

## Townshend Select Board “special” Meeting — January 9, 2007

Present

Berenice Brooks	Jeffrey Russ
Alene Evans	Irvin Stowell,
Henry Martin	Select Board

Participation:

Jennifer Joyce, auditor

The Board reviewed and discussed the auditor’s 2007-08 budget with Jennifer Joyce.

Joyce sought guidance as to when to “publish” their Amended 2005 town report financial pages — suggested during the same time frame as Statute dictates — warning voters of the Town Meeting 10-days before Town Meeting. Discussed with the Board the following:

- the printing company has been advised not to receive any e-mailed documents without Auditor’s knowledge/approval
- they will address the need to explore hiring a professional auditor in their report.
- **The Selectboard reminded the Auditors of the Towns peoples vote to publish the names in the vital stats.**
- Auditors have taken the position if written reports are not received by their due date, the report will not be published in this year’s Town Report.
- was it the Auditors responsibility to find out if Grace Cottage Hospital would be preparing the Town Meeting luncheon? Martin wondered was the hospital not thanked; was the hospital dissatisfied, Brooks would inquire.

**Old business under the January 15<sup>th</sup>** meeting: After speaking with Andrea Seaton, Brooks asked Martin to call Seaton who spoke of their personnel wanting to attend their own town meeting and her husband who takes the time of from his work to assist her in presenting this luncheon. Seaton continued, the new Hospital’s CEO felt that this was not a good year to end the luncheon; it was a good way for the new CEO to meet townspeople. Martin added, donations will be collected.

The Board wanted to apprise the Auditors that the Town Treasurer added salaries to the Select Board’s tax bill line. **The Treasurer gets the tax bills out at the Selectboard expense. However the collecting of taxes is the Treasures expense as voted by the people.** The Board will ask the Treasurer to add these salaries to her new line item “tax colctn-clcl . . . \$”.

Brooks reported on a conversation with W. Meyer who had a person contact him for use of the Gazebo to be married on and was told by the Town Clerk that the Select Board was going to have the Gazebo torn down. Stowell knows of someone who met with the Town Clerk to reserve the Gazebo for a wedding, and was told that she needed to get a new calendar to post Common usages.

**Old Business** for the January 15<sup>th</sup> minutes. After further investigation Brooks found the alleged Gazebo information to be an unfounded rumor and apologized for the commotion created.

Martin’s conversation with Dominic Cloud of VLCT’s Municipal Assistance Center: he had spoken with Michalina Wasung, Town Treasurer; Statutes are clear as to duties of a standing treasurer; the Select Board cannot hire someone to collect taxes; the treasurer has been elected as tax collector; advised the Board to allow the Center to go through the process of working with town officials (which

he needs names of the personnel); Cloud indicated that many officials take work home, Statutes do mention what things can or cannot be removed — but who does the monitoring?

Budget process — after continued discussion, the Board's consensus was to level fund the Town Treasurer's salary, opening up public discussion on salaried personnel. The Board crunched numbers over and over, revenues added; members are not satisfied with the General Fund outcome;

Stowell needs additional highway information before establishing highway taxes to be raised.

The draft of the 2007 Town Meeting Warning was presented for their, at home, review.

Old Business:

Last weekend, Stowell had a conversation with Michael Charles who inquired as to why the Town did not attend the September 28, 2006 hearing (*Harris v Charles v Townshend, Harris, Malcolm*) which he relayed to Martin. Martin called Attorney Robert Fisher, Monday morning, explaining that the Court had accepted the signed paperwork of the Town accepting the road, in question, as a town road. So the Town did not have to appear in Court at the hearing. Fisher continued, as a result of this hearing, the Malcolm's, thru their Attorney Lawrin Crispe, now want the Town to allow public access over a pent road on Charles' property. Martin reaffirmed with Attorney Fisher, the Towns' position of not willing to enter into any additional litigation to figure out the status of the roads in question.

At the same time, Attorney Fisher had forwarded Attorney Gillies' corrected "Requests to Find", relative to the above new legal matter. Attorney Fisher will notify Attorney Gillies that his "Request to Find" did not have the appropriate attachments. Stowell was given a copy of the correct Town Records laying out of the "pent road" for review.

**Other Business**

Earlier in the evening Martin was received a hand a written resignation, which the Board asked that he presented tonight. He read Dale Thiel's resignation from the Planning Commission, she was moving her business to New York but would be available for outside consultation. After discussion *Martin moved to accept, with regret, Dale Thiel's resignation from the Planning Commission, seconded by Stowell, unanimously carried by the Board.*

*Brooks moved to adjourn at 9:15 PM, seconded by Stowell, unanimously carried by the Board.*

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Davis, clerk for the Select Board