

Townshend Select Board Meeting Minutes — July 3, 2006

Present:

Berenice Brooks
Alene Evans
Henry Martin, chair (*arrived 6:10 PM*)

Jeffrey Russ
Irvin Stowell,
Select Board

Participating Members:

Fredrick Hege, Rescue

The vice chair **called the Meeting to Order at 6:00 PM** (*rescheduled so members may participate in July 3rd activities*) **Participating Members:** John Nopper (*rescheduled to next meeting*); Fredrick Hege, Rescue

1a. Town Clerk and/or Treasurer:

Having no 2006 Town Reports available or financial statements the Select Board could not create RESERVES; the Board awaits the 6-month year-end financial status

Documents, notes and bills left by the Town Treasurer, Michalina Wasung were reviewed:

Payroll: on July 4th she along with her clerk, Carol Redmond will prepare payroll checks and has made arrangements for them to be mailed Wednesday morning; she will be away Wed & Thurs to attend a funeral

Stamped envel: not considered her request to purchase them because of her written note - she may have made this request earlier

Tax rate: provided a spread sheet listing the 2006-07 monies voted to be raised, so she can sent out the tax bills by July 10th for the August 10th due date. She also noted that the Listers have not yet lodged the 2006-07 Grand List.

Martin immediately called Lister chair, Howard Lott, asking him would the Grand List be lodged by next Monday, July 10th - Lott's response yes. Martin suggested recessing this meeting to set a tax rate.

1b. Highway foreman, Kurt Bostrom presented:

- Copies of his **paving spec's**, which did not include reshaping shoulders. The Town should not use its sandy gravel it washes away; instead use good shoulder materials. Three companies have inspected the 2 paving projects.
- Copies of his **truck spec's** and those provided to Jamaica (same size vehicle); whatever sizes the vehicle should be built to be driven hard under difficult situations. He and Stowell discussed the advantages and disadvantages of purchasing plows: Viking vs. Everest.
- After the latest big storms there was **no road damage**; ditches self-cleaned. After all roads were inspected, the Vermont State Police called and he proceeded to re-inspect the roads and found no flooding. It appeared that the trooper was very unfamiliar with the area. Stowell reminded him the need to speak about the insufficient drainage from the Hall Farm pond. Bostrom did notice that water had traveled down to the Town's turn around.
- W. Joyce's neighbor, Don Williams filled in **Joyce's driveway** entrance. Bostrom has taken elevations and understands the need to get this situation rectified thru day light drainage.
- **Gould & Son (backhoe)** will be working with the Town for the next few days and will schedule, at a later date, the work to correct drainage near Hamer's residence on Back Windham Rd
- Believes the **Back Road's Grant** needs additional funds to properly repair Plumb Rd's clay bank
- He and Stowell will meet with Charles Murray, Gale Rd, VT
- Need to get Chandler Electric to return to Windham Hill Rd to **clean out the ditch** they filled in
- Stowell asked if highway dept. had **under drain** — for WT & near Royce's barn on State Forest Rd. Bostrom left at 6:25

Fredrick Hege presented RESCUE INC's. Monthly response report and asked that fire chief Mitchell Putnam list RESCUE INC. as #1 responder (Jamaica #2), since the Town is already paying for locally well trained personnel on car extrication; swift water & high ropes retrieval. And, he believes that RESCUE personnel need to become more familiar with Town Roads: names, locations, class 4, etc.

1c. Board of Health: no report at this time

The chair moved to approve the **Minutes of June 19, 2006**, seconded by Russ, unanimously carried by the Board.

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

6-month SM06 — 13 \$5,302.03 plus truck purchase \$21,990.
6-month SMPR06 -13 \$5,276.75 Road Com Orders wk/end: 5/20, 6/24 & 6/31
SM06-07- #1 \$20,661.81 plus Kearley Fuel prepaid \$22,645.00

Previously copied pay orders had been adjusted after Evans reviewed the bills:

- So. VT Cable's statement reflects a credit for May; why pay for June
- E. Wasung-Lott's mileage statement, prepared by Treasurer, did not compute
- Did not include Treasurer's request to buy stamped window envelopes (she noted: "tiny chance she already did this")

Evans **publicly thanked** Jeff Russ Plumbing for donating all his time in repairing the Fountain's pump.

While signing the Pay Orders, Evans asked the Board to discuss prepaying heating fuel. Is it too late to research other possibilities? To request bids? The Board's consensus was to request Nido, Cota & Cota, Fleming & AR Sandri to fax the Town a price per gallon for fuel oil. *Martin moved that Davis request a verbal or faxed quote from those suppliers by Monday, July 10th (recessed meeting), seconded by Evans, unanimously carried by the Board.*

Hege's side comments reflected his personal experience with Cota & Cota (terminated) and Nido (great company)

4. Old Business

Law enforcement —

WCSD — the previous joint meeting was cancelled. Appointed Sheriff Guthrie had instructed Deputy Sherwood Lake to visit with Martin to get Townshend back into their loop. With Evans being away for the next two weeks Martin agreed to negotiate the amount owed the Sheriff's Dept. (Evans reviewed with Martin all unpaid invoices and recapped numbers before going home) Martin continued, to invite the WCSD to present their contract which should include, responding to residents calls, incidents along with VIN verifications.

