

Townshend Select Board Meeting Minutes - July 17, 2006

Present:

Berenice Brooks Jeffrey Russ
Alene Evans (vacation) Irvin Stowell
Henry Martin, chair Select Board

Participating Members:

Michael Charles, John Nopper, Michalina Wasung,
Town Treasurer, Kurt Bostrom, Road Foreman,
Fredrick Hege

The Chair ***called the Meeting to Order*** and recognized ***Participating Members:***

Michael Charles was instructed to present the Board with his written request for a variance, from the Cell Tower Ordinance, to install of a radio antenna costing \$10,000+/-, allowing him the use of walkie talkies through out his entire property. Members suggested that maybe he should consider a cell tower, as the Town has been unable to secure one within town. Charles left at 7:10 PM

Valley Cares' (VC) President John Nopper, wanted to personally address and thank the Board (understanding the Board's VC representative "can speak for himself") for its support allowing VC to secure grants, over \$9 million, mainly from private monies which are accompanied with lots of paper work. He wants keep the Board in the loop, updated and informed. He assumed the Board has received VC's response to concerns expressed at the ACT 250 hearing.

VC's is anxiously awaiting the ACT 250 permit. He would like to break ground Sept 1st because it is very important to start construction before fall, as Oct 15th is the date the State ceases any type soil excavation. The building should go up fast as the interior walls are pre built offsite, similar to modular buildings. He keeps in contact with the contractors and seeks ways to cut costs without lowering the quality of materials.

He reassured Stowell that even though the size of site was tight, it would accommodate the wastewater disposal system. The original oversized replacement system was re designed/engineered not affecting the nearby wells. and should "pass the State's muster".

Martin added it is important to keep good relations; keeping the Board informed, to respond to residents questions: like the State seeking a water protection area for VC (a July hearing date) or building a trail, etc. Members expressed their appreciation to Nopper for coming. Nopper left at 7:25 PM

1a. Town Clerk and/or Treasurer:

Town Treasurer, Michalina Wasung, presented a packet of information, substantiating how she attained the 2006-07-tax rate. She explained the "special school jobbie hit"; reviewed the calculations which she believes are correct; voicing this is the Town's biggest hit (rate of 77 cents). She has not been able to download to review the Lister's disk containing the lodged Grand List.

The chair called the Lister's advisor, Teri Gildersleeve after his phone conversation with Lister, Andrea Royce regarding the Heins Home inclusion or exemption of the Grand List. Gildersleeve told him and informed the Lister's that the

Select Board is not involved in this issue. It is solely the Listers' responsibility to vote to exempt property. After attending Gildersleeve's workshop Wasung believed the State would not allow the town to exempt property.

Martin's request to have real property taxes payable on a Monday was not acceptable to Wasung. She likes Friday, it's tidier for her, tax collection is over and she can assume performing her other responsibilities on Monday; she spends at least 15 minutes talking to taxpayers who don't want to talk to her assistants. The 6-month tax bill was incredibly complicated and most taxpayers, especially out-of-stater's, weren't accepting it. Taxes will be due and payable on August 25th; extended because of the late date the Listers lodged the 2006 Grand List.

After complete discussion *Martin moved to set the municipal 2006-07 tax rate at 77 cents, first quarter payment due at the close of business on August 25th, seconded by Russ, unanimously carried by the Board.* Heins Home is not included homestead tax \$2.98 (school tax \$2.58) non-resident \$2.79 (school tax \$2.56)

Wasung:

- will have the necessary documents for Board's August meeting, to consider borrowing a line of credit, in anticipation of taxes
- the State's Municipal Heavy Equipment Loan has been increased to \$110,000 and will separately consider each individual truck for financing separately.
- The equipment fund could be caught up by next spring after paying receivables; thus affording the Town to purchase a new mower/snow blower addressed Martin's inquiry.
- She corrected and explained two of her bills submitted for payment. Martin expressed concern that she proceeded to pay Kearley the fuel prepayment. The Board was seeking other fuel oil bids. The chair then signed Kearley's fuel prepayment contracts.

Wasung has not seen any MuniNet communication between town officials or from Mary Jane Grace re: the State's new procedure to send, directly to the town, property owner's pre bates. Wasung left at 8:00 PM

1b. Highway foreman, Kurt Bostrom reported

- Sent out paving bids last week;
- Called DeLury & L&B regarding truck spec's; Stowell addressed the trucks height and size of the dump body; where would it be housed? Hopefully, it can be purchased before regulations change! Bostrom believes the truck is properly spec'd to haul materials and, if necessary, it could be housed in one of the tents. The chair still remains unfamiliar in deciphering highway lingo and relies on the Board's recommendations. He addressed some of the contributing factors attributing to the decline of the Equipment Fund: increased cost of gas and vehicle repairs.
- Projects
 - o Did encounter ledge while correcting the puddling at W. Joyce's driveway entrance
 - o Fixed the drainage issue on the Back Windham Rd, West Townshend in front of Hamer's residence; the road work signs were up as he had to periodically stopping traffic
 - o Inspected C. Murray's drainage issue — to install a 12" culvert to correct the problem.
 - o Awaiting the availability of Gould's' backhoe to start Plum b Rd (Better Back Roads grant)

- Ed Smith is out of work with a back problem when handling a culvert. He is going to Albany for scan. **The Board asked that he complete Smith's necessary Workers Comp paperwork for submission to VLCT**
- Need to fix an undermined/washed out culvert on Buck Hill, reminded Stowell.
- Russ, Stowell and Bostrom inspected and believe the Town would benefit in buying the John Deere mower/snow blower, plus attachments/accessories & trailer from the Townshend Auction Gallery. The Board's consensus was to purchase the John Deere, selling its not needed accessories and trailer and the present Simplicity mower (this money will be returned to the equipment fund); has a flip down roll bar and the Town needs to seek temporary storage (Cutts/Dery); road crew perform maintenance?

