

Townshend Select Board Meeting Minutes - August 21, 2006

Present:

Berenice Brooks
Alene Evans
Henry Martin, chair

Jeffrey Russ
Irvin Stowell
Select Board

Participating Members:

Stephen McConnel, Townshend Business Assoc.
Robert Stevens, Stevens Assoc. and troupe
Howard Lott, Richard Lucier & Andrea Royce, Listers
Kurt Bostrom, road foreman; Fredrick Hege

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

Ken Hoffmann told a representative from the Townshend Business Association (TBA), **Stephen McConnel**, that the Gazebo needs work/improvements: new ballistae and a roof. He was informing the Board and stressed that the TBA has no claim on the structure, left after the making of the film. Stowell quickly explained to McConnel that the common/tree money is to be used, only, to maintain the Common grounds — not to repair the Gazebo, which McConnel believed.

McConnel continued the TBA did fund its major repairs to make it structural safe such as a new base and roof; when he attended his first town meeting in 1994, the voters turned down the needed \$1,500 funds to repair the structure, which he believes to be illegal. Each select person had a different memory and accounting as to how the Town dealt with the Gazebo. The chair reassured McConnel that the Board would research this issue. McConnel left at 7:05 PM

Robert Stevens of Stevens Associates, (also attending this meeting were Lloyd Szulborski, L&GUHS Principal; Jim Peters, WCSU Superintendent; L&G Board chair, Emily Long; Townshend's Directors — Michael Attley & Kurt Tietz; members of the public Joseph Winget, Michael Finnegan, Arthur Monette) presented L&G campus' latest changes:

- the new structure is one floor, similar in size to the Dutton Gym, housing a cafeteria / auditorium; the basement will house music dept, a new entrance will be created as a connector to the existing building
- the old offices spaces will be reconfigured;
- re addressed a-level parking, parent drop off and traffic flow,
- buses will unload at c-level, again establishing two way traffic;
- negotiating with Dr. Wallace and the Catholic Church to create additional parking on their land;
- working with Grace Cottage Hospital for additional roadway area for exiting traffic
- The bond will include the cost to build an additional parking lot behind Town Hall, as well as a new the Town Hall's septic system, even if Townshend voters do not approve this use.
- The existing Lease Land does allow the building of septic systems. Martin added that the Town is investigating a municipal system.

Other concerns:

- snow on the connecting roof;
- being too close to Rte 35's right-of-way;
- sight distance and a visual blind up or down Rte 35;
- an enlarged wood chip heating system will heat the entire building;

traffic and parking will remain an issue because of a new auditorium. Stevens commented, it's better than the past and graduation may still be held in the gymnasium because it allows for more seating.

Townshend resident Arthur Monette, a past member of L&G's Ad Hoc Committee believes that the results of L&G's bond vote will have a direct impact on the construction of Townshend's infrastructure. The Land Committee is working diligently in downsizing previous plans and estimates (for a bond vote) to construct a new highway garage and fire station. Stevens had hoped the Town's bond vote would "get out a head of the schools".

Martin stated that the discussion had digressed to school taxes: other schools in our union should be paying Townshend for its lost taxes like Windham Solid Waste Management does for Brattleboro's lost taxes. Long asked Stowell to follow up on the existence what he believed "allowing to pay in lieu of school taxes". Stevens' presentation ended and all school personnel left at 7:55 PM.

Martin told **Richard Carusona**, who just arrived and was unsure if he needed to attend this meeting, that the Board had not yet reviewed nor discussed the petition to lay out his road as a public highway. Carusona left at 7:57 PM

Listers: Howard Lott, chair, Richard Lucier and Andrea Stowell presented the following properties that should be processed through Errors and Omissions; each of the properties presented (RV's gone) by Royce were individually reviewed, discussed, motioned and unanimously approved by the Board — Martin motioning and Evans' seconding:

Bingham, Kenneth	91500190 (bill not sent)
Columbi, Fred & Rosemary	9153R117 — duplicate billing \$77.68 (not sent)
Dawson, Patricia	915311
Dodge, David & Linda	9150073
Fredette, Ralph & Kathy	9153112R
Greco, Angel & Bernice	9153125
La Mountain, James	9150.122
Meyer, Chad & Karl	9153203
Wilander, Paul & Debbie	915384

