

## Townshend Select Board Meeting Minutes - Sept 18, 2006

Present:

Berenice Brooks  
Alene Evans  
Henry Martin, chair

Jeffrey Russ  
Irvin Stowell  
Select Board

Participating Members:

Appointed Sheriff Guthrie & Lieutenant Lake  
Howard Lott, Richard Lucier & Walter Meyer, Lister  
Jennifer Joyce

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

Appointed Sheriff Richard Guthrie & Lieutenant Sherwood Lake updated the Town on the present status of Windham County Sheriff's Department (WCSD) and on Lake's new computer program designed to track their serviceable and billable hours.

Guthrie: an upcoming press release addresses, that in less than 12 weeks the Department is in the black and is making amends with other State agencies allowing them to apply for grants. He has met with other Town's to address WCSD's past lack of accountability and believes this flaw has been corrected thru Lake's new spreadsheets/program, WCSD does not have the extra time nor manpower to conduct criminal investigations. They contractually provide only traffic enforcement, VIN verifications and responses to dog complaints. The Vermont State Police (VSP) is the first responder to 911 calls, but, if available, WCSD has no problem to assist them at any event.

Lake: passed out copies of the spreadsheets (Direct Patrol Program / Summary Revenue and Cost comparison Invest. Vs. Enforce), explaining the cost of doing business with surrounding towns, separating out other charges (L&G, the Dam and the 17 week State Campground season) which was compiled data to establish a standardized hourly rate that covers the wages and mileage at \$31.50 fixed rate per hour:

Whitingham 12.2 hours - \$20,000

Jamaica 10.6 hours - \$17,500.

Lake recommended a contract (leaving a copy) similar with Jamaica, Martin added but Townshend has other issues such as hosting the high school. J. Joyce asked for additional coverage when vehicles speed out and off school grounds or after sporting events. (Guthrie recapped Brattleboro's high school situation).

Lake continued, each monthly bill would include the services provided by the Deputy; roads traveled and mileage, which can be broken down into weekly charges. Unused hours/mileage is credited for use at a different situation. Scheduling is flexible depending on when traffic increases like during fall foliage, ski season, etc. Lake has been available to address specific issues and/or details of the town, such as 4 wheelers and said a Town having its own full time police department is extremely expensive. The portion of revenue received by the Town from traffic tickets, which can offset law enforcement expense was discussed.

Martin believes it would be essential to initiate the contract now, to get feedback and address law enforcement at town meeting and thanked them for coming. Guthrie & Lake left at 7:55 PM — Evans appeared

Before tonight's meeting, Martin spoke to Anita Bean, Town Clerk, allowing her to go home because he believed A. Evans would not be attending. Bean has some suggestions to the Town Hall policy usage and, was okay in taking charge and handling the policy. The Board decided to leave alone Bean's suggestion to change the Town Hall key/locks. A. Evans arrived at 8:00 PM

**1b. Highway foreman report:**

- L&D painted Grafton Rd side white lines. The painting of these lines appeared to Bostrom and Brooks that L&D may have used watered down paint, thinly applied
- Used the John Deere tractor to reclaim the shoulders along Athens Rd. Stowell made Bostrom aware of the possibilities of a dip in the road, throwing the plow trucks about.
- Awaiting response on the sand ad, past bidders have not responded to his phone calls
- In 6 — 7 weeks Royce could be coming back to work; having J. Daigneault available to work has been very worthwhile
- Tomorrow the Plumb Road (clay bank, Better Back Roads Grant project) will be started. Traffic should be temporarily held up.
- Driving the Compactor has become a safety issue. Its brakes need to be repaired. He will schedule the repairs with Twin State.

Bids to purchase the 1999 Simplicity lawn mower / snow blower were opened by Martin:

D. Harris	\$1,200	D. Russ	\$300		
G. Teeke	\$ 200	J. Daigneault	\$403	N. LaMoria	\$800

After minimal discussion *Martin moved to sell the Simplicity tractor plus attachments to Derwood Harris, for \$1,200, seconded by Evans, unanimously carried by the Board.*

Bostrom left at 8:10 PM

Listers: Howard Lott, Richard Lucier and Walter Meyer appeared. Lott informed the Select that proper procedures were followed in notifying the 5 property owners of their re-appraised property value which resulted with no one grieving their change.

