



## TOWN OF TOWNSHEND

Selectboard  
PO Box 121 Townshend, Vermont 05353

### Selectboard Meeting Agenda

June 13, 2023 6:00 PM

Townshend Town Hall

Approved: 6/27/2023

**Present:** Sherwood Lake, Phoebe Connolly, Rob Wright, Katie Marrow, Rob Swiger via ZOOM.

**In Attendance:** Galen Robinson - BCTV, Connie Holt - Selectboard Assistant

1. **Meeting Call to Order:** Lake calls the meeting to order at 6:02pm.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Marrow makes a motion to approve the minutes of the May 23, 2023 Selectboard meeting minutes. Wright seconds the motion. The motion carries 5-0-0.

Marrow makes a motion to approve the minutes of the May 31, 2023 Special Selectboard meeting minutes. Connolly seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0-0.

3. **Additions and Deletions:** Lake announces additions to the agenda.
  1. Old Business (8c): Paint center line on Dam Road
  2. New Business 9(c): Road name change

4. **Members of the Public:**

Laura Richardson appears in front of the Board to ask for the update on the Common Use policy. Lake says it will be taken up at the next Selectboard meeting.

Bob Desiervo appears in front of the Board regarding two issues;

a. **Speed limit on State Forest Road:** Desiervo points out that the Selectboard is responsible for speed limits on the roads. He states that the Selectboard should know the ins and outs of the roads to know if the speed limit is correct. Wright states that in all the years there has not been a problem on State Forest Road. Wright continues that on country rural roads it does not matter what the speed limit is. Common sense is needed whether it is 35mph or not. Desiervo states that on State Forest Road the campgrounds have people who do not know the roads. Lake states that the resident who requested the speed limit signs did not ask for a speed reduction.

b. **Center Line on Dam Road:** Desiervo points out that he reviewed the Selectboard meeting, from August of 2022, at which the Selectboard said there was money in the Fog Line budget line that could be used for the center line. Lake states

there has been no collisions on that road in the past four years. Both Connolly and Marrow raise the safety concern of putting a center line on such a narrow road. They believe it would push cars too far to one side. Richardson raises the need for speed control on Route 30 after the hospital.

c. **Information to the Selectboard:** Desiervo states that Selectboard informational packets should be given in advance in order for the Selectboard to read and absorb the information before the meeting. Wright responds that if he thought it was a problem he would have said something about it. He believes the other Selectboard who are or have been on the board for one year feel the same.

5. **Correspondence:** None

6. **Warrants:** Marrow makes a motion to pay warrants 1 - 10.

1. Payroll:	\$11,865.98
2. Payroll Taxes:	\$4,738.37
3. General Fund:	\$20,441.44
4. General:	\$15.99
5. General*:	\$633,151.53
6. Highway:	\$42.25
7. Highway:	\$13,677.85
8. Highway Equipment:	\$13.15
9. Highway Equipment:	\$5,765.87
10. ARPA:	\$998.70
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$690,711.13</b>

Wright seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0-0.

7. **Reports:**

1. **Highway:**

a. Bartlett Tree Proposal: Frisk recommends the proposal. Lake makes a motion to approve the Bartlett Tree deposit for the trees on the Common. Wright seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0-0.

b. Grading the roads: Frisk reports that grading has been an ongoing process up until the stretch of hot 90 degree and drought weather. Frisk states that we can not successfully grade roads when they are that dry, because the sand turns to powder and can not be packed in. This results in washboards being created. Grading was stopped during that period. Grading resumed yesterday on West Hill and today on Townshend Acres since we have had some rain. We will grade when we can. If we can not then we will continue to ditch and clean culverts.

c. Tree cutting: Frisk reports that about 12 trees were cut on Grafton road today

d. Gravel Crushing: gravel crushing has been completed.

Wright asks what the pressure treated wood purchase was for. Frisk responds that a residence on Simpson Brook Road has a culvert that runs under the road that has pressure treated boards. The boards were broken when attempting to clean the culvert so the town had to replace them.

2. **Treasurer:** Lake gives the report. Lake reports that the true fund balance in the General Fund is \$313,807.00 after the paying of warrants and funds designated for projects.

3. **Town Clerk:** Lake gives the report. The town clerk took in \$939.10 for fees and services.

