

## Townshend Selectboard Meeting Minutes – October 15, 2007

**Present:**

Alene Evans  
Joseph Juhasz  
Henry Martin

Carole Melis  
Jeffrey Russ,  
Selectboard

**Participating Members:**

Robert Anderson, Kindle Farm, Stanley “Mike” Bills, Ancient Rd;  
Howard Lott, Richard Lucier & Walter Meyer, Lister

*Martin called the Meeting to Order at 6:00 PM* to meet with members of the Ancient Roads Committee (Robert Anderson, Kindle Farm; Stanley “Mike” Bills and Jeffrey Russ) to discuss roads: Class 2, 3, 4, trails, roads thrown up and corridors. All agreed that the merit of each road will be done on an individual basis. The need to clarify definitions will be addressed. They will review the collections of maps and Dauchy’s Roads.

Another member, Irvin Stowell, has been writing down the roads, he remembers that were thrown up, class 4 or turned into trails. Charles Marchant is another great resource for information. Their next meeting will be Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. Anderson & Bills left at 6:35 PM

The Chair continued with the open meeting – recognizing the Listers, Howard Lott, Richard Lucier & Walter Meyer, who presented their list of Errors and Omissions (E&O) for Selectboard approval (Evans would compare their list to the one prepared by the Town Treasurer)

Name	Assessment	
	Was	Now

<b>Bailey, Diane</b> (RV) was never billed		11,190
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*Martin moved to bill Diane Bailey on her 11,190 assessment, seconded by Melis, unanimously carried by the Board*

<b>Ramirez &amp; Dutton</b> land was recalculated resulting in		
	223,800	223,600

*Martin moved to lower Ramirez and Dutton’s property value 200, seconded by Melis, unanimously carried by the Board.*

<b>Orman &amp; Solow</b>	325,500	301,700
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Orman and Solow were assessed on too much acreage. *Martin moved to change Orman & Solow’s assessment to 301,700, seconded by Melis, unanimously carried by the Board.*

<b>Cargill</b>	25,300	25,100
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Confused over his selling and buying another RV *Martin moved to change Cargill’s assessment to 25,100, seconded by Melis, unanimously carried by the Board.*

Meyer spoke of the Listers’ responsibility to prepare the E&O but because the Town Treasurer, Michalina Wasung, hears from upset property owners she prepares her list of E&O’s which doesn’t reflect updated data the Listers have obtained.

Discussion followed on advantages and disadvantages of taxing recreational vehicles in campgrounds.

The State listed Beck as a non-resident, consequently he wanted it changed as he is a resident, which has been done with a increase in taxes \$.76. *Martin moved to pass over Beck’s reappraisal but to change his status as a resident, seconded by Melis, unanimously carried by the Board.*

	Was	Now
<b>DuBuc</b>	11,630	8,020

*Martin moved to reduce Dubuc trailer appraisal from 11,630 to 8,020 reflecting a difference of 3,610, seconded by Melis, unanimously carried by the Board.*

**Gianchetti** sold his RV on Aug 10, 2007, consequently the statutes state that both owners are responsible to pay their portion of property taxes. All agreed to send each owner (past & present) a tax bill.

After discussion and requesting additional statute information, etc regarding the **Wolff Clinic and the Messenger Valley Pharmacy** *Martin moved to pass over these two reappraisals, seconded by Evans, unanimously carried by the Board.*

**Henry** sold his RV after April 1<sup>st</sup>; all agreed to send each owner (past & present) a tax bill.

**LaVallee** was doubled billed on his RV

*Martin moved to abate one of his bills, seconded by Evans, unanimously carried by the Board.*

<b>Jascot</b>	12,900	3,700
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This was a Lister error, *Martin moved to lower Jascot's RV appraisal to 3,700, seconded by Evans, unanimously carried by the Board*

**Peters** removed his RV in 2006,

*Evans moved to take it off the grand list, seconded by Melis, unanimously carried by the Board.*

**Pickering**, same thing, removed his RV in Sept 2006

*Evans moved to take it off the grand list, seconded by Melis, unanimously carried by the Board.*

The Selectboard asked the Listers to investigate and present State paperwork explaining the lowering of **Southern Vermont Cable Co** appraisal from 243,690 to 203,800 at which time the Board will revisit it as an E&O

After **Stoltz** received his tax bill he reported that he had sold his trailer and wants a letter from the Lister's acknowledging their error. The new owner was taxed.

Martin asked the Listers where the town stands with the **Heins Home** paying their education portion of taxes. Meyer's responded that it is not the Listers responsibility to send out a tax bill. They only assess properties and stated that he could bill anybody at any amount they want.. He was assured that, as a result of Town Meeting, the Heins Home appraisal was not lowered.

The chair insisted that the Heins Home educational taxes be resolved and that the Town Treasurer bill accordingly.

Howard Lott, lister, spoke to the State and he presented to the Board lists of documents that cannot be shredded. He was informed that everything you write down is a government document. He explained that during rearranging of property owner's files he only shredded duplicate/copies of paperwork in each file. The remaining paperwork contains detailed worksheets that will allow them to defend numbers and facts.

