

Townshend Select Board Meeting Minutes - September 5, 2006

Present:

Berenice Brooks
Alene Evans
Henry Martin, chair

Jeffrey Russ
Irvin Stowell
Select Board

Participating Members:

Marjorie Holt, Library Trustee, Robert Crego (VA)
Berenice Brooks & William Eckhardt Land Committee,
Kathleen Hege, TES chair, Bernard Davis
and Fredrick Hege

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

Marjorie Holt, Library Trustee presented Daisy Mae's new proposal to paint just the side next to the Post Office, total estimate, including paint, \$1,500. Holt addressed A. Evans concern by explaining that Daisy Mae's Harmonyville house only has a primer, the second coat should follow in a few weeks. The chair thanked Marjorie Holt for keeping the Board apprised. Holt left at 7:05 PM

Robert Crego, acting director of Valley Cares (VC) Inc. addressed the Town's draft Vermont Community Development program grant, including standard agreement terminology, working with the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development for the past two months. There will be one agreement for VC's independent and assisted living facilities. Crego reemphasized how one can qualify as a resident. After complete discussion *Martin moved that the Board approve this first part of the agreement grant application drafted August 2006, seconded by Brooks, unanimously carried by the Board.* Crego thanked the Board for their support and will return the State approved agreements. Crego left at 7:10 PM

Berenice Brooks, liaison to Land Committee accompanied by William Eckhardt, reported on the Land Committee's latest meeting with the firemen and asked how to proceed :

- the firemen asked to holding off on the construction,
- to wait to see what new regulations come down from State and Federal;
- the possibilities of renovating the present structure (\$600-800,000). Russ expressed frustration on financing feasibility studies without definite results. Evans responded that's why you have feasibility studies.
- Topics of discussion and comments:
 - o pursuing E. Phoenix in selling the corner piece of land that abuts the town garage. Martin had spoken previous with Phoenix who was not interested in selling; he wants to protect his land and the stream as he was unsure of what the future would hold on this land, should the Town sell the land.
 - o selling Taft Meadows, with restrictions that can be overturned, getting it back on the tax roll, but it's the best lot closest to the center of Town;
 - o to keep it for the future - what will happen in the next 5 to 10 years may be a paid fire department, a sub station? Newbrook's department can hardly take care of its community,
 - o working with the whole Janos compound, what would best serve the Town?
 - o construct a commuter parking lot;

Eckhardt was asked for his opinion: he watched the firemen sit with arms folded, appearing defiant, when they left he heard one say “no fire station on Taft Meadows”. The Town has to think ahead 10 years and he has come to realize that Townshend is located and thought of as the hub of the Valley. That’s one reason why the Hospital remains here and it would be a great location for a regional fire department.

The chair felt that the voters are waiting to hear what’s been happening and should make the decision. Brooks added that costs of prefab buildings are being investigated and asked how should the Land Committee continue? The Board’s consensus was for the Land Committee to proceed in presenting both buildings to the public for a bond vote, Stowell added keeping the costs down. Discussion ended at 7:40 PM

Kathleen Hege, chair of the Townshend Elementary School (TES) relayed the principal’s conversation with Lori Richardson (2,000 + individual drawn flags representing solders killed in Iraq) said the Town had given her permission to put her flags on the Common. Martin finally spoke to Richardson and was told that the Common is used daily by the students. She felt she could work with the school to include this exhibition as part of the students’ education. General discussion pursued on the location of the exhibit: on the Church’s front yard, where the old phone booth **was located**, this exhibition had been placed on quiet, unused locations our Common has a lot of foot traffic and use which could result in vandalizing the exhibit. Martin volunteered, if available, to attend a joint meeting with the principal and Richardson.