(the above information was taken from Town Treasurer's E&O's for 8.7.06)

Abatement:

Wilkie, John received duplicate tax bills. He purchased Leonard Babineau's RV in August 05. *Martin moved to omit J. Wilkie's duplicate tax bill on appraised value of 4,500, seconded by Evans, unanimously carried by the Board.*

Presented as E&O's, in actuality taxes (6-month & fiscal year) need to be abated:

Bidwell, Joan A. trustee	Budrejko, Clara	Cebula, Robert & Theresa
Delpiano, James	Jasik, Mark	McGuire, Robert
Suejk, Matthew		

The Listers' State advisor, Teri Gildersleve, advised Lott that there are two ways to address those houses/properties not included in the lodged 2006 Grand List:

1. to wait, add them to the 2008 Grand List or
2. to get the Select Board's permission to open up the lodged Grand List allowing the Listers to follow protocol by notifying the landowners with a change of appraisal, result of the grievance procedure, thus initiating an additional tax bill.

Lott believes the total assessment of these structures would be over 400,000.

After complete discussion *Martin moved to authorize the Listers to adjust the errors on the following properties not included in the lodged 2007 Grand List: Rodger O. Backes, John M. & Jean M. Butler, Brett J. and Carol Chidley, Michael D and Linda S. Duke and Jay Morgan seconded by Evans*, Royce reassured the Board that the Notice of Change of Appraisal on each affected property will be mailed out tomorrow, thus beginning the process, *unanimously carried by the Board*.

1a. Town Clerk and/or Treasurer: Treasurer had not responded to last week's request: comply with J. Laasko's letter? and the 6-month financial statements. The Board again submitted another request for the Treasurer to provide them with the 6-month end-of-the year financial statements.

1b. Kurt Bostrom, Highway foreman:

- to repair and **true up Athens Rd** near Putnam's old sugarhouse has become more extensive, he has a pavement cutter as Gould is coming this week. Stowell will review the situation with Bostrom.
- prepared an ad to sell the Simplicity; purchased a longer jack for the **John Deere** trailer; Martin has been unable to have a mutual meeting with Dr. Wallace re: renting his garage to house the John Deere, Evans will speak to Jennifer "Bristol" about her garage.
- what happened to the **pile of sure pack** on the Grafton Rd. Bostrom allowed Howard Cutts to take some to repair the homestead driveway; he did not realize he would take all of it; he will see if Cutts will pay for it.
- **Plumb Rd Better Backroads project** will begin as soon as the backhoe is available.
- Joe Daigneault is filling in on the road crew; Royce is in a cast, possibly out for 14 weeks.
- **New truck** will be here in December; he has heard nothing from L&D after faxing them the signed quote to stripe the sides along the Grafton Rd

Bostrom was asked to inspect Richie Road, as the Town just received a properly conformed petition to lay it out as a public highway. Davis was instructed to contact Atty. Fisher as how to proceed — hearing date was set - September 27th 6:00 PM on site followed by public hearing. Davis will prepare the necessary paperwork establishing this hearing.

1c. Board of Health: no report

*The chair moved to approve the **Minutes of August 7, 2006**, seconded by Evans,*

E. Garfield added to her e-mail, which dealt with a couple of issues:

she did not “personally” want a hard copy of the Board’s minutes but to have them available for the Planning Commission (PC), not having to rely on a PC member to use their paper and take them off line. Davis was instructed to write the Town Clerk to provide, in the Planning Commission box, a copy of the Select Board’s minutes.

Her suggestion, that the Town talk with Stephen Morse, Grafton Foundation to consider Janos property as a cheese factory, was as an individual not as a Planning Commissioner.

unanimously carried with correction.

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

SM06-07 — \$7,423.06 plus \$58.50 (M. Taft acct)

SMPR06-07 - \$4,703.02 Road Com Ords wk/ending 8/12 & 8/19

unanimously carried and by the Board

4. Old Business

Law enforcement —VSP liaison, Evans will follow up as to what services they have provided

Common —Russ, fountain will not hold water — leaky base or tank? All agreed to wait until spring before digging up the area to locate a leak.

