

**Joint Meeting
Townshend Elementary School Board and Townshend Selectboard
to discuss and sign 2007 Town Meeting Warning
January 29, 2007**

Present:

Glen Beattie

M. David Dezendorf

Kathleen Hege

Judy Tietz, School Board

Berenice Brooks

Alene Evans

Henry Martin

Jeffrey Russ

Irvin Stowell, Selectboard

The Selectboard chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM as Stowell questioned how did the article to reduce the Lister Board to 3 appear in this Warning without a petition? He continued: they are elected; we do not control elected officials; only 2 members have been working, thus 2 members do not constitute a majority; can't arbitrarily change appraisals without a complete reappraisal and we can't continue to pay \$60 per hour. His fixed income makes it more difficult, each year, for he and other to pay their property taxes.

Evans responded after meeting with Anne Bernhardt of B&B who agreed to present the Selectboard with a proposal to assist the Listers to continue providing appraising services in keeping up with property appraisals. Evans continued, performing Town business has become more complicated, consuming and more in depth, as the Auditors have expressed in hiring a professional auditor, may be the Town should consider hiring a professional appraiser. She agrees the rate of \$60 per hour was excessive as B&B's proposal was a copy of Weston's. Presenting this Article will allow the voters to decide whether or not to decrease the elected members of Board of Listers from 5 to 3.

Overall discussion continued: offering a salary of \$11.00 per hour and costs; absence of Listers; employing a data entry clerk; reducing B&B's latest proposal to comply with budgeted numbers; maintaining CLA and grand list. K. Hege added that the consequences and implication of Act 185 is directly associated with Grand Lists.

As chair, Martin will speak to the voters about this at Town Meeting.

Martin proceeded to read, number and discuss the proposed March 6, 2007 Town Meeting without discussion or changes.

Hege reported that as of today the Elementary school budget is down .06%. The TES Board has yet to discuss the possibilities and ramifications of having to borrow money, as their share of the monies received, from the present quarterly tax payments, will become insufficient, as TES has upfront expenses such as L&G, District and administrative assessments take a big chunk off the top. She discussed with their treasurer the additional cost to borrow money, would penalize Townshend under the ACT 60 cost per pupil.

The new enacted Act 185 has the State downloading the resident property owners pre bate directly to the Town Treasurer, to be credited to their Town property taxes; the Town holds this pre bate money, along with those who paid their taxes in full, making only quarterly payments to TES. She stressed that the two Boards need to seriously discuss another payment schedule.

Martin added that, in the past, the Town has had to borrow money to pay the schools. He will discuss with the Town Treasurer all of the ramifications, as he recognizes the need to find an effective way to solve this financial dilemma.

Hege questioned how the Town would be able to collect taxes on August 15th as there could be unforeseen problems in implementing Act 185 of sending prebate money some time after July 1st, to be completed/corrected by September. She spoke of the additional cost to send out corrected tax bills. And, Towns still has to decide how and when to handle the prebate monies. Evans added that the State keeps giving us headaches with their changes and feels that the quarterly tax payments helps the tax payer.

Martin motioned to accept the March 6, 2007 Town Warning as read, seconded by Evans unanimously carried and signed (after reprinted) by those present.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Davis, clerk for the Selectboard