

Townshend Select Board Meeting Minutes — October 2, 2006

Present:

Berenice Brooks
Alene Evans
Henry Martin, chair

Jeffrey Russ
Irvin Stowell, Select Board

Participating Members:

Kenneth & Martha Hoffmann; Peter Gatskill (TTT)
Robert Stevens (Stevens Assoc.) L&G administration,
Board, Townshend Directors plus 10+ members of the
public; Land Committee members and Fredrick Hege

At 7:00 PM the chair **called the Meeting to Order** and asked if members of the public wanted to speak, while the Board waited for Jennifer Joyce, auditor, who was scheduled to attend the meeting. Many commented that tonight's increased public participation was attributed to the Reformer's article on Stevens Associates presentation on L&GUHS' expansion

Kenneth Hoffmann wanted to address:

- L&G's parking;
- increased traffic flows will impact the fast growing Town / village area;
- heard that GCH could possibility to convert the Heins Home (assisted living facility) building into office space;
- Grafton Rd has too many dangerously parked vehicles, especially around the pharmacy (Stowell mentioned that cars are now parked on top of the pharmacy's septic system) Martin mentioned that WRC is scheduling a Grafton Rd traffic study;
- it has become more difficult for the elderly to walk about town (Martin added that there was a wood trail linking the new elder/assistant living facility with the hospital;
- the dangerous intersection of Peaked Mtn Rd and Grafton Rd; he suggested considering a traffic light.

How can these issues be resolved, he asked.

Martin added, the Town needs to build a municipal sewer system to handle residences on Rte 30 and 35 on the land leased to L&G. He and the Board heard Hoffmann's concerns.

At 7:15 Peter Gatskill answered questions on Triple T's Trucking (TTT) proposal on handling the disposal of Townshend's household waste:

- TTT would provide a stationery hopper type compactor (similar to Jamaica's);
- The necessity of trash removal, every other week, was the result of Townshend's average disposal waste;
- The Town will provide an attendant, electricity and an area large enough for a truck to remove the box and be responsible in paying the cost of disposing this waste.

Members expressed their concerns of odor, flies, etc. as the trash sits around during the hot summer. Martin referenced that Jamaica allows their residents to dispose of additional stuff such as demo materials, chairs, mattresses, etc.

Stowell reacted to Martin's suggestion to reactivate the old "dump" site at the intersection of Grafton Rd and Rte 35 stating there were many issues and problems such as the lack of security or the ability to secure the area. The State said we couldn't reopen the dump; and trash would be left outside the gates. Evans believes residents should learn to compost. The Board will take this information under advisement. Martin thanked P. Gatskill for coming. Leaving at 7:30 PM

1a. Town Clerk and/or Treasurer:

Wasung's Memo:

- Requesting a motion allowing her to complete a \$20,000 Vermont Municipal Equipment Loan Fund for the small truck. Board members remembered that the Treasurer had reassured the Town could apply for 2 equipment loans, which is what the Board wants to do. And, why can't she come to answer Board questions?
- She had to e-mail the State for the amount to pay the school, \$480,000, less than one quarter, "using this amount in order to simplify calculating the last payment after receiving the true-up".
- Tax collection has finally slowed down, which she explained why was she was unable to provide the Board with any financial statements. Members said they have expressed to the Treasurer that it is very important for the Board to get these financial statements. It's now time to start budgeting.

1b. Highway foreman: not present, as he was assisting in repairing the bus, recessing this meeting to meet with him. Bostrom did provide WRC's final culvert status report for review. He will provide the Board with a copy.

job evaluation (1 yr employment); crush gravel now; State municipal equipment loan; projects; received Simplicity sale payment - SAND BID(s)

*Martin moved to approve the **Minutes of September 18, 2006**, seconded by Evans, unanimously carried by the Board.*

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

SM06-07 — \$2,934.40 plus \$5.84 abatement

SMPR06-07 - \$3,229.32

Road Com Orders wk/ending 9/16 & 9/23 & 9/30

unanimously carried and signed by the Board.

At 8:00 PM the Board and members of the public, 20+ including L&G administration & Directors gathered in the dining room to hear **Robert Stevens', from Stevens Associates**, updates on L&GUHS proposed reconstruction. He announced public informational meetings will be held at L&G on Oct. 10th and Nov. 1st at 7:30 PM.

