

approved: 01/22/19

TOWNSHEND SELECT BOARD

Meeting Minutes

January 8, 2019

Present: Kathy Hege; Steven Frisk; Robert Wright; Crystal Mansfield; Will Bissonnette;
In Attendance: Joseph Daigneault; Cor Trowbridge, (BCTV); Nancy Bell, (Conservation Fund); Richard Melanson, (BCTV); Craig Hunt

- 1. Call To Order:** Hege called the meeting to Order at 6:08 p.m.
- 2. Approval of the Minutes:** Bissonnette made a motion: **To approve the Minutes of December 27, 2018**, seconded by Frisk and carried by those present.
- 3. Additions and Deletions:** None at this time.
- 4. Members of the Public:** Bissonnette made a motion: **To suspend the rules and take the Agenda out of order to meet with members of the public**, seconded by Frisk and carried by those present.

BCTV Funding Request: Cor Trowbridge, Director of BCTV, was welcomed and explained to Board members that possible changes to one critical funding mechanism for public access television by cable T.V. providers was forcing BCTV to seek financial support from the communities it serves. During discussion, it was projected that compensating for the projected cuts would require an assessment of approximately \$0.85 per capita from the eight Windham County towns BCTV covers and, for Townshend, that would mean \$1,000.00 in support. BCTV, it was noted, attends, videotapes and broadcasts Select Board, L&G School Board and other local events.

Wright made a motion: **To add to Townshend's FY2020 General Fund budget proposal an appropriation of \$1,000.00 in support of BCTV**, seconded by Frisk and carried by those present.

Land Conservation Project: Nancy Bell, Director of the Vermont/New Hampshire Conservation Fund was welcomed and discussed a proposal by the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation to acquire easements on three Townshend parcels. To wit:

574.6 acres at the the Taft Hill Tree Farm Inc.

183.0 acres at the Peterson Farm Inc.

154.0 acres of the Lars E. Peterson Trust

Ms. Bell requested that the Select Board provide written support for the conservation of these parcels, assuring the Board that they would remain privately

owned, taxable and publicly accessible. It was noted that large parcels of land in Townshend are already under conservation management and, while taxable, provide revenue reduced by privilege and special exemptions.

Following discussion, Bissonnette made a motion: **For the Select Board chair to sign a letter supporting the acquisition of conservation easements on the three parcels in Townshend, as proposed by The Conservation Fund**, seconded by Mansfield and carried by those present, with two opposing.

5. Warrants: Wright made motions to approve the Warrants, all seconded by Frisk:

010801 Payroll	\$ 12,906.30	carried by those present.
010802 Taxes	4,959.04	carried by those present.
010803 General	15,109.25	carried by those present.
010804 General	100.00	carried by those present.
010805 General	10,056.71	carried by those present.
010806 Equipment	20,852.00	carried by those present.
010807 Equipment	2,336.70	carried by those present.
010808 Highway	4,371.80	carried by those present.

6. Reports: Highway Report: Frisk reported that the Dodge 5500 on order had been delivered to Fairfield's for body fabrication and should be on schedule for delivery to Townshend at the end of the month. Ditch and culvert cleaning was continuing as the weather allowed and though the trucks were out daily due to icing, sand and salt use was being moderated.

Highway Mileage Certificate: Bissonnette made a motion: **To sign the 2019-20 Vermont Highway Mileage Certificate stating that there were no changes since last year**, seconded by Frisk and carried by those present.

Town Clerk's Report: The Board reviewed the Town Clerk's cash journal report from the prior weeks..

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer reported that the People's General Fund Sweep account had a balance of \$952,064.02 and that there was \$21,065.10 in the checking account.

7. Correspondence: None at this time.

8. Old Business: FY20 Budget: The Board scheduled a Workshop on January 16, 2019, at 5:30p.m. to continue working on the FY20 General Fund, Highway Fund and Equipment Fund budgets.

9. New Business: RESCUE Inc Contract: Mansfield made a motion: **To sign the 2020 contract with RESCUE Inc, in the amount of \$35,700.00**, seconded by Bissonnette and carried by those present, with one abstention.

10. Executive Session: None at this time

11. Other Business: None at this time.

12. Meeting Schedules: **Budget Workshop: January 16, 2019 @ 5:30 p.m.**
 Regular Meeting: January 22, 2019 @ 6:15 p.m.

13. Adjournment: Mansfield made a motion: **To adjourn at 8:18 p.m.**, carried by those present.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig K. Hunt