

Townshend Select Board special meeting May 22, 2006

Present

Berenice Brooks
Alene Evans,
Henry Martin, chair

Jeffrey Russ
Irvin Stowell
Select Board

Participating Members

Michalina Wasung, Town Treasurer;
Carolyn Lanning & Kimberly Liebow, auditors

At 7:00 PM the chair called this special meeting to discuss town equipment *to order*

Martin first wanted to address those present that he was remised in signing the Bill of Sale he “screwed up”. Larry Gould had offered to purchase Truck #6 from the Town, at John C. Stewart’s trade-in \$15,000 (actual cash value \$15,000). This transaction should have been brought before the Board last Monday, he forgot, he had a lot on his mind.

Earlier in the day, Laning had spoken with road foreman Bostrom (who could not attend this meeting) where she wrote down figures, \$15,000 was exact. And she commented, we all feel that he knows what he’s doing. She feels that it was okay to sell a vehicle in town to a community person.

One of her previous jobs ~~were~~ **was** a car sales person, so Laning tried to explain the difference between trade in vs. cash value. She was surprised that the dealership traded in one truck (a figure that can be manipulated to best serve the dealership), and then, at the same time, offered the Town a cash value (can be considered as receiving a check in the exact amount) on the second truck. You don’t see dealerships just driving around to buy your car. She questioned what was the value of this truck, if she could only get on line to checkout blue book value! At this point, the chair asked Wasung if Laning could use her computer to go on line to acquire this information.

Laning returned unable to download exact book value numbers, she didn’t have enough specific information and could not do a 550-sized truck. But she did copy two scenarios for comparison and Board review: selling the same vehicle to a dealership compared to private sale.

Unaware, not sure of the actual numbers and no one had brought copies of this transaction but they believed that the \$20,000 note, signed at the May 15th meeting was the sufficient money’s remaining to purchase the new truck.

Last Wednesday event, when Evans popped in to say Hi to Miki, she was so surprised to see a signed Bill of Sale on the Miki’s desk, immediately she called Martin. Tonight, Evans asked who and when was this topic brought up; who typed the Bill of Sale (Stowell said he had), signed 30 hours after the May 15th meeting; why wasn’t she called/informed (Stowell said he had called her 2 or 3 times) as Brooks and Russ were (they approved of the sale). Stowell explained that had had spoken to Mike Stewart who welcomed the idea of not having to “deal with this truck”. It would be to the Town’s best interest to sell it to some who would purchase it at its actual cash value.

Evans said action of this, must **be** ~~have been~~ done at Board level. Laning thought it had been already voted.

Martin interjected the Town can't wait 3 weeks to act on this. He again apologized "for his action of screwing up, he wasn't thinking, he had a lot on his mind". Brooks disagreed that Martin should have to take sole responsibility, as she had agreed, over the phone, with the sale. Martin has no problem selling the truck to Larry; he has always been there for the Town: assisting during floods, fires or other disasters, even pulling out stuck equipment all without charging the Town. Russ commented **because of the nature of the sale** the Board can't cut Gould any slack; now what does the Board do? Stowell believes the new truck will be here this week. It appears that the Town dropped the ball. If we should advertise for this sale, it wouldn't be until June 19th, stated Martin, for the Board to receive fair bids. People need time to inspect it. Stowell added there is no law saying the Town needs to acquire bids before selling or securing highway maintenance; but ethically it appears cloudy.

After complete discussion Martin moved that the Town trade-in Truck #6 to John C. Stewart for \$8,000; also to sell Truck #5 to John C. Stewart for \$15,000, this money put toward the purchase of the new truck, seconded by Evans, carried by the Board. Stowell abstained. A letter will be written to Larry.

Some time last week, Martin was asked, because a municipality buys the truck, is it under warranty? That's all he needed to hear. Stowell reflected that previous bought trucks were warranted; the Town has even bought extended warranty coverage. Because this is Bostrom's bally wick, Martin believes he should check on its warranty.

Martin moved to authorize the Town Treasurer to pay John C. Stewart the balance of the purchase price for the new truck, not to exceed \$22,000, seconded by Brooks, unanimously carried by the Board.

Wasung was given no direction on how to handle the motor vehicle transfer.

*At 7:50 PM Brooks moved to **adjourn**, seconded by Stowell, unanimously carried by the Board.*

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Davis, clerk for the Select Board