Stevens addressed:

- site changes; showing semi-finished elevation views;
- new traffic flow; believing that the highest concentration of traffic will be the 20 minutes before and after school hours; adjusting property grades; the possibility to create additional parking by purchasing adjacent properties; working with GCH at the intersection of Peaked Mtn. Rd and Grafton Rd. Martin asked how did they achieve an accurate count of vehicles entering and exiting as one car could leave and return many times; increased parking areas will directly affect the 20 minute rush;
- 2 parking lots — #1 constructing a new 18 car parking lot behind Townshend Town Hall (hinges on town approval, but cost to construct is included in the bond) Martin added will

- create congestion on A-level and in trying to enter/exit off Rte 30; #2 possibly behind the Catholic Church will require cutting down the slope, constructing retaining walls, etc.
- the designated area for students to get the buses was reviewed with satisfactory responses (snow removal could become an issue)
 - Stowell inquired, what happens to the existing drainage along the existing driveway? State Statutes directs you “can’t mess with existing drainage”. Stevens replied that L&G will meet storm water mitigation with subsurface retention piping, and whenever is possible leaving the ditch open.
 - Original bonding was \$7.5 million, now the State has committed \$2.13 million, thus reducing the bonding to \$5.4 million reported Franklin Rucker, L&G Business Manager. Tax impact on a \$100,000 valued property would be \$.13 per hundred a 6% increase over last year’s taxes. Handout of the numbers, tax impact, etc. will be provided at the other public meetings. Martin understood that the State calculates reimbursement on the number of students actually attending school. Rucker countered that no the State calculates on the maximum students the structure can hold.
 - Martin asked what budgetary impact the day-to-day maintenance this new structure would have? Rucker believed an additional custodian will have to be hired. The Board had intended to expand the wood chip heating system (with the State reimbursement of 90%) and the mechanical heating control system
 - Hoffmann asked if they were pursuing benefactor monies as they did on their first proposal. Stevens responded no benefactor money is included. L&G asked him to redesign, downscale the first auditorium & rooms, focusing more on Townshend’s concerns such as parking, traffic and lowering construction costs, etc.
 - A public member, Paul Jerz mentioned this was good discussion. He understands that new residents first inquire on the school system and these plans benefit our children. He believes that Townshend has more opportunities; having a school and hospital. As in the past, the other school districts can pass, budgets or bonding, when Townshend has voted them down.
 - Martin & Stowell were reassured that the State monies would not be delayed.
 - The reconfiguration of the Dutton Gym was discussed. New windows were installed & the heating system was expanded to the building. At 8:55 PM everyone left.

At 9:00 PM the Board then met with the Land Committee recognizing Arthur Monette, chair, indicated that the Land Committee has gone as far as it can go. The committee has reduced the sizes of a Fire Station and Town highway garage:

Town highway garage: eliminated two bays but added an outdoor carport for the bus and storage. The Committee did obtain a cost on a prefab structure finding the differences to be negligible; reducing the original cost, to build at both places, to 1.46 million (add’l costs for tear down present town garage is not included). The chair questioned what could be found in the ground and what condition the ground or ground water is in after the many years of piling and storing salt at the site. Sanderson suggested there is always an unseen issue. If found the material would be removed and disposed of, hazardous or not, before the State signs off. Janos’ previous tests of the brook have resulted in being okay.

Fire Station: The Committee visited Guilford’s, Jamaica’s & Putney’s fires station, sketched out a new plan and design similar to Jamaica’s, dated July 16, 2006, greatly scaling back its design and cost to 1.57 million — fire trucks will be exiting onto the driveway before entering Rte 30. The firemen’s feed back was disappointing - they were not interested in a new station but wouldn’t mind refurbishing the existing structure. Sanderson believes the issue of not having the backing of the firemen will impact it’s outcome, Monette added nobody knows what

exactly will happen to the volunteer fire department in 5 to 10 years, we need to do something, now.

The committee recommends that both projects move forward, to be built at Taft Meadows, because there is no room for growth at the current Town Garage site. Stowell agreed but not Sanderson.

