

## Townshend Selectboard Meeting Minutes— April 2, 2007

### Present

Michael Donahue          Carole Melis  
Alene Evans, vice chair   Jeffrey Russ

### Participating Members:

William Eckhardt, Carol Stone, rep. CT Transportation,  
Elizabeth Jones, Sheriff Keith Clark, Irvin Stowell,  
Fredrick Hege

Alene Evans, vice chair called the **Meeting to Order** at 7:05 PM and **recognized Participating Members:**

William Eckhardt spoke of his conversation with Barbara Bedortha's on the Forestry Program being taught at Townshend Elementary. Students have adopted a Common tree and expressed interest in watching the process of fertilizing them.

Introductions preceded Carol Stone's, from CR Transportation, presentation encouraging the Town and Valley to participate in establishing a commuter route from Brattleboro to Jamaica, Monday — Friday. She answered all questions and presented a commuter demographic from the latest census in support of a commuter route. Townshend has 143 commuters and asked if Townshend would contribute to this project (\$28,000 for a town; matching funds of \$2,000 or two towns combined participation of \$1,000 each). The upper valley (Bellows Falls) participation has increased in size necessitating the purchase of new buses. E-mail addresses were exchanged, [cstone@crtransit.org](mailto:cstone@crtransit.org) and Stone said that bus schedules are available in the town office. Stone left at 7:30 PM

As a follow up to her letter Elizabeth Jones, president of the Townshend Business Association (TBA), wanted to meet and personally invite a Select person to become a member of the TBA — Evans volunteered.

Before compiling individual contracts Sheriff Keith Clark is personally seeking feed back from Towns served by the Windham County Sheriff's Department (WCSD). He plans to run the department as a business, keeping it viable and more active within the County. He listened to all comments and answered all questions. Clark, Eckhardt & Jones left at 8:00 PM

### **1b. Highway foreman, Kurt Bostrom reported:**

- Cersosimo's sand quote will not be extended for stockpiling; next year's sand quote is up \$.75 (\$6.75 delivered) good until March 2008.
- Met with Mr. Testa who appeared content with the Town's response. Bostrom visually noted that his mailbox and post showed no damage, but found the post to be rotten.
- Hasn't found time to meet with Marchant regarding Valley Cares driveway access to install electrical service beneath the Grafton Rd.
- A lady ran into the Town's rake. During his conversation with WCSD he informed them that the road was muddy. He was instructed to take down the necessary information, which he had done.
- The Board honored Ed Smith's request by instructing the Town Treasurer to have his vacation paycheck ready on April 11<sup>th</sup>.
- He has not received a call back, from the two messages he left with the Town of Windham re: supporting Townshend repair to Windham Hill Rd.
- New truck should be done this Wednesday or Thursday.

- Reviewed the State's 2006 Bridge Inspection Report, which reported the bridges to be in satisfactory condition. Melis expressed her concern on what she believed to be the horrible condition of the East Hill Bridge and of the Keystone built bridges that are not traveled across.
  - *Melis moved to sign the Town's receipt of the 2006 bridge inspection reports, seconded by Russ, unanimously carried by the Board.*
- Stowell was invited to meet with Bostrom & Russ, tomorrow morning 7:00 AM, to assist them in the preparation and reporting of our 2007-08 Highway budget to the State.
- He signed Excess Weight Permits for AS Clark, Camp Precast, Hutch Crane & Pump and Northeast Driver Qualifier. Bostrom left at 8:12 PM

**1a. Town Clerk and/or Treasurer:**

Town Treasurer copied the Board with her correspondence to Dept of Finance & Management re: opening an account to receive grant money and her Memo to Crego indicating that an account had been opened.

No Board action on the Town Treasurer's request for other officials, departments, commissions, etc. to present their invoices to the Selectboard early enough for payment.

Copied Treasurer's requests for Certificates of Insurance from WE Beattie Welding; DP Gould & Son; Bloom Estate Care; Bartlett Tree and (MEC Roofing)

The Board's consensus was to allow the Town Clerk to hang cancer awareness ribbons on the Town Hall.

