

Townshend Selectboard Meeting Minutes - November 19th and 26th, 2007

Present:

Alene Evans
Joseph Juhasz
Henry Martin

Carole Melis
Jeffrey Russ,
Selectboard

Participating Members

Nov 19th: Timothy Bell, Emergency Chair; Dale Davis;
William Eckhardt and Richard Jackson, Revol. Loan;
Stanley "Mike" Bills and Robert Anderson, Ancient Rds;
Kurt Bostrom, road foreman

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

Timothy Bell, Townshend's Emergency coordinator, stressed the Town's continuation to support the command center at GCH and to establish a dependable line of communications with the center and the fire department. After discussion, *Martin moved that the Town of Townshend accept the responsibilities of their phone line at the operations center, seconded by Evans, unanimously carried by the Board.* Bell will talk with Verizon to bill the Town for this phone line.

Bell spoke about the local Ham radio operators who made good use of their first \$1,000 from the Town and wish to continue updating the equipment. Bell left at 7:20 PM

2a. Road foreman, Kurt Bostrom reported:

- The completion of spot paving Windham Hill and over the stone culvert on Back Windham Road
- Nov. 26th DMI will start repairing the bank along Rte 35 damaged by a dump truck incident. He gave the Treasurer Progressive's Insurance check of \$12,000 to pay for this repair.
- R. Carusona applied for a Driveway Access Permit which will be returned as he is not the legal owner of the property and cannot obtain access.
- Bostrom asked how was he going to create the 08-09 Highway Budget? Martin spoke that the Board will assist him in trying to create a budget.
- New Highway Facility – Martin expressed with the things that he has been hearing about a new building concept, it appears to him that the Town is back to square one.

Dale Davis spoke personally about trying to obtain information, finding it difficult to compare apples to apples. He had investigated the costs and availability of steel buildings similar to Halifax and the costs of maintaining this structure. The Board's liaison to the highway department, Russ volunteered to set up a committee/meeting. Martin stressed that actual plans with concrete costs will have to be presented to the voters, as there are always those who will make changes. Melis reminded everyone of Hunt's interest in this project.

- Bostrom had reviewed Verizon's flagged and staked out poles on Windham Hill Road. *Martin moved to approve Verizon's request to relocate poles on Windham Hill Rd., seconded by Melis, unanimously carried by the Board.*
- Move the Fountain to the Town Barn while school is in recess.
- Truck 7 was down, needed to replace the line in its fuel tank. Davis & Bostrom left at 7:42 after the Board signed the Highway Orders.

Townshend's **Revolving Loan** members Richard Jackson and William Eckhardt presented an application submitted by Scott Bertram, who has applied for a \$15,000 loan using his property as collateral. Chittenden Bank will handle the loan with all the necessary paperwork. Jackson and Eckhardt gave a brief overview on the Revolving Loan explaining how and when it was created and stated that they are very frugal when determining who receives a loan.

Melis asked many questions and expressed her concern that the Town was not securing legal protection should a borrower default on the loan.

After discussion, *Martin moved to authorize the Revolving Loan Committee to submit Scott Bertram's application for a \$15,000 loan thru Chittenden Bank, seconded by Evans, carried by the Board.* Russ abstained. Eckhardt and Jackson left at 7:55 PM.

It was decided by the chair not to wait any longer for Tom Lyman or Irvin Stowell to attend the **Ancient Roads** meeting. The chair noticed that Bills had left at which time the Board was told he had an 8:00 meeting.

Melis asked that the Ancient Roads Grant which she, Lyman and Bills completed be ratified, *she so moved, seconded by Evans, unanimously carried by the Board.*

Anderson has lived in the area all his life and is a teacher at Kindle Farm. He met with 5 high school students to explain the Ancient Roads project. They all appeared to be very excited.

He asked that:

- The Town prepare some means of notifying property owners of people walking on their land
- To get as many volunteers, even property owners, as they will have a vested interest in knowing what is found upon their land.
- The Committee needs Board direction, definitions and criteria in classifying a found road before the Public Hearing.
- Martin suggested that there may be some Grant money that could be used and reminded them to work with Irvin Stowell who has a lot of knowledge of old roads and records.
- The possible use 4 wheelers
- Needing adult sized snow shoes for the students

Before Bills left he gave Melis an \$800 training grant for possible use by the Ancient Roads Committee. After quick review of the Grant, Martin suggested that further investigation be performed regarding its implication before applying. Juhasz volunteered to review this grant. Anderson left at 8:20 PM