VSP — Evans assumes the contract is in effect after giving the Town Treasurer explicit instructions on sending the check.

Brooks reported that late last night (after midnight) neither law enforcement agency would respond to her call —*no one was on duty*. Martin said he'd like to follow up as to why.

2006 Meeting Minutes —*The chair moved that the March 2006 Town Meeting Minutes, as prepared and presented by the Town Clerk, be accepted and signed, seconded by Evans, unanimously carried by the Board.*

K. Grotz-Kuch, previous Auditor, informed Davis that information on all previous town budget work, pages, etc. can be found on a disc — formatted in WORKS.

Usage of ball field — J. Crozier requested use for GCH's annual picnic; most members believed the Little League or Recreation Committee would grant permission. After complete discussion *the chair moved to allow Grace Cottage Hospital to use the field, seconded by Stowell, unanimously carried by the Board.* Brooks abstained.

Martin also explained, in detail, to Crozier the procedure allowing consumption of alcohol on town properties. Crozier quickly re cantered this idea.

Stowell reminded everyone the need to stop cars from traveling up to the ball field

and Town Hall Evans reported that the movie *Disappearance* had paid the rent to use the Town Hall for showing the movie on July 15th

She will work on Town Hall policies, after Davis receives copies from neighboring towns. Hege spoke of the school including an additional fee for personnel.

Common -

electricity —Russ had not had time to contact an electrician to inspect grounding the Common; Otis Health Care Center letter to CVPS requested their disconnect panel be attached to CVPS' pole. *Martin agreed with Stowell suggestion and moved that he read the Town's meter before and after Fair Day, seconded by Evans, unanimously carried by the Board.*

Chicken BBQ —Townshend Elementary School has requested that the Hospital Auxiliary move the location of their Fair Day Chicken BBQ because they do not properly clean up the area, dispose of grease, ashes etc. which consequently students track in to the School.

Town Hall

contents —will have to seek approval from Civil Defense before removing the mattresses, reported Stowell. Questions still remaining: cleaning up Town Hall - how and when?

roof —Davis phoned Phoenix and MEC Roofing for a quote to repair the roof. The chair opened and read the only bid submitted - MEC bid of \$800 to repair broken slates and flashing found to be unserviceable. *Martin moved to contract with MEC Roofing to repair broken slates and flashing found to be unserviceable, not to exceed \$1,000, Stowell seconded.* The chair explained this increase: should he find additional roof repair, this allows him to perform it, after permission of the Board member, *unanimously carried by the Board.*

While doing this repair the chair asks MEC Roofing to provide a written assessment on the condition and longevity of the roof so the Board could start scheduling the necessary maintenance.

5. New Business

No action taken on:

- Planning Commission's response to the State's ACT 250 on Valley Care's hearing

- State's notification of fiscal year 2007 Education Tax Rate: homestead \$2.2012; non-residential \$2.0145; CLA is at 71.48%
- Martin had heard that the State approached property owners M. Charles and C. Robison in developing a watershed on their land. Why wasn't the Town notified, questioned the Board. Martin asked Davis to inquire more as to what the State is seeking.
- State's Planned Forest Stewardship: cutting timber around or off State Forest Rd

- *Martin moved to sign the 2005 accounting of the Mary E. Taft Fund, as prepared by the Town Clerk, seconded by Stowell, unanimously carried and signed by the Board. Members were dismayed to the fact that this trust is slowly being depleted by legal advertising and it isn't earning a large amount of interest.*

- Brooks asked that the Town address the excess speed on Riverdale Rd.
- Martin added Walter Meyer wants to lower the Grafton Rd speed limit to 30 mph. In order to lower speed limits below 35 mph, the State will have to perform a traffic study, reported Stowell. After complete discussion *Martin moved to request VTrans to perform two traffic studies - lowering speed limits on Riverdale to 25 mph and Grafton Rd to 30 mph, from the Common to the Town Garage, seconded by Evans, unanimously carried by the Board.*

6. Other Business — no Board action taken

- St of VT:
- Kindle Farm's submission of complete ACT 250 Permit & responses
 - B. Cassella for West River Assoc. subdivide State Forest Rd land & WW permit
 - Yancey' hearing requests to be received by July 24th & copy of proposed "approved project"
 - L&G is planning for a bond vote in November

Stowell and Russ will look at a 4-wheel drive 755 Tractor with all its accessories, at Townshend Auction Gallery.

Martin asked members to consider changing "highway department" to public works, which would expand their duties beyond highway maintenance.

7. Executive Session - none at this time

8. Time of Next Meeting - July 17th

Martin moved to recess tonight's meeting to July 10th, 2006, 7:00 PM seconded by Stowell, unanimously carried by the Board. Evans will be away until July 17th.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Davis, clerk for the Select Board