*Melis moved to approve the **Minutes of March 19, 2007**, seconded by Donahue, corrections were to be made on pages 2 and 5. Melis moved to approve the corrected minutes, seconded by Donahue and unanimously carried by the Board.*

*Melis moved to **Pay Bills and Sign the following Orders**, seconded by Evans*

SM06-07 — 19 \$22,636.96 plus tax refund \$1,320.40

SMPR06-07 — 18 \$1,879.14 Road Com Ords Wk ending 3/17, 3/24 and 3/30

Melis will investigate the high telephone rates being charged by Verizon

*Unanimously carried and orders signed by the Board.*

**4. Old Business**

**Old (Ancient) Roads** —Melis acknowledged that the Town should ~~throw up~~ inspect all roads, thus eliminating the expense of separately searching each road. Discussion continued regarding the interpretation of the statutory requirements. She and Stowell engaged in an impassioned exchange of procedures. Evans asked that the minutes reflect that the Board has concerns about class 4 roads and trails, but at this time, is not prepared to get involved.

**Minutes** —As the Board's clerk, Melis felt that she should have a chance to review the pre-draft minutes, correct the spelling, etc. as these minutes eventually become historical records. After intense discussion everyone agreed to have Town Clerk, Anita Bean continue proofreading the pre-draft minutes before placed upon the WEB

**D. Cloud, MAP (Municipal Action Plan)** —Town officials signed up or initialed if not interested in seeing the schedule to speak with Mr. Dominic Cloud — Friday, April 1<sup>st</sup>. Russ signed up followed by Evans who will be accompanied by Donahue and Melis.

**2007 Appointments** —The Board honored the Planning Commission's (PC) recommendation to appoint Brad Horn as Townshend rep to the Windham Regional Commission and discussed at length the PC's newly staggered terms. *Melis moved to appoint those names presented and listed, with the exception that Sleeper's Planning Commission term remains until 2008, seconded by Donahue, unanimously carried by the Board.*

**Dynamic Striping** —*Evans moved to pass over completing Windham Regional Commission's questionnaire regarding the dynamic striping on Rte 30 entering Town, seconded by Donahue, unanimously carried by the Board.*

**Re-appraisal** —Stowell was given B&B Associates March 27<sup>th</sup> letter to read, which updated the Town's re-appraisal as being on track.

The Board was copied with a letter from the Department of Taxes apparently answering the Listers' request to re-calculate our CLA. Discussion followed: Evans volunteered to call the Dept. of Taxes for clarification and additional information regarding the Listers' request to re-calculate our CLA.

Evans asked that the Selectboard be copied with correspondence from officials, departments, commissions, etc sent to the State or other municipal organizations, so that the Board can be apprized as to why it is in receipt of a response.

**Valley Care** —Melis reported that after speaking with Robert Crego, the Town would not be charged for the second title opinion regarding Valley Care's loans/grants.

**Highway Reserves** —After reviewing the 6-month highway financial reports Stowell informed Evans that he could not locate the crushing reserve nor could he find it in the 2007 Town Report. After minimal discussion, the Board added to the Town Treasurer memo requesting the status of this reserve.

**Classification of surface water** —Davis reported on her conversation with Tom Lyman, Planning Commissioner, who wanted to come tonight to discuss the Planning Commission's classification of surface water. Members remembered attending the meeting with WRC and State Officials on the present classification of surface water. Davis informed Lyman that the Planning Commission would be first on the Board's April 16<sup>th</sup> meeting agenda.

## **5. New Business**

No Board action taken:

State of VT Program Development — Structures Section — 2006 Bridge Inspection Reports  
State of VT — marking centerline on Class 2 highways, given to the road foreman

There was considerable discussion and no conclusion to Melis' question as to how the Town would apply the income sensitive pre-bate to the tax bills.

## **6. Other Business**

Planning Commission sent 2 Memo's:

- to recommend the appointment of Brad Horn as our representative to Windham Regional Commission
- another from Agency of Natural Resource requesting information previously submitted by the Board's clerk.

WSWMD letter dated 3/26/07 requesting 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter payments, also noting an outstanding \$180.95 balance. The Board added to their Memo to the Town Treasurer asking her to investigate our !05-!06 outstanding balance.

St of VT: - Project Review Sheet — Mark & Parsha Lovergine & WW permit WW-2-2560 (Pin# NS-07-0104)  
- Dept of Forests, Parks & Recreation - Trees for Local Communities Grant Announcement

**7. Executive Session** — none at this time

**8. Time of Next Meeting** - April 16, 2007; attending workshop with D. Cloud on April 13<sup>th</sup>.

*Melis moved to **Adjourn** at 9:15 PM, seconded by Russ, unanimously carried by the Board.*

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Davis, clerk for the Selectboard