2006 Paving - FWW had increased their bid because of increased “oil” costs, consequently the chair called other members, all agreeing to offer the 2006 paving bid to N. Springfield Paving, who stood by their bid thus absorbing the increase. Bostrom reported that the paving would begin end of Sept. first of Oct. as long as temperature is okay and there is no rain. And N. Springfield will provide written verification as to what they will be supplying the Town. *Martin moved to ratify the Board’s action in offering N. Springfield Paving Townshend’s 2006 paving projects, seconded by Stowell, unanimously carried by the Board.*

Film “Disappearances” —Film producer, Bess O’Brien’s August 12th letter explained how she rented the Town Hall and that the film company was paying everyone \$75 rent for the premiering of the movie. The Board accepted the \$75 rental check.

Evans reminded everyone to review the Town Hall policy, so that this miss communique! doesn’t happen again.

Flags —Lori Richardson’s letter spoke of the flags being on the Brattleboro Common and would be coming to Townshend tomorrow; she had yet contacted any Select person. Concerns expressed on August 7th still remain in effect.

5. New Business

Documents from the Planning Commission (PC):

- PC had prepared and completed an application to VTrans for the construction of **4 parking spaces**, off Rte 30, in front of the Town Hall for Select Board approval and signing. Discussion: relocating sidewalk and lawn allowing for parallel parking; concern of traffic traveling faster as roadway appears wider; who does and pay for this construction? (Town); years ago, Martin & Stowell (along with A. DeWitt) met with VT Highway engineer, W. Noyes, to discuss a similar project: concerns about ponding of water run off; this area/space becoming a catch basin; water freezing; who's responsible in removing the ice and snow, which will have to be trucked away.
Garfield reassured the Board that the Town is only applying for a permit; maybe the State would issue a variance to change the design; the Town is not being obligated; work can begin when funds were available.
After complete discussion *Martin moved to sign the application to the State Department of Transportation for a permit to construct 4 parking spaces in front of the Town Hall, as prepared by the Planning Commission, seconded by Evans, carried by the Board.* Stowell No
- **Ancient Roads:** PC provided information on obtaining a grant, before September 19th, as Statutes mandate that a list of ancient roads be completed by 2008 for mapping. The Board agreed with Garfield's suggestion to contact Matt Mann of Windham Regional Commission for assistance.
- The chair signed the contract, costing \$135, allowing the Listers to continue using the Marshall Swift software, supported by Property Valuation and Review.
- Drafted job description for town hall maintenance person. (Brooks left at 9:30 PM)
It appeared to Evans that the dining room has become a storage area of unwanted furniture, stuff, etc.
- Davis was asked to research town minutes regarding the Gazebo on the Common
- The chair reminded Members that when they hear of possible health hazards, from John Q Public, on piles of excessive "waste/junk" to direct them to contact Dr. Timothy Shafer, Townshend's Public Health Officer.

6. Other Business no action taken by the Board

- St of VT:
- A. Ray residence WW system permit (Lot 3)
 - Dept of Bldg & General Service — grant (historical preserve; cult facility; recreat/Educate
 - Vermont Concrete Cutting, Inc. Evans saw a TV show where recycled tires were used on sidewalks. Martin suggested a special article with increased funding to repair the sidewalks next spring. Stowell added that the cost of concrete is \$100 per yard, not in place.
 - VLCT's report on unemployment claim filed
 - ANOTHER Better Backroads Grant — given to road foreman, Kurt Bostrom

8. Time of Next Meeting —Tuesday, Sept 5th

*At 9:40 PM Martin moved into **Executive Session** under Title 1, section 313 to discuss personnel issue, inviting Davis, seconded by Evans.*

*At 9:55 PM Martin moved out of Executive Session resulting in the following motions:
that A. Evans will oversee the Board's clerk pay, seconded by Russ, unanimously carried by the Board.*

the Town Treasurer to set up direct payroll deposits when requested by town employees, seconded by Evans, unanimously carried by the Board.

*At 10:00 PM Stowell moved to **Adjourn**, seconded by Russ, unanimously carried by the Board.*

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Davis, clerk for the Select Board