

Townshend Selectboard Meeting Minutes – May 5, 2008

Present:

Alene Evans, acting Vice Chair
Joseph Juhasz
and Henry Martin (chair)

Carole Melis
Brud Sanderson,
Selectboard

Participating members:

Anita Bean, Town Clerk (Mary E. Taft acct)
Stanley “Mike” Bills, Jr. Lauren Believeau (Dept of Safety)
Bill McNamera (VELCO) and Kurt Bostrom, road foreman

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

1a. Town Clerk, Anita Bean asked the Board to address the **Mary E. Taft Fund** (monies available for needy West Townshend residents) as it is depleting every year by costs of publication and Probate Court filing fees and this money is earning very small interest. Evans asked that other legal recommendations to best serve this fund.

Bean also agreed to initiate the “Town Hall Rental Policy” to those who request use of the Common; everyone will complete the policy, even those who are not charged. Bean left at 7:05 PM

Lauren Believeau, State of Vermont Dept of Safety (802-282-4014) and Bill McNamera, CVPS representative (802-770-6372) answered questions on **VELCO's** pending petition, to increase their ability to provide additional electrical service by building another transmission line on the remaining lands in their right-of-way, by They left at 7:30 PM

Stanley “Mike” Bills, administer and member of the **Ancient Roads** Committee came to pick up and return the completed State of Vermont’s Ancient Roads Grant Committee members are Bills, Arthur “Tom” Lyman, Carole Melis (administrator assistant) Irvin Stowell and Bob Anderson, teacher at Kindle Farm but many more volunteers are needed to walk the “road” or to research Town Records to determine and locate roads that are not classified on the State Highway Map. Bills left at 7:45 PM

Melis will ask the Town Clerk if she would allow, an evening to open the office, to allow committee persons to research Town Records.

1b. Highway foreman Kurt Bostrom reported:

- After riding the roads with Sanderson, Bostrom has prepared the paving specifications for .8 of a mile - to finish last year’s Rte 35 (Sugar House project) to the newly rebuild culvert opposite Greenwood Lane and to start paving past the Stowell house (on Rte 35) to Valley Cares’ (West River Assisted Housing complex) first driveway. Bostrom was asked to find out when Townshend would be receiving matching paving money from the State.
- He has completed and returned the grant for the Windham Hill Road project.
- John Deere’s amortization payment schedules to purchase a new backhoe was discussed.

- The road crew was finally able to fix the problem with the Compactor not starting for Cole after Bostrom was present when it would not start.
- Still grading roads; Trk 3 is up and running; Bostrom will prepare a sketch for the Compactor fenders in order for Osgood to fabricate new ones.
- The results of picking up bagged roadside trash filled two trucks.
- Will be laying cold patch – Rte 35 and Windham Hill Rd.
- The body work still needs to be done on Truck # 4

At 7:55 PM Melis moved into Executive Session under Title 1, Section 313 to discuss personnel, inviting Bostrom and Davis, seconded by Evans, unanimously carried by the Board

At 8:10 PM Melis moved out of Executive Session, seconded by Sanderson, unanimously carried by the Board.

Discussed 2 new reports of damaged property:

- Annette Leigh's fallen stone post - Bostrom stressed that it could not have been struck by town equipment but probably toppled due to the heavy wet snow being plowed off Rte 35
- He will revisit and talk to Howard Cutts about his stone wall.

BDM will be street sweeping this week and has increased their hourly rate by \$8.00.

Tomorrow Bostrom will have an MRI on his shoulder

Martin wanted to discuss where, when and how to repair the sidewalks. Martin, Sanderson and Bostrom will walk them and contract John Alexander, District 2 Highway to see what issues the State Highway has in "adjusting the parking spaces" in front of the Town Hall. Martin suggested to recess this meeting to update the Board on various issues.

Melis announced the Town Barn Adhoc committee will be meeting at her place, Thursday at 4:00. Bostrom left at 8:25 PM

The Board signed Road Commissioner's Orders ending: 4/26 & 5/2

1a. Town Clerk and Town Treasurer:

- The Board tabled taking any action after reviewing a Silver Star Banner Proclamation received by the Town Clerk.
- The Town Treasurer provided copies of correspondence for information only.

2. Melis moved to accept the corrected Minutes of April 21, 2008, seconded by Evans, carried by the Board. Martin abstained.

3. Evans moved to Pay Bills and Sign the following Orders, seconded by Melis, unanimously carried and signed by the Board,

SM07-08-22	\$13,849.76	PRSM07-08-21	\$ 2,224.28
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4. Old Business

Correspondence – Melis presented 2 letters prepared for the Board to review

Flood Ordinance – Melis has not started redrafting the Ordinance.