After complete discuss **Russ moved to purchase the John Deere 755 plus attachments and equipment - tow behind trailer, mowing deck, 2 stage snow blower, plow, spreader roller, york rake, ramps, counter weights, chains, complete package at \$12,500, seconded by Brooks, carried by the Board.** (Martin abstained

1c. Board of Health: no report.

*The chair moved to approve the **Minutes of July 3, 2006**, seconded by Brooks unanimously carried by the Board.*

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

- SM06-15AP — \$560.03
- SM06-07 - #2 \$10,914.84 and \$12,500 from Equipment Fund
- SM06-07- #3 \$4,300.00 (hand written) WCSD payment
- SMPR06-07 - \$1,589.45 Road Com Ords wk/ending 7/8 & 7/15 (needed hours)

carried and signed by the Board.

4. Old Business

WCSD—Martin met and negotiated with Lieutenant Sherwood Lake, resulting in the Town paying 60% of WCSD outstanding balance. He believes to be fair - 50% payment would be an additional \$717. After minimal discussion **Martin moved to pay the Windham County Sheriff's Department \$4,300 equal to approximate 60% of the outstanding invoices, and to sign a 2005 contract resolving these issues, seconded by Russ, unanimously carried by the Board.**

The second part of this motion was the signing of a 2005 contract with the Windham County Sheriff's Dept. allows the WCSD to collect grant and COPS money. He suggested inviting both Lake and Sheriff appoint Guthrie to a meeting because he believes the Town should establish open communication and dialogue, hearing what they have to offer was his response to Hege asking why negotiate, when there will be a change in leadership come November?

VSP issue — Trooper R. Hopkins told Martin the Department had received the money and contract, would like to meet and discuss details of the contract; both law enforcement agencies are working closer together and he would investigate Brooks' incident.

Common —Russ and Warren Beattie will be inspecting the Common's electrical service.

Vacancies —positions not filled - Lister and 2nd WRC rep.

*Martin moved to **appoint Ann Allbee as Library Trustee until March 2007**, as notified by correspondence from Trustee Marjorie Holt, seconded by Brooks unanimously carried by the Board.*

Valley Cares —Town was copied their response to issues that surfaced at their May 12th ACT 250 hearing.

Town Hall —Town Clerk Bean called Martin informing him that the furnace was running; turned it off; Russ couldn't understand why, he will investigate.

Davis spoke of her conversation with Bean on the debut showing of the movie "Disappearance". Bean did not give permission or receive any rental money from the film company (as was told to A. Evans). Davis was asked to follow up.

Taft Meadows —Brooks asked when was Taft Meadows going to be cut, as J. Daigneault will be mowing the West Street Sewer area. After minimal discussion to have it *Martin moved to hire Bernard Davis to brush hog Taft Meadows, not to exceed \$400, seconded by Brooks unanimously carried by the Board.*

5. New Business

- The chair asked to see if town clerk had the time to complete - VLCT Municipal Compensation & Benefit survey.
- Stevens Associates will be attending the Board's August 21st meeting to present L&G's proposed renovations attributed to their Nov. bond vote. Martin had heard that L&G's proposed new parking lot, to be located at the rear of the Town Hall, necessitates the construction of a new Town Hall septic system. He also reminded everyone the need for the Town to explore the creation of a village municipal sewer system on the town-leased land.
- Russ had spoken to a person who might be interested in the town hall maintenance position. He has his own home maintenance business, not licensed but could change light bulbs, fix drippy faucets; he gets \$35 per hour. Martin commented that the rate is way above the Town's \$11+/- per hour.

- As a follow up to Russ' conversation with TTT he had received TTT recommendations on handling Townshend household waste, which he will bring to the next meeting. He believes the Town will have to provide 3-phase electrical service.

Stowell added that the Compactor's needs a new exhaust and the body should be sand blasted and painted before winter. His response to Martin's inquiry why Monday wasn't a collection day — it wasn't feasible because not enough waste was collected.

6. Other Business

- St of VT- Kindle Farm's completed ACT 250 application ask for hearing by July 31st
- Hege explained the Department of Information & Innovation — Broadband Grant Program for 2006, adding that the towns of Marlboro & Windham have already applied for this grant.
 - PVR's notification of Hold Harmless value \$22,176

7. Executive Session - not at this time

8. Time of Next Meeting —Aug 7th

*Brooks moved to **Adjourn** at 9:30PM, seconded by Stowell, unanimously carried by the Board.*

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Davis, clerk for the Select Board.