Everyone discussed tax impacts — everything coming at the same time but the need to provide voters a choice in presenting a bond vote on the construction of each structure. Martin believes and heard mention, during Stevens' presentation of L&G's proposal, that the public is expecting something on what's going on at Taft Meadows. Evans stated that this would not be an ideal presentation but we don't need to spend additional monies for finished plans of the Fire Station.

The Board's clerk was apprehensive in being able to get all of this accomplished and ready before the 30-day window for the November 7th vote — bonding for the fire station 1.57; the highway garage 1.45 — informational meeting October 24.

Hege expressed his personal view - why add this Bond vote with the ballots of JP, General Election & L&G - it could be a disastrous Election Day. Nystrom had mentioned that it was always the Land Committee's intent to have this bond vote before L&G's but it took extra time to overcome many hurdles placed before it.

Russ moved to have a bond vote to construct a new fire station and highway garage at Taft Meadows, seconded by Stowell, carried by the Board. Evans — No

4. Old Business

Windham County Sheriff's Department (WCSD) —Martin reported that the contract was signed, and he saw no reason why Brooks' request to have the Department monitor the 2-hour parking limits within the village couldn't be accomplished.

The issue of WCSD acting as TES truant officer had been brought to Martin's attention. Historically the Town had not paid for this service. This service consumes a lot of deputy time. It is more than just picking up and returning the child. It can involve court time. Evans agreed with Martin's statement. She doesn't want this issue to muddy the water between the Town and WCSD. She also added, that if she had remained at the Board's last meeting, she would have voted against entering into the contract because she believes they have not fixed their billing system or improved their accountability to the Town. Hege asked if he could speak for TES — WCSD will not follow up on truancy issues until TES honors a contract with them. After speaking with State's Attorney and learning that our County tax pays for WCSD to serve summons, our principal can order to have them serve parents with a truancy summons.

Martin believes this is a moot point, but we will watch WCSD's bills like a hawk.

Common

Flags —Martin had a visit and conversation with Walter Meyer who was extremely offended and upset with the placement of the Richardson's memorial flags on the Common. These flags were in the way of the Church's tag sale. Martin had Richardson call Meyer to talk about it.

Gazebo —Martin informed the Board of his comments given to the Reformer, to be included in their article, about the Townshend Business Association maintaining the Gazebo.

Policies —Evans will accept Board member feedback on renting the Town Hall policy, after she meets with Town Clerk, Anita Bean.

Ancient Roads —Stowell has not received any more information. As a history buff, Charles Marchant indicated he could be interested in doing some of the ancient road research.

Town Hall handyman —Three more letters of interest had been received. Martin volunteered to draft a job description to include disposing of the mattresses, weekly trash & basement stuff; monitor the renting schedule and condition of the building; washing windows; have flexible hours. Evans has found the condition of the dining room to be a mess of clutter. He will personally first speak with the Town Hall's cleaner, Christine Aither, as he doesn't want to loose her.

Valley Cares:

- HUD would not sign off on the 30-day Waiver period; ground breaking will take place October 20th as most contractors stand ready, reported Martin.
- After minimal discussion *Stowell moved to sign the Grant Agreements associated with the Valley Cares venture, between the Town and State, seconded by Russ unanimously carried and signed by the Board.* Davis will hand deliver these Agreements to Valley Cares.

For Information only:

- Town Clerk provided copies of her letters from J. Lynn Gentlewolf: personal (deed copies) & evidentiary discovery disclosures (dogs)
- Stephen McConnel letter of appreciation having the white lines painted on Grafton Rd.

5. New Business

- Davis was instructed to complete VLCT's survey, part of their insurance renewal package.
- Hege reported that as a result of a neighbor's fire in Bellows Falls, Sovernet's service is down, thus affecting our WEB site.

6. Other Business - no action taken

- A&S Collection Assoc.: announcing their ability to collect taxes, traffic tickets, dog licenses, etc. and offering forms
- VT Rural Fire Protection Task Force — deadline of October 20th to order firemen's gear

At 10:05 PM the chair moved into **Executive Session** under Title 1, Section 313 to deliberate a pending legal matter, taking over Richie's Rd, seconded by Stowell, unanimously carried by the Board.