Flood Hazard By Laws – Davis presented another Flood Hazard By Law for Board signatures after which will be filed in the Town Records.

Pieciak & Co. – Juhasz asked Mr. Pieciak to call Martin to discuss Board issues on Pieciak's billing procedure.

Traffic Ticket money – The Treasurer has been receiving the State's monthly reports which were attached to the Town's ticket check. She had never read them.
Juhasz believes that Sheriff Departments will be handling more traffic duty.

Windham County Sheriff Dept. (WCSD) :

- Martin asked that the Board sit down to review and amend the Town's existing contract.
- Martin believes the Town should attend WCSD's May 19th meeting at 4:00 PM to hear how other animal control officers handle dog issues, because WCSD wants to standardize departmental response. He will invite pound keeper, Mitchell Putnam to attend.

Town tax 08-09 – The Board agreed with Martin that a Special Town Meeting should be warned to address monies raised for the General Fund and Highway Department and this FY's highway short fall. Davis was asked to follow up on proper language for these Articles.

Personnel Policy – Evans suggested a 5 – 7 pm on May 12th

Town Hall Grant – The Board had set aside \$4,820 from the Planning Commission's budget as matching funds for this grant but has not transferred the \$180 as requested by the Planning Commission.

Chittenden Business Service – Evans asked that the paperwork of these business services be kept for possible later consideration

Bookkeeper Screening Committee – The Board will ask Hedy Harris if she would be temporary chair now in charge of scheduling the screening meeting to accomplish submitting a recommendation to the Select Board, before June 1st, as time is of the essence.

Street Lights – Melis had highlighted those street lights she believes should be turned off, Martin asked for a copy to review. The property owners of record will be notified of this action and to respond with any concern, as well as CVPS. CVPS will be asked to change the exiting lights to more efficient, cost saving ones.

Notice of Hearing – David Parker vs Townshend, June 6th 10:00 AM

Insurance deductible - VLCT requested payment of the \$500. deductible for the Cathcart's incident.

L&G's ACT 250 - Stevens & Associates forwarded a copy of added information requested at L&G's ACT 250 hearing.

Lost Dam Taxes – The Board asked that Rep. Marek be written a letter asking him to support Rep. Hube's quest to increase payment of taxes from those State's who receive the benefit of these Dams in trying to relieve "down country" flooding.

Minutes – Members believe more detailed discussion needs to be included in the Minutes or may be they should consider taping the meetings, as some Boards already do.

5. New Business

- VLCT's Annual Municipal Census Survey will be completed
- Issues of concern were expressed after reading Post Oil Solution and Town "agreement" to use the Common, beginning June 1st, for a farmers market on Thursday's. Some of their concerns: starting time should be later as the students still hold activities on the Common; who's responsible for damages; additional provisions and it reads like a legal contract not an agreement.

6. Other Business

- VLCT's continued action requested FY09
- CT RiverTrans request for FY 08-09 money
- StofVT – Murray's subdivide 2,3 & 4
- FY '09 PILOT payments

7. Executive Session – None at this time

8. Next meeting - **May 19, 2008**

9. At 9:10 PM Evans moved to **Recess** to May 12th at 5:00 PM, seconded by Juhasz, unanimously carried by the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Davis, clerk for the Selectboard

Recessed – May 5th to Monday, May 12th beginning at 5:00 PM
without a formal agenda just updates and reviewing Personnel Policies

Present: Alene Evans, Henry Martin, Carole Melis and Brud Sanderson, Select Board.

At 5:00 PM the Board will ask the Bookkeeper Screening Committee to take notes not minutes as the reviewing of personnel would be considered an Executive Session.

Martin reported that John Alexander, District 2 Highway had no problems with what the Town planned to do in creating additional parking spaces in front of the Town Hall. Accordingly, Sanderson presented a preliminary sketch, which when approved will accompany the necessary permits. The Board discussed how to fund this project and to continue with sidewalk repairs.

At 5:15 PM Evans moved in to Executive Session, under Title 1, Section 313 to discuss personnel, seconded by Martin, unanimously carried by the Board.

At 5:35 PM Melis moved out of Executive Session, seconded by Sanderson, unanimously carried by the Board.

The Board's next meeting will begin at 5:30 PM possibly in Executive Session or to continue reviewing the Personnel Policies.

Reviewing the Personnel Policies continued from Page 10; Davis was asked to provide copies for the Board's understanding of the various Statutes noted in many paragraphs.

*At 6:30 PM Sanderson moved to **Adjourn**, seconded by Melis, unanimously carried by the Board.*

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Davis, clerk for the Select Board