4. **Chair:** None

8. **Old Business:**

a. **Windham County Sheriff's invoice:** decision regarding paying - Lake announces that due to it being a legal matter it will be discussed in executive session.

b. **New Fire Truck Contract:** Lake directs the Boards attention to the contract with Desorcie for a new fire truck. Glen Beattie reports on the fire truck bids and contract. Beattie reports there was one bid submitted and it was from Desorcie Emergency Products, LLC. The Fire Truck Committee reviewed it and voted to move forward with the bid. Beattie reports that, after the bid was submitted, the manufacturer of the truck, E-1, announced a price increase of 5%. The Dealer, Desorcie, was able to get E-1 to not increase the cost. A second issue also came up, which is a shortage resulting in problems producing the L-9 engines that was in our bid. It is the least expensive motor. The dealer has recommended to upgrade to the X-12 motor model, but because there is a 2 year lead time before this truck is expected to be complete, we do not know exactly what will happen with the truck. Because the new emissions guidelines for fire trucks come out in 2027, we are trying to get the truck built by the end of 2026. Beattie continues that there is an addendum to the contract for the upgrade to the X12 engine package for \$48,408.00. Beattie recognized that it is a significant increase. We have been assured that the upgrade does not change the overall height of the truck. We can go with the upgrade in the addendum and the upgrade would go into all the specs going forward, but if the shortage ends we would have the option to drop back to the L-9 model. If we end up with the X12 then we will be short \$37,499.80. The Association has voted to financially assist if needed.

Wright asks Beattie for his recommendation regarding the L-9 and the X-12. Beattie responds that the X-12 is only a 5 horsepower gain, but it is the torque that make the difference. Both engines have been around for a long time, and have good track records. The X-12 would suit us better on hills around here, but the L-9 will work and is cheaper.

Lake goes through the finances for the truck. The Fire Truck Reserve Fund for apparatus is currently \$297,099.37. The Fiscal year 2024 town payment is \$20,000.00. The ARPA funds are \$320,950.83. This gives us a total of \$638,050.20. The original bid

came in at \$627,242.00. This gives us a favorable balance of \$10,808.20. Lakes suggests an option, to help alleviate the burden on taxpayers, to direct the Treasurer to direct any unused Fiscal Year 2023 Fire Department budget monies to the Fire Truck Reserve Fund.

Wright makes a motion to approve the original contract with Desorcie to purchase the truck for \$627,242.00, with the idea of it coming within 2 years, with an addendum to upgrade the engine to an X-12 not to exceed \$48,408.00. Marrow seconds the motion. Connolly notes that there are some items that lawyer brought up such as the delivery location and inspecting the vehicle. Lake and Wright note that they are and will be addressed. Motion carries 3-0-2. Lake and Swiger abstain due to their involvement with the Fire Department. Board authorizes Lake to sign on behalf of the Selectboard.

Lakes reads the letter to the Treasurer to direct FY23 Fire Department budget funds to the Fire Truck Reserve effective at the close of FY23.

Wright makes a motion to direct fire fiscal year 23 unspent funds to the Fire Truck Reserve. Marrow seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0-0.

**c. Painting center line on Dam Road:** See above

**9. New Business:**

**a. Notice to Impound unregistered dog:** Lake reads the yearly authorization the town constable regarding unlicensed dogs. Wright makes am motion to authorize the constable. Marrow seconds the motion. Warren Beattie answers questions as to the purpose of this policy. He states it to protect the public from dangerous dogs and to help lost dogs. Motion carries 4-0-1.

**b. Common Use Request:** Lakes reads Finallie Ferments' requests the use of the Commons for Pickle Day. Wright makes a motion to allow Allie to put on the pickle festival and refer to last year about the fee. Whatever we did last year would happen this year. Lake states that the fee was waived. Connolly seconds the motion. Motion carries 4-0-1. Lake comments that Allie will need to provide her certificate of insurance liability.

**c. Road name change:** Lake reads the request of E-911 coordinator, Helen Holt, to change the name of Taft Hill Trace to Brodie Woodlands Road. Holt verifies that is ok with the State E-911 coordinator. Swiger makes a motion to change the name to Brodie Woodlands Road. Marrow seconds the motion. Wright comments that if the Board gets into changing names it will go on and on forever. Swiger comments that there is room to make adjustments like this and monitor the issue. Swiger states that the person is passionate enough to get Helen involved. Marrow asks how these requests have been decide in the past. Lake comments that in his time on the Board two roads have been named; Sugar Maple and Rattlesnake Road. Connolly recognizes the concern about precedent setting to name roads after the individual who lives on the road. She states that she would like to hear more about this. Marrow agrees with Connolly and asks if there is an issue with getting deliveries. Marrow sees the need to change the name if there is issues of confusion for deliveries. Connolly emphasizes,

wanting to know what the purpose of the name is. Holt volunteers to go back to the resident to ask the purpose of the request. Swiger states that he thinks it is safe to move forward on this request. Swiger reintroduces his motion to approve the name change. Motion fails 2-1-2. Lake asks Holt to find out what the reason is for the name change.

10. **Executive Session:** Personnel Issues 313 VSA(B); Marrow makes motion to move to executive session for personnel and legal issues. Wright seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0-0. Meeting adjourns to Executive Session with no report back at 7:12pm.

11. **Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting:** Tuesday, June 27, 2023 at 6:00pm.