2. Martin moved to accept *the minutes of November 5, 2007*, seconded by Evans. Corrections and clarification were made *Melis moved to accept the corrected minutes, seconded by Martin unanimously carried by the Board.*

3. Martin moved to *Pay Bills and Pay the following Orders*, seconded by Evans,

SM07-08 #10 (<i>corrected</i>)	\$32,352.71
SMPR 07-08 #9	\$ 857.02

unanimously carried and signed by the Board

4. Old Business:

Common – Evans attended Townshend Business Associations' (TBA) monthly meeting, at which she strongly suggested that the TBA's idea of decorating 2 trees and the Town Hall with LED lights be brought before the Selectboard for consideration. She volunteered to do so. After discussion, *Martin moved to allow the Townshend*

Business Association to decorate 2 maple trees and the Town Hall, seconded by Russ. Melis expressed her concern that these lights be removed before the trees bud to minimize damage. Martin added to the original motion that these lights will be removed before Town Meeting, seconded by Russ, unanimously carried by the Board

Workshops – Drafting the personnel policies and budget were re scheduled to Tuesday Nov. 27th 6:30 ish to 9 PM. continuing to Dec 4th and 11th. Evans will start drafting the Board's written report. She found that the Board was not notified, by the Auditors, of its due date of November 30th.

Planning Commission resignation – *Melis moved to accept, with regret, Sue Lecours written resignation from the Planning Commission, seconded by Martin, unanimously carried by the Board.*

Their clerk, Davis reported that she had posted an incorrect date to accept letters of interest in the advertised vacancies. It should have been November 26th. She was instructed to call those who have submitted their letters of interest and to recess tonight's meeting to next Monday, November 26th, to make the necessary appointments.

Amended Valley Care's Mortgages – *Melis moved to authorize the chair to sign the amended completions of Valley Cares Grants, as prepared by Atty Fisher, seconded by Evans, unanimously carried by the Board.*

Heins Home Education Tax – Evans asked if there was any more information or knowledge as to the tax bill for the education tax being sent to GCH on the Heins Home?

Reduction in Speed Limit – Melis reported on her conversation with K. Hoffman who questioned when the speed limit on Rte 35 would be lowered. Martin reminded their clerk to proceed in reducing the speed limit on Riverdale Rd to 25 mph and Rte 35 from intersection of 30 and 35 past the West River Assisted Living complex to 30 mph.

Professional Audit – The chair received correspondence today from Tim Fogg, Piecak auditor. This letter reflected what auditing Fogg performed on Wednesday, November 14, 2007. He was only able to audit 6 months of 2006, as the necessary documents that are needed for the audit were not available.

5. New Business

Questions arose on correspondence to the Treasurer, copied for the Selectboard, from Dept of Taxes – Education tax owed. Martin will call Kathleen Hege, chair of the Townshend School District for an explanation.

Martin reported on a very successful consortium to discuss RESCUE. All towns were represented. Each presented their individual situation. It appears that Medicare and Medicaid were not always billed.

Correspondence from the Grace Cottage Foundation asked for Town permission to allow DHART's helicopter to land on the field behind the Town Hall. This event is part of the Foundations' Community Health Fair, May 17, 2008. After discussion it was suggested to ask the fire department for input of landing there, *Martin moved to grant Grace Cottage Foundation permission to hold this part of their Community Health Fair after approval from the Townshend Fire Department, seconded by Melis, unanimously carried by the Board.*

Martin will speak with Francis Bailey, Town Hall maintenance, about increasing his janitorial work and to ask him if he would be interested in doing this winter's snow blowing. Russ indicated that there is an issue on acquiring some type of canopy for the blower and that Bryant White had showed some interest in this work.

The chair asked that B & B Associates, Jim Boyle and the Listers be invited to the next meeting to address reappraisal issues expressed in correspondence dated Nov. 15, 2007 from the Department of Taxes – Reappraisal Evaluation – 2007 Equalization Study.

6. Other Business:

- copied Kearley Fuel contracts
- Housing VT 2006 Annual Report
- WW management permit to Kathleen Mills (barbershop complex) and Brian Woodruff's application for a 3 bedroom house
- VLCT's newsletter
- copies of Select Board correspondence
- CVPS' permit, application & Nov 26th deadline for towns to respond

7. Executive Session – none at this time

8. Date of next meeting – December 3rd (chair on vacation)

9. At 9:50 PM Martin moved to **recess** to Monday, November 26th, 6:45 PM, seconded by Evans, unanimously carried by the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Davis, clerk for the Selectboard