



TOWN OF TOWNSHEND

Selectboard
PO Box 121 Townshend, Vermont 05353

Selectboard Meeting Agenda June 27, 2023 6:00 PM Townshend Town Hall Approved: 7/11/23

Present: Sherwood Lake, Rob Wright, Katie Marrow, Phoebe Connolly, Rob Wright
In Attendance: Galen Robinson - BCTV, Connie Holt - SB Assistant

1. **Meeting Call to Order:** Lake calls the meeting to order at 6:01pm
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Wright makes a motion to approve the June 13, 2023 Selectboard meeting minutes. Marrow seconds the motion. Motion carries 3-0-0.
3. **Additions and Deletions:** Lake goes through the addition to the agenda.
 - a. Executive Session - 1 V.S.A 313(F) and 313(F5).
4. **Members of the Public:**
 - a. Green Mountain Power: Tim Jones operational Director for Green Mountain Power appears before the Board to give an update on projects and to request easements from the town. Jones reports that Green Mountain Power is petitioning for line rebuild projects along State Forest Road, West Hill Road, and Dam Road. The project is to either rebuild it where the line is or to relocate the line closer to the road to improve access for maintenance. Where the line can be buried Green Mountain Power will bury. Will need permission from the Town to work in the road. Jones announces that starting in July the rebuild project will start from the Dam Diner down to Newfane. The projects is to do overhead rebuild but to also explore burying the line where they can.

Lake and Wright point out to Jones that the Town did not give Green Mountain Power an easement at Taft Meadows. Lake stated that burying the line is not a problem, but there can be no poles on the property.

Steve Frisk reports on a conversation with a Green Mountain Power. He states that Grn. Mtn. Power offered to replace culverts in the middle of the road while they are working on the road. The town would be responsible for providing the new culverts. Frisk states that 90% of the culverts would most likely have to be replaced at a large expense. Grn Mtn Power also offered to do their work along the side of the road. Frisk recommends that the Town authorizes the work be done on the shoulder of the road.

Connolly asks how much disruption on the road will there be during the work. Jones responds that it is hard to say. The intent is keep the road open. There will need to be communication and coordination between Grn Mtn Power and the town. Swiger asks who is the point person to work with the town. Jones says that he and Don Mills will be the point people from Grn Mtn Power. Marrow asks what happens to the retired equipment that is on private property. Jones replies that it will be dismantled, removed, and a quick claim back to the owner.

Lake asks if there will be a pre-buildout meeting with the town. He is concerned about emergency access during the road work. Jones responds that there is a 2 week notice if using current easements, but a meeting can be organized. Swiger asks if internet cable could be laid down while they are out working on the roads. Jones replies that they are in communication with the broadband initiative about that issue. Connolly asks what happens if work is not down by winter. Jones replies that it is not an option. Subcontractors have a deadline that they must meet. Connolly then asks what happens if the other towns do not sign on? How does that impact the project? Jones responds that the Townshend project is independent of other towns.

Connolly asks if there is benefit to putting the wires in the middle of the road. Wright states a concern the impact on trees and walls if going outside the road. Jones replies that they will take it on a case by case basis. Wright suggests that the Board table the vote til the next Board next meeting to digest and do a physical viewing or ask Jones to do a site visit. Jones answered Lake's question that the drop dead date is August 1st.

Wright makes a motion to table this vote until the July 11, 2023 Selectboard meeting. Connolly seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0-0.

5. **Correspondence:**

a. Resident P. Mazzola's request for trash cans on the Common: Lake reads the request for more trash cans and regular pick up on the Commons. Wright raises the concern that people will use the cans to dump their personal trash and that will attract animals. Connolly states that she appreciates the request, but shares Wright's concern. Swiger makes motion to put more trash cans on the Commons. Wright seconds the motion. Motion fails 0-5-0.

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

Payroll;	\$9,242.38
Payroll Taxes:	\$4,708.11
General Fund:	\$15,592.11
Highway:	\$42,533.00
Highway Equipment:	\$4,398.92
Total:	\$76,474.52

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

7. **Reports:**

1. **Highway:** Frisk gives the report;

a. Frisk asks that the Selectboard not pay the Bartlett Tree Service invoice. He states that they planted an unhealthy tree.

b. Frisk reports that he has two resumes and will interviewing them. He will let the board know if there is anyone to interview at the next meeting.

c. Belco has been changing poles up on Townshend acres for several weeks then the road crew will grade on Plumb and Taft Roads.

d. Marrow makes a motion to take the agenda out of order to open the paving bids. Wright seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0-0.

Marrow reads the paving bid submitted by Bazin Brothers;

2.5 inch milling = \$324,505.00

Concrete = \$182,280.00

Total: \$206,785.00

Frisk comments that this is double the budget. He asks the Selectboard to not accept this bid. He would like to start over. Wright makes a motion to accept the Bazin Brothers paving bid. Marrow seconds the motion. Motion fails 0-5-0.

e. Frisk reports that Truck 5 will be done by the beginning of July.

2. **Treasurer:** Lake gives the report. The true balance in the General Fund is \$331,549.00. There is \$1,123,529.80 in the municipal investment fund and \$30,000.00 in the checking account.

3. **Town Clerk:** Lake gives the report. The Town Clerk took in \$1,322.30 in fees and services.

4. **Chair:** None

8. **Old Business:**

a. Paving Bids (see above)

b. Common and Town Hall Use policy: Swiger states he would like to amend #6 on the proposed Commons/Town Hall Use policy. He would like to add "that it is the discretion of the Selectboard to waive the fee." Connolly states that she appreciates having the flexibility to waive the fee. She uses the example of the candle light vigil for Dylan Landers. Richardson states that #5 needs to be revised. Lake states that the Selectboard will table the the motion to accept the policy since there is some tweaking of the language to do.

9. **New Business:** None

10. **Executive Session:** Lake makes a motion to go into executive session with a report back and vote. Connolly seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0-0. Meeting moves to executive session at 7:10pm.

Meeting Reconvenes;

1. Marrow makes motion to pay warrant #7 of \$569.00. Wright seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0-0.
2. Swiger makes a motion to close the Gazebo until it is insured and the problems fixed. Wright seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0-0.

11. **Adjournment:** Swiger makes a motion to adjourn. Wright seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0-0. Meeting is adjourned at 8:09pm.

12. **Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting:** Tuesday, July 11, 2023 at 6:00pm