At 10:10 PM the chair moved out of **Executive Session**, seconded by Brooks, unanimously carried by the Board. The chair moved to deny the petitioned request to lay out Richie's Road as a public highway, seconded by Stowell.

Atty Fisher will be asked to add an additional item to the prepared Notice of Decision: "there exists significant drainage problems due to improper run off and flow from driveways that intersect with the road (unapproved driveway accesses), *unanimously carried by the Board.*

Davis was instructed to inform the Attorney of this addition and to present a corrected Notice of Decision for Board signing.

8. Time of Next Meeting —Oct 16, 2006

The chair **recessed to tomorrow at 7:00 PM**, seconded by Stowell, unanimously carried by the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Davis, clerk for the Select Board.

October 3, 2006

Recessed Oct 2nd meeting to 7:00 PM — Present, Irvin Stowell, vice chair, Berenice Brooks, Alene Evans, Jeffrey Russ, Select Board and road foreman, Kurt Bostrom

The vice chair called the **meeting to order** at 7:00 PM and Bostrom presented, reviewed and explained the 3 **equipment bids** for the new single axle truck. The bid includes dump body, plows, lights, pumps, shovel holders, etc.

- Tenco — stainless steel pipes; likes style of body; plow has high discharge.
\$46,761.00 plus \$250 for LED lights
- L&B — not crazy about it body type; has a Viking plow
Price could be higher \$48,559.70
- Fairfield - \$50,530.

After minimal discussion Stowell moved to approve Tenco's Equipment bid of \$46,761.00 plus \$250 for LED lights, seconded by Russ, unanimously carried by the Board.

SAND BIDS quotes good until April 2007; delivery before Nov 1st.

Cersosimo 11.00 per cu yard delivered

Bazin Bros 13.25 per cu yard delivered

Other contractors were called by Bostrom but did not respond. After discussion *Stowell moved to accept Cersosimo's sand bid of \$11.00 per cu/yard, delivered, seconded by Russ, unanimously carried by the Board.*

Stowell assured Bostrom that copies of approved Driveway Access Permits will be provided for him, as he has had questions. Stowell added that there is a buried cable underneath B. Horn's; Bostrom replaced the Wardsboro/ Townshend town line sign where it was but Stowell told everyone that this town line is actually in the middle of the road.

Bostrom reported:

- The clay bank on Plumb Rd (Better Back Road's project/grant) is finished, awaiting receipt of all bids before submission for grant monies.
- Will be replacing Murray & Chamberlin (Buck Hill) culverts
- He re cantered his frustrations and difficulties in trying to contact someone, at State level, as to when the centerlines would be painted on Windham Hill Rd and Grafton Rd.

Old business updates:

Davis reported

that a Reformer correspondent called with additional "Taft Meadows (fire station & highway garage)" details;

She had called VLCT & Secretary of State, who's advice was to have the town's attorney draft the "bond" vote. She proceeded to give the pertinent information to Atty Fisher's office for drafting the appropriate document, which will be completed and faxed to the Town tomorrow, in time for Board action, Wednesday evening.

Town Treasurer's Memo requesting action on a Vermont Municipal Equipment Loan Fund (VMELF):

Everyone agreed to ask for a VMELF loan of \$20,000 on the new one ton — Truck #7
Stowell then proceeded to ask Bostrom what was the cost of the new truck's chassis — Truck #8: \$70,670.00, he added the additional equipment cost and the possible purchase of extended warranty, suggesting that the Town request a VMELF loan of \$120,000.

After discussion Evans moved that the Board instruct the Town Treasurer to fill out and sign the application for the Vermont Municipal Equipment Loan Fund for Truck #7 — Ford 1-ton of \$20,000 and to submit the application before October 15, 2006, seconded by Stowell, unanimously carried by the Board.

Evans then moved that the Board instruct the Town Treasurer to fill out and sign the application for the Vermont Municipal Equipment Loan Fund for Truck #8 — single axle, of \$120,000 and to submit the application before October 15, 2006, seconded by Stowell, unanimously carried by the Board.

