

approved: 04/11/17

TOWNSHEND SELECT BOARD

Meeting Minutes

March 28, 2017

Present: Kathy Hege; Robert Wright; Will Bissonnette; Irv Stowell

In Attendance: Joseph Daigneault; Kurt Bostrom; Steven Frisk; Drew Hazelton, (RESCUE); Richard Melanson; (BCTV); Craig Hunt

1. **Call To Order:** Hege called the meeting to Order at 6:01 p.m.
2. **Approval of the Minutes:** Bissonnette made a motion: **To approve the Meeting Minutes of March 15, 2017**, seconded by Wright and carried by those present.

3. **Additions and Deletions:** Added to Correspondence, the permanent easement for the Dam Road issued by the Army Corps of Engineers.

4. **Members of the Public:** Bissonnette made a motion: **To suspend the rules to make appointments**, seconded by Stowell and carried by those present.

Steven Frisk was welcomed and Bissonnette made a motion: **To appoint Steven Frisk to the vacant seat on the Select Board until the next Town Meeting**, seconded by Wright and carried by those present.

Bissonnette then made a motion: **To appoint Pat Lassoff to the vacant seat on the Townshend Library Board of Directors until the next Town Meeting**, seconded by Wright and carried by those present.

5. **Reports: Highway Report:** Bostrom reported that the Transfer Station attendant had called in sick on Wednesday and had Ed Smith filled in for him, since he had accumulated the least amount of over-time on the week. Board members reminded Bostrom that he was supposed to find a back-up attendant who was to be paid from the General Fund at the casual labor rate and not employ Highway Department crew members at time-and-a-half wages. Bostrom said that he had been unable to find anyone and Bissonnette made a motion: **To instruct Hunt to post and publish Notices seeking a back-up Transfer Station attendant at the casual labor rate**, seconded by Wright and carried by those present.

Bostrom was asked whether he'd resolved an invoice from Patriot's for service on the Freightliner and he told the Board that, after numerous calls, it would have to be paid. Though electrical issues have plagued this truck since its purchase and have cost the municipality many thousands of dollars, diagnostic analysis was not covered under Warranties. The Board recommended that Bostrom find a more competent service provider.

Bostrom reported that filling out a grant for repairs to Bridge 42 on West Hill Road was not something that he could do and, after talking to Beck Engineering, he was going to ask V-Trans for assistance.

Hunt reported that following a second complaint about hazardous trees on Athens Road, D&E Tree Service had been contracted to remove them. Regarding other hazardous trees, Bostrom said that he had been trying to meet with Tree Warden, Bob DeSiervo, in order to make a new list of those needing to be removed.

The Board briefly discussed 2017 roadside mowing with Bostrom and Bissonnette made a motion: **To instruct Hunt to publish a solicitation for roadside mowing bids**, seconded by Stowell and carried by those present.

With the deadline for applying to the Vermont Municipal Equipment Loan Fund approaching, and as it had not been determined what the Highway Department definitively wants for the new loader that was approved at Town Meeting, Bostrom was asked to get specifications from dealers so that Hunt could send out bid requests. Wright made a motion: **To wait until Fall before applying for an equipment loan from the State**, seconded by Bissonnette and carried by those present. The purchase of a new loader will be postponed until next winter, at the earliest.

6. Warrants: Wright made motions to approve the following Warrants, seconded by Bissonnette.

32801 Payroll \$ 9,088.74, Following discussion about overtime wages, the motion carried by those present with one opposing.

32802 Payroll Taxes \$ 3,906.95, carried by those present.

32803 General \$ 7,735.49, carried by those present.

32804 Highway \$ 8,493.94, carried by those present.

32805 Equipment \$ 2,068.50, carried by those present.

7. Reports:

Law Enforcement Report: None at this time.

Town Clerk's Report: The Select Board reviewed the Town Clerk's journal reports from the prior weeks.

Treasurer's Report: Daigneault, absent from the previous meeting that was re-scheduled due to weather, informed the chair that he had left his Treasurer's Report in her mailbox. He then reported a current General Fund balance of \$763,973.55.

Following discussion about a Library grant that was seven months overdue in being closed-out and other issues pertaining to financial resolutions between the Library and the municipality, Bissonnette made a motion: **To have Select Board chair, Kathy Hege and Craig Hunt attend the next meeting of the Library Trustees to discuss the management of accounts**, seconded by Stowell and carried by those present.

8. Correspondence: Stowell made a motion: **To sign a Permanent Easement Agreement, #DACW33-2-73, with the Army Corp of Engineers for the culvert at Dam Road**, seconded by Bissonnette and carried by those present.

9. Old Business: Board of Health Matter: Hunt confirmed to the Board that a letter had been sent out requesting the removal of As household trash has been removed from a residence on Grafton Road, prior to the deadline, as stipulated in a letter to the resident, the Board of Health did not convene to take further action.

Recycling: Hunt reported that requests for quotations on the transport of recyclables were being sent out to six local haulers, with a deadline on April 25, 2017.

10. New Business: RESCUE Inc Presentation: RESCUE Chief Drew Hazelton was welcomed and presented the Board with a 30 minute overview of RESCUE operations and affiliated costs in

the 15 member towns served. Questions and answers followed with Hazelton explaining that only 20% of RESCUE's funding comes from per capita assessment fees from members; 75% from insurance billing and about 5% from fundraising activities. Of that insurance billing, almost 80% is through Medicare, or Medicaid, which presently reimburses costs at between 17 and 40 cents on the dollar. RESCUE is a non-profit organization, but which pays property taxes in full and responds to every call from member towns, whether the caller is a resident, or not.

An Open House for the public at the new West Townshend facility is being scheduled for June 10, 2017.

Town Common Tree Care: Stowell made a motion: **To contract with Bartlett Tree Service for fertilization of the Town Common trees**, seconded by Bissonnette and carried by those present.

Liquor Licenses: Bissonnette made a motion: **To approve the Lawrence Smoke House application for a 2nd Class Liquor License**, seconded by Wright and carried by those present.

Town Officer Appointments for a One Year Term:

Bissonnette nominated Carole Melis and Patricia Jerz to serve on the 911 Committee, carried by those present.

Bissonnette nominated Craig Hunt to serve as Townshend Energy Coordinator, carried by those present.

Bissonnette nominated Amon DeWitt and James Newton to serve as Fence Viewers, carried by those present.

Bissonnette nominated Carole Melis, Ernest Redfield and Ellen Fuller to oversee the Howard Legacy, carried by those present.

Bissonnette nominated the Select Board to serve as Townshend's Pound Keeper, carried by those present.

Bissonnette nominated Robert DeSiervo to serve as Townshend's Tree Warden, carried by those present.

Bissonnette nominated Joseph Daigneault, Paula Newton and Susan Hunt to serve as Weighers of Coal, carried by those present.

Bissonnette nominated Townshend's Constables to serve as Townshend's Liaisons to the Windham County Sheriff's office, carried by those present.

11. Other Business: Town Plan: None at this time.

12. Executive Session: None at this time.

13. Meeting Schedule: Regular Meeting: April 11, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

14. Adjournment: Bissonnette made a motion: **To adjourn at 7:50 p.m.**, carried by those present.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig K. Hunt