On another matter, Meyer was informed that the Town needs to own the Gazebo in order for it to be insured. Lott, Lucier & Meyer left at 7:40 PM

Melis reported that Atty. Fishers draft letter to the Town Treasurer was incorrect and should focus on the obligation of management and retention of documents. All agreed that the State

Statuses are ambiguous to duties of the Town Treasurer and that some of her duties were inherited obligations.

*At 7:45 PM Martin moved into **Executive Session** under Title 1, Section 313 to discuss contractual matters, inviting Davis, seconded by Russ, unanimously carried by the Board.*

*At 7:55 PM Martin moved out of Executive Session, seconded by Melis unanimously carried by the Board.*

As the result of Executive Session *Melis moved to authorize Martin to sign the modified Letter of Intent from Pieciak and Company PC CPA (modifying the time to examine documents and payment terms), seconded by Evans, unanimously carried by the Board.*

The chair *welcomed* the Board's newest member Joseph Juhasz.

**1a. Town Clerk and/or Treasurer:** Town Treasurers proposed E&O 10/15

**Russ, liaison to highway department, presented the road foreman's report:**

- Quote from O'Brien to black top the West Townshend Stone Arch Bridge, Back Way to Windham. All three suggestions were discussed and *Martin moved to authorize Kurt Bostrom, road foreman to contract with O'Brien's option #2, not to exceed \$9,600, seconded by Melis, unanimously carried by the Board and signed by the chair.*
- Reviewed the dump truck accident which was carrying asphalt, lost control and tumbled down the embankment landing in a marsh area where the llamas use to graze. The Environmental Commission insisted that before removal all substances had to be pumped out of the truck and removed from the land. Bostrom has been talking to the contractor who will be repairing the area and believes that the trucking company's insurance will pay for complete rip rapping of the sloped area along Rte 35. Martin will ask Bostrom to submit, for reimbursement, to the insurance company road crew hours and equipment costs at the accident.
- Bostrom would like a digital camera, computer, docking station and internet access. Martin suggested having 2 Wired Guys give the Town an estimate.
- Martin stated that Bill Guenther from the State indicated that the maple trees along Beck's property on Windham Hill Road had rotted out from the center and should be taken down. He stated that he was unsure as to who legally removes trees. It is in a gray area. Beck has agreed to take them down if the Town would provide some traffic control and removal of brush. Bostrom was authorized to work with Beck in the removal of these maple trees for public safety and other extenuating circumstances.
- Melis will review the Town's driveway access with Atty. Fisher in order to keep the town roads operational when it requires the removal of a culvert at the end of one's driveway.
- The FEMA paperwork has been received. He couldn't verify how much money the Town would be reimbursed and when it would receive the State's 12 ½% cost reimbursement. Martin gave everything to Juhasz for review and provide an assurance that the Town was getting some money.
- After discussion the Board agreed that the road foreman, Bostrom should make the decision on keeping or removing the empty gas tank.

*Martin moved to pay Highway Orders for weeks ending 10/6 and 10/12, seconded by Russ, unanimously carried by the Board.*

The Board tabled the **Minutes – October 1<sup>st</sup>**, *Martin moved to approve the **October 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> meetings** correcting the 10<sup>th</sup> Melis moved to approve the minutes of Oct 9<sup>th</sup> and the corrected Oct 10<sup>th</sup> minutes, seconded by Martin, unanimously carried by the Board.*

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

SM07-08 #7                      \$10,583.91 rec'd bill from Labert Mediation move to add \$896.

SMPR07-08 #7                 \$ 1,373.58

*unanimously carried by the Board.*

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

The chair received correspondence from the engineers of Resource Center, who examined Grace Cottage Hospital's (GCH) sewer system, informing GCH that the manhole **in front of the Doctors** entrance needed immediate repair. Consequently the Town is allowing them to dig into Rte 35. Additional sewer work, near the Grade School, will be done in the summer

Davis assured the Board that **fuel bids** will be received by November's meeting.

**Preliminary budget** preparation will begin.

Received a **letter of appreciation** on the road work done in front of Roemer's driveway

Tomorrow night **Personal Policy** workshop

Martin will follow up, as a courtesy call and talk to the Brookline Rd. landowner about the **creation of a dump** of white goods.

Martin was informed by the property owner south of the Town Hall that she had instructed her tenant, Kim Greene, to take care of the **dead tree**.

The Board received a letter from Elisabeth Jones, president of the Townshend Business Association (TBA), responding to the two letters printed in TBA's first issue of the **Townshend Tribune**. The Board agreed to have Evans start drafting a positive response for their next edition in January.

#### **5. New Business**

Elizabeth Garfield called the chair and apologized for not getting Board approval before the Historical Society placed a show case in the Town Hall entrance hall. Townshend artifacts will be displayed. Melis suggested that the Historical Society sign a Hold Harmless for the Town.

Need a snow blower operator and need to find a place to plug it in.

Power on Common needs updating; again storing the fountain at the Town Garage; the fountain's basin needs to be rebuilt as over the years it has become porous and water is leaking out. Martin asked Russ to seek estimates to rebuild the fountain's basin.

## **6. Other Business**

St of VT - Alisa Moyer's new septic – neighbors WT stone arch bridge.  
Bazin Bros Certificate of Insurance

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

**8. Next Meeting – Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>** regular meeting November 5th

*Melis moved to **adjourn** at 9:15 PM, seconded by Russ, unanimously carried by the Board.*

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Davis, clerk for the Selectboard