

Townshend Select Board Meeting Minutes - August 7, 2006

Present:

Berenice Brooks
Alene Evans
Henry Martin, chair

Jeffrey Russ
Irvin Stowell
Select Board

Participating Members:

Kathleen Hege, chair Townshend Elementary School Board; Marjorie Holt, Library Trustee Chair
Howard Lott & Richard Lucier, Listers
Kurt Bostrom, Road Foreman, Fredrick Hege

At 7:00 PM the chair ***called the Meeting to Order*** and recognized ***Participating Members:***

Kathleen Hege, chair of the Townshend Elementary School Board, announced that after their budget was approved, the State changed its mind (formula) - to charge elementary schools districts with some secondary expenses, as explained to her by the District business manager; TES had to assumed the expense of sending L&G students to the Career Education, this put Townshend into the penalty box (exceeding the State's estimate on cost per student). This expenditure has a direct affect on Townshend, not on the other union district schools.

Evans believes the Town should be on record with this action, the State's reason may be valid but why level a penalty. She will assist K. Hege in contacting the State Dept. of Education: can we appeal?

Hege's second announcement was

- that TES will end its fiscal year in a deficit of \$18,000+/- because of a new student's special aid and services and the hit of excessive prepaid fuel costs.
- TES is still hassling with GCH over their accounting on septic flowage.
- TES encountered difficulties in not able to secure the contract money until the end of August for him to purchase the roofing materials; he has assured TES that the roof work will be completed before school opens
- Enrollment 95-96 students. K. Hege left at 7:10 PM

Marjorie Holt, Library trustee chair, requested Select Board input, direction, advise regarding painting just one side of the Library building; two quotes were received (Daisy Mae & Norman Holden)

- Discussed how to attain additional funds over the budgeted amount
 - o using monies from other Library line items;
 - o ask to borrow money from the Friends?
 - o Reserve this money; next year raising additional monies to paint the entire building
 - o Both quotes (Certificates of Insurance received) were reviewed and standardized by the Trustees after communicating with the bidders
- Members reflected: you'll be chasing yourself; painting one side every year
- Members hadn't inspected the walls
- Lott questioned why is this building being painted again? He remembered that F. McCarty did the last painting with the correct primer and oil base paint. Could moisture be coming from the inside? He felt the previous painting should last at least 12 years.

Holt will investigate what could be causing the need to paint this side. And will report back to the Select Board on what she finds and actions taken by the Trustees. Holt left at 7:20 PM

Howard Lott and Richard Lucier, Listers believed there was going to be an Errors & Omission's (E&O); the Select Board was unaware, confused but did have copies of the Treasurer's (FYI) her paper work with comments to the Lister's of possible E&O. Confusion continued — Martin suggested addressing the E&O's, at the August 2nd meeting, after the Listers get their act together.

Lott added 4 structures (constructed/renovated before April 1st) were not included in the lodged 2006 Grand List — He believes the Select Board can give them permission to adjust (add them) the 2006 Grand List. He will seek the advise from their advisor Teri Gildersleve tomorrow. Having quarterly tax payments has a direct affect and added complexity to correcting these appraisals, added Lott; it was easier to make these changes when taxes were collected only once a year. Martin insisted that the Listers have an in depth investigation and understanding of the procedures with Gildersleve.

The continued Heins Home tax exemption was the action and decision of the 4 Listers; the Listers decided to continue what the voters have historically approved Heins Home has yet to request the continuation of the 5 year exemption period, was Lott's response to Hege's inquiry. Gildersleve explained to Martin that the Select Board has no authority in any decisions to resolve this issue. Lott, Lucier & A. Royce left at 7:40 PM.

1a. Town Clerk and/or Treasurer:

Board's written request to the Treasurer: to complete (by August 18th) J. Laasko's request of funds paid to verify his auditing of Rescue Inc.; and to provide the year-end (6-month) financial statements of the Town and Highway budgets.

