

Townshend Selectboard Meeting Minutes - April 21, 2008

Present:

Alene Evans
Joseph Juhasz
Henry Martin (not present)

Carole Melis (6:25 pm)
Brud Sanderson,
Selectboard

Participating members:

Al Litchfield; Ken Cathcart and Craig Hunt

Evans called the meeting to order as 6:00 PM (Melis called to say she'd be a little late)

At 6:10 PM Al Litchfield appeared and explained his plans on how he will construct 4 individual cabinets on the dining room wall adjacent to the vault. The Board indicated to him that this project needs to be completed as soon as possible. After discussion *Evans moved to have Al Litchfield build the cabinets at his quoted price of \$6,120, seconded by Sanderson, carried by those present.* Litchfield indicated that he usually asks for at least one half of the money, before construction, in order to buy materials.

Litchfield spoke of the great job the police is doing in slowing down speeding cars in West Townshend village area. Litchfield left at 6:20PM.

The Board continued reviewing the proposed Personnel Policies until 7:00 when Evans recognized participating members:

Kenneth Cathcart, the owner of the damaged split rail fence which Bostrom confirmed that he took down with the grader's wing. Cathcart provided copies of Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) response on establishing its replacement value at 50% depreciation - \$1,098.00. He received only one quote of \$2,196.00 and he would like 100% reimbursement. Relocating the fence's location would be added expense.

He agreed with Bostrom's two suggestions (1) in the winter put wips (flags) up on the fence showing its location along the roadway and (2) to sign a Memo of Understanding between the Town and them.

Juhasz moved that the Town pay for the difference between the insurance payment and estimate, minus clean up, seconded by Sanderson, 3 voted yes; Evans voted no as she believes this is setting a precedent. Cathcart left at 7:20 PM

The Board received letters from two property owners whose property had been damaged:

- Phoenix's mail box
- Annette Leigh informed the Town that it had broken off, at ground level, one of her stone post marker along Grafton Rd (Rte 35). Bostrom had reviewed the situation and believes that repeated plowing to clear the road of the heavy, wet winter snow toppled the post. The Board's consensus was that the Town was not liable. After discussion *Juhasz moved to write a letter to Annette Leigh indicating that the Town was not liable for her damage, seconded by Sanderson, unanimously carried by the Board.*

1b. Kurt Bostrom, highway foreman's updates and report:

Injury – Last January, Bostrom had informed the Board of his shoulder injury. Because of its persistent pain, he has submitted an insurance claim to VLCT.

New backhoe – Bostrom was asked to get more precise financial information to purchase a backhoe through John Deere's plan of 4.95%, no prepayment, having a front and back payment. The deposit of \$25,000 will be available after July 1st and the Town will apply for a State Municipal Loan.

Road Foreman Network – He did put in an order to purchase 18" flat lined, full boar, plastic culverts (budgeted \$3,000+/-).

Truck 3 – He was told that the faulty installation of battery cable by a crew man, caused the fire. He asked many times and was told yes that it was installed properly. Bostrom was instructed to write up a report on the incident.

Minute correction – Royce will be out of work 8 – 10 weeks. The newly hired part time road crew, Scott Dorman is working out well.

Gravel Pit – Bostrom will try to get rid of the large fuel tanks stored at the pit. Assuming they are empty, this could be a difficult task

Road signs –

“No shoulder” type sign should be purchased and installed, where the truck accident occurred, to make the public aware of no should in this area.

“Pedestrian” signs needed for the increase resident traffic from West River Housing and Assisted Living's 2 housing unit. The Board believes these signs should be paid for by the complex owners

Road foreman's continued:

- The 2 week road side mowing will begin August 11th.
- Truck #3's plow is in and needs to be installed.
- The road crew will be attending Springfield Public Works May 14th rally
- Grading the roads is going well, muddy areas still pop up
- Tomorrow the road crew will start applying cold patching

The Board signed Road Commissioner's Orders: for weeks ending 4/12 and 4/19

1a. Town Clerk and/or Treasurer:

The Town Clerk prepared and presented for Board signatures two Summary Reports of the Mary E. Taft Acct. for 2006 and 2007. *Melis moved that the Board sign the 2006 and 2007 Summary of Account of the Mary E. Taft, seconded by Sanderson, unanimously approved and signed.*

No action was taken on the Town Treasurer's copied FYI correspondence - tax monies to be received and to be spent and Current Use – hold harmless payment*

2. Evans moved to approve the *Minutes of April 7, 2008*, seconded by Melis, after corrections were made and Melis moved to approve the corrected April 7th minutes, seconded by Evans, unanimously carried by the Board.

3. Melis moved to *Pay Bills and Sign the following Orders*, seconded by Evans
SM07-08-21 12,236.79 plus State reappraisal 686.88 & Election Grant 87.50
PRSM07-08 1,444.02
unanimously carried and signed by the Board.

4. Old Business

Street Lights – Melis reported on her prepared documents of the existing number of street lights, their wattage and location. CVPS is billing the Town for 2 missing lights and at very different wattage. Hunt assisted Melis, adding that the State has no street light requirements. Melis will keep the Board updated on her progress, maybe eliminate some. Hunt left at 8:10 PM.

Ancient Roads – Melis reported that the Ancient Road grant had been received and will bring it to the Town Treasurer for review and to establish an account. She added, the Town should now apply for 40% of the grant, then followed by 2 - 30% increment payments.

Pieciak – Juhasz did not receive a return phone call from J. Pieciak so he believes the next step is to write another letter. He was given a copy of the Town's contract letter as he has found other available accounting firms to perform this work.

Ticket revenue – Juhasz confirmed that the Town should have been receiving the State's ticket revenue reports.

Bookkeeper committee – The Board determined the duties of committee persons: review applicants; select those that they wish to interview, follow up on their references and make recommendation to the Board. Seeking committee persons will be posted, asking them to submit a note of interest before May 4th.

No Board action taken on the following:

Grace Cottage's addition of a 12 x 14 room – Dr Shafer's letter explained the purpose and location of this new room

Town Hall grant – The Town was not successful in receiving a National Trust grant.

PILOT funds – VLCT request Legislative Action Alert from the Town to legislators not to lower or shift PILOT funds.

DAM reimbursement – Juhasz is aware of the forward movement for Towns to receive increased tax money on lands lost who have a flood control dam.

Larry Stein (R. Carusona) has applied to ANR – copied his Project Review Sheet

5. New Business – No action taken

- Received and reviewed Kearley Fuel Services' blanket contract for service call and parts. Davis was instructed to see if this contract applied to the Town.
- VLCT's Model Facility Rental Agreement and their notification of hiring new contractor to begin appraising Property Values.
- The Board asked the vice chair to sign the supporting letter to consider RESCUE in grant applications

6. Other Business

- StofVT copied DuGrenier Assoc. application for a Certificate of Public Good and Net metered power
- Social Service thank you letters: Council of Aging, Brattleboro Area Hospice
- Pacholski's received a Waste Water permit WW -2-1074

7. Executive Session – none at this time

8. Next meeting - May 5th

9. At 9:00 PM Evans moved to Adjourn, seconded by Melis, unanimously carried by the Board.

Respectively submitted,

Cynthia Davis, clerk for the Selectboard