Stowell informed Bostrom that Dolan in West Townshend is willing to deed his unused, capped off water rights to the Town. This acquisition will greatly benefit the Town to properly correct the beginning of Windham Hill Rd drainage and ditch.

At 7:45 PM Stowell moved to recess to tomorrow, seconded by Brooks, unanimously carried by the Board

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Davis, clerk for the Select Board.

October 4, 2006

Present: Select Board members Henry Martin, chair, Berenice Brooks, Alene Evans, Jeffrey Russ and Irvin Stowell. Continued recess of the Board's October 2nd meeting. The chair waited for a full Board before calling the meeting to order at 7:15 PM - to review the following document faxed by Atty. Fisher's, prepared by C. Davis; read aloud by A. Evans:

WARNING / BALLOT

TOWN OF TOWNSHEND, VERMONT - SPECIAL TOWN MEETING - NOVEMBER 7, 2006

The legal voters of the Town of Townshend qualified to vote are hereby notified and warned to meet in the Town Hall in Townshend, Vermont on TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2006 between 7:00 o'clock a.m. and 7:00 o'clock p.m. to act upon the following Articles:

ARTICLE 1. To see if the Town will authorize the following capital improvement: the construction of a new fire station to be located on property owned by the Town of Townshend known as "Taft Meadows," at an estimated cost of 1.57 million dollars and will authorize the issuance of bonds in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed 1.57 million dollars at a rate of interest not to exceed 10% in order to pay to that extent the cost of said public improvement. The vote on the foregoing article will be by Australian Ballot as required by law. The question to be voted upon will be as follows:

Shall bonds of the Town of Townshend in an amount not to exceed 1.57 million dollars (\$1,570,000.00) bearing interest not to exceed ten (10%) percent, be issued for the purpose of the construction of a new fire station to be located on property of the Town of Townshend known as "Taft Meadows"?

If in favor of the bond issue, make a cross (x) in this square

If opposed to the bond issue, make a cross (x) in this square

ARTICLE 2. To see if the Town will authorize the following capital improvement: the construction of a new highway department garage facility to be located on property owned by the Town of Townshend known as "Taft Meadows," at an estimated cost of 1.45 million dollars and will authorize the issuance of bonds in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed 1.45 million dollars at a rate of interest not to exceed 10% in order to pay to that extent the cost of said public improvement. The vote on the foregoing article will be by Australian Ballot as required by law. The question to be voted upon will be as follows:

Shall bonds of the Town of Townshend in an amount not to exceed 1.45 million dollars (\$1,450,000.00) bearing interest not to exceed ten (10%) percent, be issued for the purpose of the construction of a new town highway department garage facility to be located on property of the Town of Townshend known as "Taft Meadows"?

If in favor of the bond issue, make a cross (x) in this square

If opposed to the bond issue, make a cross (x) in this square

ARTICLE 3. To transact any other business that may lawfully come before the meeting.

Dated at Townshend, Vermont this 6th 4th day of October, 2006.

TOWN OF TOWNSHEND

Berenice Brooks _____

Alene Evans _____

Henry Martin _____

Jeffrey Russ _____

Irvin Stowell _____

After complete discussion the chair moved to have a Special Town Meeting — November 7, 2006 beginning at 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM, for reasons above, seconded by Evans, unanimously carried and signed by the Board.

This Warning will be posted in 5 public places by their clerk & published in the Town's newspaper of record — Brattleboro Reformer 3 consecutive dates — October 14th & 21st

The chair read aloud, in its entirety, Article #1 (fire station) moving it for approval and presentation on a ballot at the November 7, 2006 voting, seconded by Russ, unanimously carried by the Board.

Martin proceeded to read Article #2 (highway garage), in its entirety moving it for approval and presentation on a ballot at the November 7, 2006 voting, seconded by Evans, unanimously carried by the Board.

The ballot will be one sheet of paper, copying all of the above Warning / Balloting without Board signatures. The ballot must be available, before Saturday, October 7th, to allow for absentee voting.

Old business:

Attorney Fisher also faxed the corrected Decision of Notice on Richie's Rd, after reviewing the inserted item and having previously motioned to be accepted, the Board signed it.

*At 7:40 PM Brooks moved to **adjourn**, seconded by Russ, unanimously carried by the Board.*