

To: The Townshend Select Board
From: The Governance Committee

The governance committee and the Select Board recently held a workshop to discuss the committee's report. As a follow-up, we would like to summarize, briefly, our findings and suggestions. A complete copy of our findings is available to anyone who wishes to read it on the unofficial town website and also in the town clerk's office.

Simply put, the current method of administering the town is not working. The deficiencies outlined in the report lead to an inability to get things done and the waste of taxpayer money. We believe the town needs to decide how to address the problems we have identified and implement a concrete program for change. As a first step in the process, we suggest that the Select Board ask a representative from the Vermont League of Cities and Towns to conduct an informational session on some of the options available. The approximate cost of this would be \$410. One of the options that may be explored is the move to a Town Manager form of government. A change to a Town Manager can only be initiated through a petition from the citizens of the town. It is imperative, therefore, that we do our best to encourage the public to attend. It is our hope that a presentation from VLCT will help clarify our options and provide a roadmap for moving forward. In addition to clarifying the process we hope that the VLTC will be able to help the town plan for the budgetary needs for both implementation and future costs. Once a date is set, we recommend that a town-wide mailing be sent to invite the citizens of Townshend to participate in the decision-making process that will determine the future of our town.

This document respectfully submitted by:
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