K. Hege continued, after a board meeting, a group of teenagers was noticed to walking between the school and Papale’s property to the area underneath the school, which has proven a difficult area to secure from unwanted visitors. The principal immediately called the Sheriff’s (WCSD) department and was that Townshend didn’t have a contract with them so consequently they didn’t provide coverage. As Martin’s memory best served him, he believed that both Sheriff Graham and Farnum told the Select Board that the school had a separate contract, along with L&G and the Hospital with WCSD. K. Hege added TES has not paid the Sheriff’s department for its service as truant officer. They do pay for DARE. Maybe the Sheriff’s department is Windham County’s truant officer, interjected B. Davis. Or could this service be part of the county tax, asked Evans.

K. Hege then addressed TES’s anticipated payment. As directed by Statute is 20 days after the collection of taxes. As of this date the Department of Education has yet determined how much of the tax money collected will go to the school. Once the figure is attained the Town Treasurer will be notified. She believed the Select Board would be copied this information. She read a prepared a Tax Payment Authorization statement.

Evans interjected that the Town Treasurer, Wasung, had called to talk about this and requested that a warrant be drawn to pay TES. K. Hege added that a warrant wasn’t necessary, but in the past the Treasurer has refused to make a payment because she had no knowledge of the expense or authorization as she did not have no signed warrant. Should TES not receive the money in hand, TES is prepared to legally serve the Town for the money.

Martin asked that the minutes reflect that although it is a matter of statute **to pay the school 20 days after taxes collected**, but due to past difficulties in dealing with the Town Treasurer, he recommended that the prepared Tax Payment Authorization be

signed. After discussion *Evans moved that the Select Board sign the Tax Payment Authorization ! ” authorizing the Town Treasurer to transfer one-fourth of the Department of Education’s calculated school taxes to the Townshend School District Treasurer on or before each of the following dates: Sept. 14, 2006, Dec. 5, 2006, March 7, 2007 and June 4, 2007”, seconded by Martin, unanimously carried and signed by the Board.* K. Hege left at 8:05 PM

Bernard Davis appeared to recap what he encountered with the Town Treasurer, late Friday afternoon, August 25th when he went to get his check for brush hogging Taft Meadows again. She said she’d have to speak with Mr. Martin before she gave him his check and spoke about her liabilities of workers comp insurance thru Vermont Leagues of Cities and Towns (VLCT). Davis spoke with VLCT, then provided the Treasurer with his written statement that the Town would be harmless of any injury he may have incurred, she then gave him a copy of previous prepared harmless forms which he signed. She then gave him the check. Davis left at 8:10 PM

Kurt Bostrom, *Highway foreman*, report

- Both paving projects were completed today; Brooks commented on how nice Athens Road looked
- Called and faxed L&D striping, informing them of the completed paving. Stowell has seen L&D striping in Jamaica & Newfane, so they appear to be busy.
- Told Crozier, head of GCH maintenance, that the Town would not absorb the cost to relocate (higher) the catch basin, located left side of the newly constructed parking lot entrance off Grafton Rd; Brooks asked if anyone has seen the newly installed, State required, culvert/bridge
- *Martin moved to increase the chargeable rate on the new John Deere tractor to \$10.00 per hour, seconded by Stowell, unanimously carried by the Board.* This motion addressed the Town Treasurer’s query to Bostrom of increasing the present lawn mower/blower \$8.00 rate; Martin had met with Dr. Wallace regarding renting a large bay in his garage which would definitely house the John Deere and trailer; Dr. Wallace agreed to \$50 per month but would waive the rent if the Town would keep his driveway open. Martin felt that the monthly rent would be less expensive, Bostrom added a path would be blown out from the garage to the Grafton Rd. *Martin moved to pay Dr. Jeffrey Wallace one year’s rent of \$600 to house the John Deere tractor, Sept. 1, 2006 — August 31, 2007, seconded by Evans, unanimously carried by the Board.* Payment added to the Order.
- Stowell spoke to Bostrom on various road issues: pot holes on Windham Hill Rd; above R. Jackson the shoulder has become undermined, blacktop dropping. Bostrom responded that he would address these areas after completion of the Plumb Hill Rd bank project.
- The Compactor needs a lot of repair work: new brake plates, slack adjusters are frozen; exhaust is leaking; 3 lug nuts broke off wheel and Smith fixed it with wider spacers. Bostrom believes Jamaica and Wardsboro trash collection to be clean and nice. Russ’s correspondence from TTT will be addressed at the Board’s next meeting for economical consideration.
- Royce insisted that his ankle be operated on now, so he’d be able to work this winter. Bostrom remembered the insurance company not releasing him back to work until he was perfect. Bostrom left at 8:30 PM