Evans asked for clarification on how was the 6-month town/highway budget surplus' going to be book kept, as the Treasurer was telling her something different — Martin & Stowell spoke that only the 6-month surplus will be applied/rolled over, in to the 2007-08 fiscal budget.

1b. Kurt Bostrom, Highway foreman:

- The road crew ditched water run off from Wilson's not finished driveway into a Plumb Rd culvert (letter was drafted to R. Wilson to fix this entrance) and the Board listened to other concerns in Hege's July 23, 2006 letter
- Status report: E. Smith is back to work, apparently okay; W. Royce has re injured his ankle, reported by GCH on Saturday, Bostrom has contacted VLCT and prepared the necessary paperwork
- Get sand bids out
- **Paving bids** (Athens Rd 300 feet Grafton Rd 3780 feet) received:

Springfield Paving \$67.49 ton; Lane \$72 ton; FWW \$62 ton

The needed repair and construction of the Athens Rd was detailed by Stowell must be completed, before any blacktopping; Bostrom agreed, completing this work depends entirely upon the availability in scheduling the contractor's equipment. This special project will be completed before paving starts and will support the purchase to blacktop (80 tons \$5,000).

After complete discussion *Martin moved to authorize Bostrom to contract with FWW 780 tons for the 2006 paving of sections of the Grafton and Athens Rd, seconded by Evans, unanimously carried by the Board.*

- What to do with the Simplicity mower; it needs a new spindle, blades. The Board's consensus is to advertise the sale of mower/blower and to get the John Deere up to the Town Barn for maintenance and to starting mowing.
 - o Martin reported that E. Dery tractor rental space will need electricity and lowering of its ground floor which would allow water to run in and drain from off the eaves and freeze, rental cost \$60 per month. He would like to inquire about Dr. Wallace's garage before making any decision. O. Tarbell's barn was considered as possible tractor storage, will be moved, reported Stowell. After complete discussion *Russ moved to allow Martin to seek tractor rental space, not to exceed \$75 per month, including electricity, seconded by Evans, unanimously carried by the Board.*

- **Bids for New Truck**

L&B	Freightliner	\$78,653. less trade in \$3,800	\$74,853.00
	Sterling	\$74,470. less trade in \$3,800	\$70,670.00
Delurey	International	\$87,976. less trade in \$8,500	
		*deduct \$7,000	\$72,476.00

(*if engine is built before new Federal Emissions changes)

Discussed: all issues were resolved, regarding the placement of the wing; its height will be an issue; no one had a preference. After complete discussion *Martin moved to contract with L&B to purchase the Sterling, not to exceed \$70,670. seconded by Stowell, unanimously carried by the Board.*

- WRC is ready to install all their location of Townshend's culverts data into a computer; Bostrom was advised there was a computer in dining room
- Martin had received a written note from Scott Nehring complaining on how Garfield drives his log truck traveling down Stephenson's Curve taking down tree limbs, etc. Bostrom added he will make a definite effort to speak directly to Sam Garfield.
- **Line striping** — Stowell received a quote from L&D Safety Marking Corp. 4" white line, 105,600 ft long at \$0.05 - \$5,280.00; Evans expressed her concern of the quote and the available of highway money. After discussion *Martin moved to contract with L&D Safety Marking Corp. to paint side lines on Grafton Rd at \$0.05 per foot, seconded by Russ, unanimously carried by the Board.*
- Stowell made Bostrom aware of: the grate at the bottom of Windham Hill Rd has filled in; State Forest Rd - before Scott Brooks driveway, a large boulder in ditch and large stone in road between Red Wing Farm and the camp ground.
- Bostrom ask that the July 17th minutes reflect that the Select Board instructing him to complete the necessary Workers Comp paperwork for Ed. Smith. Bostrom left at 8:25 PM

Rescue Inc's rep. Hege, presented copies of Rescue's annual year-end status, which reflect the big picture of services offered and on "all types" of calls responded to.

