain Ordinance. Melis stated that the owner of the property, within the Flood Plain, should have the burden of proving compliance with the FEMA Flood Hazard By laws adopted in 2007, not the Town, and so has prepared a preliminary draft of revisions to discuss with the Board. The PC will have time to review and make amendments or additions to the Ordinance and the Board will communicate with them on any changes.

Monette informed the Board that there will be 4 vacancies on the PC which appointments should be filled as soon as possible after Town Meeting. Left at 9:05 PM

1a. Liquor Control Board - Harmonyville Store & Windham Hill Inn

Martin moved to approve the liquor license application from Harmonyville Store (2nd class) and Windham Hill Inn's 1st class license, seconded by Melis, unanimously carried and signed by the Board.

Because of new regulations the Department of Liquor Control (DLC) now receives half of the Town's liquor application fees.

1b. Town Clerk and/or Treasurer:

Town Treasurer copied Young Spring's check as the Town made double payment. The Board hopes that the Town hasn't made additional double payments. It cost \$686.35 to mail this year's town reports. The Board questioned her authority to adjust GCH interest, as shown in her detailed transactions on adjusting GCH interest.

2. Martin moved to approve the Minutes of Feb. 21, 2008, seconded by Russ clarifications followed:

First page 2nd paragraph – Oliver Olson, Jamaica Select person is inquiring as to how they arrived at the number to be frozen.

1b Bo misunderstood his conversation with Kurt and took it as his authority to call the Sheriff's Department. (Since then the plowing across the town road has been corrected) Left at 8:45 pm.

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

SM07-08 #18 \$11,930.40 PRSM07-08 #17 \$ 2,592.69

The Board discussed their concerns on the blind payment to the Town Treasurer for reimbursement to those property owners whose pre-bate had been recalculated by the State. Davis was asked to see what document the Town Treasurer could provide to verify the blind \$2000+/- payment.

unanimously carried and signed by the Board.

4. Old Business

Professional auditor – Last Thursday Martin made two phone calls to Pieciak which were not replied to.

Downed split rail fence – Martin spoke to Mr. and Mrs. Cathcart's about the procedures and timing to replace their split rail fence, destroyed one evening with the grader while winging back the snow. The Town has received VLCT's accident report for completion

Taxes to be paid – Evans presented her recalculated numbers for page 14.

Common usage – The Board approved Grace Cottage's request to use the Common August 2nd for Hospital Day

Dining Room amoirs' – Al Litchfield finally submitted his quote of \$6,120 to build the amoirs (cabinets) in the Dining Room for individual department use and storage.

5. New Business

- VHFA announced the percentage to reduce the assessment of the properties used as West River Assisted Living and Senior Housing.
- *Accepted with deep regret, Elizabeth Garfield's resignation as Planning Commissioner and from the Telecommunication Committee, made by Martin, seconded by Evans, unanimously carried by the Board.*
- Received two written letters for appointment to the Planning Commission (A. Monette and S. Holt)

6. Other Business

- Tabled signing Excess Weight Permits: Valley Crane, Carroll Concrete, Griswold, Lynde Well Drilling
- Weekly receiving additional correspondence regarding Docket 7373 – CVPS' transmission expand
- Certificate of Insurance from Camp Precast Concrete

7. Executive Session - not at this time

8. Next meeting – after March 3rd's Town Meeting 3/4; *March 17, 2008*

9. Russ moved to Adjourn at 10:10 PM, seconded by Evans, unanimously carried by the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Davis, clerk for the Select Board