1a. Town Clerk and/or Treasurer: Reviewed Town Treasurer's Memo: re: Worker's Comp; collecting taxes has prevented her to provide Select Board with financial statements. *The chair moved to approve the **Minutes of August 21, 2006**, seconded by Russ, unanimously carried by the Board.*

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

SM06-07 — \$6,563.78 plus \$600 Equip Fund \$7,825.83

SMPR06-07 - \$3,025.62 Road Com Ords wk/ending 8/26 & 9/2

unanimously carried and signed by the Board.

4. Old Business

Town Hall parking space—Application for State permit to construct the 4 parking spaces will be submitted after the Town budgets the cost to renovate the area in front of the Town Hall.

Law Enforcement - State Trooper Hopkins informed Evans that their report on provided services would be forthcoming as soon as their new billing system becomes operational. The Board agreed to invite the Windham County Sheriff Department (WCSD) (appointed Sheriff Guthrie and Lieutenant Lake) to the next meeting to look at their contract.

General discussion/comments: paying for double coverage as both agencies work hand and hand; WCSD only offering limited services (as in the past) not providing the necessary paperwork that would account for their services; when calling WCSD being told they won't respond because Townshend does not have a contract with them; revenues collected from fines, offsets the cost of a contract.

Gazebo repair / Town Common—As the follow up to Stephen McConnel's August 21st visit, copies of 1987, 1994 & 1995 Town Meeting minutes that addressed the Gazebo and Common Fund were reviewed and the final decision was that the voters should decide to pay for the repairs (the fate) to the Gazebo. The Board sent Stephen McConnel a letter (with copies of Town Meeting minutes) denying his request, at this time, for the Town to fund the repair of the Gazebo but recommended that the Townshend Business Association submit a "Gazebo repair Article" for 2007 Town Meeting.

It appeared to Russ that someone had tried to vandalize the fountain.

Policies—The Town Clerk, Anita Bean will be asked to attend the Board's Sept. 18th meeting to discuss the proposed Town Hall policy.

Telecommunicating Ordinance—The Board addressed Michael Charles' August 22nd letter requesting a variance of the Town Wireless Telecommunications Facilities Ordinance with a communique asking him to provide specific plans of his needs before the Board could entertain a variance.

5. New Business

- Notification from Brattleboro Salvage of their \$10/ton increase for compacted trash

6. Other Business - no Board action taken

St of VT: WW permits: M. Beaudoin (Bush); Duke as-built; Kindle Farm plus Land Use Permit

Certificate of Insurance for S. Montgomery Logging;

Kinney Pike's notification cancellation of Valley Crane Service

VLCT — proposed By-law changes

Shane O'Keefe's letter announcing his availability to serve as Town Mgr, Town Adm or Town Planner

The Board addressed Russ' concern with a letter to Town Hall abutters whose dead trees beside the sidewalk can create a dangerous situation.

*At 9:20 PM Martin moved into **Executive Session** under Title 1, section 313, pending legal action, seconded by Stowell, unanimously carried by the Board.*

At 9:27 PM Martin moved out of Executive Session, seconded by Evans, unanimously carried by the Board. Martin then instructed their clerk to ask Town Clerk, Anita Bean to call a Board of Civil Authority meeting.

8. Time of Next Meeting —Sept 18th

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

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Davis, clerk for the Select Board