He presented a "**Letter of Operational Intent**" with Rescue for the next fiscal year. Hege noted the only change: Rescue now provides tech and extrication personnel and service. After minimal discussion *Martin moved to sign the Letter of Operational Intent — July 1, 2006 — June 30, 2007, seconded by Evans, unanimously carried by the Board.* Hege's presentation ended at 8:30 PM

1c. Board of Health: none at this time

*Martin moved to accept the **Minutes of July 17, 2006**, seconded by Brooks, addition of the Board instructing road foreman, Bostrom to complete the necessary paperwork for Smith's Workers Comp, **unanimously carried by the Board.***

Martin updated Evans on the events leading up to the negotiated payment of Windham County Sheriff's Department outstanding invoices and to meet with the law enforcement agencies.

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

SM06-07 — #3	\$9,737.43	\$15.17AP
SMPR06-07 - #2	\$4,725.85	Road Com Ords wk/ending 7/22, 7/29 & 8/5 Bostrom was called - Questioning payment or non-payment of E. Smith's vacation week

unanimously carried and signed by the Board.

4. Old Business

Fountain & Disposal of Solid Waste—Russ reported the fountain won't hold water and provided copies of TTT's suggested cost to handle/dispose of our household solid waste.

Film "Disappearances" & VLCT survey—Davis has correspondence with the film producer regarding renting the town hall and completed VLCT's salary survey.

Valley Cares—Martin reported that Valley Cares (VC) has resolved/taken care of Deborah Whitney's July 27th letter of concern with a newly built trail diverting water onto her property and Amon DeWitt's letter dated July 21st water source; VC is expecting to receive their ACT 250 permit within the next 5-7 days, at which time VC will be asking all, who have party status, to consider signing an ACT 250 of the 30 day waiting period. Martin continued, VC's time is of the essence if construction is not started now, it could loose a lot of funding. A copy of this waiver will be copied to each member for review and a special joint meeting with the Planning Commission may be asked to proceed correctly.

Stowell did attend the State's public water supply meeting for VC and reported the State could not answer many of his questions regarding the properties located with in the State's arbitrarily drawn circle; land owners must prove that their sewer will not affect water sources.

WCSD—Signed contract was returned: Jan 1, 2005 — May 6, 2006.

Select Board minutes—Elizabeth Garfield requested from Evans and Davis that the Planning Commission ~~she personally~~ receives a copy of the Board's minutes; she was reminded that these minutes can be downloaded directly from the Town's web page or stopping by the Town Office. It has become difficult to find a liaison from either the Select Board or the Planning Commission so it would be to everyone's advantage if all minutes were available on line 5 days after a meeting. Hege spoke of his difficulties in getting the Planning Commission's minutes on line.

Town Hall - Maintenance person: Board agreed to actively search to fill this position; its job description and duties will be on the Web Site.

5. New Business

- Ms. Richardson asked Martin if she could relocate the flags representing armed service personnel lost during the Iraqi war from Newfane's Common to ours (they are now on a Brattleboro Common). Martin will relay to Ms. Richardson some of the obstacles in using the Common: GCH Fair (past); mowing; school opening.
- Davis will work with Stowell in completing Windham Regional Commission's traffic study requests.
- Reminder that on August 21st Stevens Associates and L&G directors will present their proposed "bonding" renovation to its present campus.
- Land Committee liaison, Brooks reported that the Committee is awaiting a consensus from the volunteer firemen to construct or not a new fire station.
- As a follow up to E. Garfield's telephone conversation reported by Evans, Martin instructed Davis to call Garfield and have her follow thru by calling Stephen Morse, Grafton Foundation, with her suggestion to entice them to purchase the Janos property as a cheese factory; and to report back to the Board.

6. Other Business No Board action taken

- St of VT:
- Yancey (Entry of Appearance & Land Use Permit)
 - Duke off East Hill Rd (Harmony end) revised house location
 - Kindle Farm's response WRC concerns
 - Dept of Housing — new tax credits available for designate village center bldgs
 - Town Fair booklet

7. Executive Session — none at this time

8. Time of Next Meeting —August 21st

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

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Davis, clerk for the Select Board