Meyer addressed the fact that most of the trailers were "sold" or "skipped out of town" as he presented and reviewed a new list of Errors & Omissions (E&O) prepared by the Town Treasurer. He added that all of these owners got tax bills. Lott thought taxes needed to be abated, Stowell concurred. Lott also stated Listers errors are corrected as E&O's with Select Board approval. Meyer will contact their advisor, Teri Gildersleeve for advice. Select personal thought action had been taken on some of the named recreational vehicle owners: Columbi, DuBuc, Svjek. Consequently Lott was asked to see if the Town Clerk would set up a Board of Abatement, Sept. 27<sup>th</sup> to address this. Meyer announced that inventory of all recreational vehicles, located at the 2 campgrounds, will begin on October 1<sup>st</sup>. Listers left at 8:15 PM

At 8:23 PM Town Treasurer Michalina Wasung phoned the Board expressing her dismay of not addressing the E&O's tonight.

**1a. Town Clerk and/or Treasurer:** No financial reports or correspondence was received from the Town Treasurer.

**1c. Board of Health:** none

*Martin moved to approve the **Minutes of Sept 5, 2006**, seconded by Stowell, unanimously carried by the Board.* Their clerk, Davis reported that Anita Bean has graciously agreed to proofread the drafted minutes, correcting grammatical errors and incomplete statements. Stowell was given Bean's edited minutes for review.

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

SM06-07 — \$12,448.72

SMPR06-07 - \$ 1,037.76

Road Com Ords - 8/26 spec project and regular 9/9

Kearley's repairing furnace bills were challenged but finally approved after Russ reviewed them

*unanimously carried and signed by the Board.*

#### **4. Old Business**

**Common flags** — A consensus to display, in a semi-circle, the hand crafted commemorative flags, on the Common's Rte 30 side was a result of the meeting attended by Martin, the TES Principal Deborah Leggott and Laurie Richardson. (Evans left at 8:45 PM)

**Trash Disposal** — Davis will invite TTT to make their presentation at the Board's Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

**Richie's Rd** — Reminder public hearing on Richie's Road - Sept 27<sup>th</sup> 6:00 PM

**Valley Care** — Copies of the signed Water Agreement & Quit Claim Deed between DeWitt and Valley Care

**Handyman** — Davis will invite the 3 persons interested in the Town Hall position (Francis Bailey, Donald Fontaine and Albert Ghiz, Jr.) for an interview at the October 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

**WCSD contract** — The Board responded in favor of Martin's question to proceed to enter into a contract with the Windham County Sheriff's Department (WCSD) possibly 10.6 weekly hours, totaling \$17,500. After minimal discussion *Martin moved to contract with the WCSD for the current fiscal year - 10.6 weekly hours of services, costing \$17,500, seconded by Stowell, carried by the Board. Stowell moved to authorize the Board's chair, Martin to sign the contract, seconded by Russ, carried by the Board.*

**Traffic monitoring** — Davis reported that Windham Regional Commission would schedule in our request for monitoring Riverdale and Rte 35 speed and traffic.

**Ancient Roads** — Stowell took the packet containing the grant application to search / identify old "ancient" town roads.

#### **5. New Business** - no action taken

- Miscellaneous Select Board e-mails downloaded by F. Hege were notification of an evasive plant Japanese Knotweed & the plan to develop a New England natural gas consortium "from well head to ship".

- Vermont State Infrastructure Bank brochure — available funding for municipal transportation construction projects (salt shed)

**6. Other Business**

St of VT: - Environmental recessed public hearing Stratton Corporation  
Notification of reinstatement of Valley Crane Service Inc. insurance.

**7. Executive Session** — none at this time

**8. Time of Next Meeting** — Oct 2nd

*Brooks moved to **Adjourn at 9:00 PM**, seconded by Stowell, carried by the Board.*

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Davis, clerk for the Board.