



TOWN OF TOWNSHEND

Selectboard

PO Box 121 Townshend, Vermont 05353

Selectboard Meeting Agenda

February 13, 2024 6:00 PM

Townshend Town Hall

Approved: 2/27/24

Present: Sherwood Lake, Rob Wright, Katie Marrow, Rob Swiger, Haley Feller.

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:** Wright makes a motion to approve the January 23, 2024 regular Select Board meeting minutes. Marrow seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0-0. Wright makes a motion to approve the January 30, 2024 Special Select Board meeting minutes. Marrow seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0-0.
3. **Additions and Deletions:** Lake reviews the addition to the agenda.
 - a. New Business (9b): Liquor License
4. **Members of the Public:**

Bob Desiervo, resident, addresses two issues. Desiervo asks if the contract with Standing Stone LLC. Has been reviewed by the town attorney, because he does not see liability insurance included in the contract. He states that he believes it to be crucial for safety. Lake states that they will look into it.

Desiervo also asks if the article in the Town Warning that changes the language from “repair of the Stone Arch Bridge” to “restoration of the stone arch bridge” are for the same purpose. Lake says what is in that article is what will be voted on at Town Meeting.
5. **Correspondence:** None
6. **Warrants:** Marrow makes a motion to approve Warrants 1 - 9.

1. Payroll:	\$14,529.36
2. Payroll Taxes:	\$6,848.89
3. Payroll:	\$12,830.92
4. Payroll Taxes:	\$3,436.52
5. General Fund:	\$133.12
6. General Fund:	\$15.99
7. General Fund:	\$14,072.05
8. Highway:	\$35,670.39

9. Highway Equipment:	\$8,49.10
TOTAL:	\$96,016.34

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

7. **Reports:**

1. **Highway:** Zumbruski gives the report. He reports that it has been pretty quiet. He reports that he and Connie have been spending a lot of time on FEMA, because they are making us jump through hoops.

2. **Treasurer:** Lake gives the report. There is \$994,092.17 in the Municipal Investment Fund and \$30,000.00 in the checking account. The General Fund true balance is \$448,012.50.

3. **Town Clerk:** Lake gives the report. The Town Clerk has taken in \$1,145.00 in fees and services.

4. **Chair:** Lake summarizes Senate Bill.55 which will require that all public meetings must be held hybrid. It is not much different from what we do now, but we will need to figure what we need to do to meet their standards. In addition, Lake reports that we now have access to VT Alerts. He reports that we now will be able to send VT Alerts from here (Town Hall).

8. **Old Business:**

a. **L. Martin Tax Penalty Waiver Request:** Lake summarizes L. Martin's request to waive her tax penalty. He states that L. Martin was asked to be present tonight to present her request and any supporting arguments and documents. She declined to attend tonight. Lake states that the only way to set aside the \$480.00 penalty is in the event of hardship. The definition of hardship is, 1. A full-time member of active duty outside the state, 2. In the event of serious illness or disability, 3. In the event of serious illness, disability, or death of an immediate family member, and 4. In the event of fire, flood, or other disaster. Lake states that what he knows of the situation, L. Martin does not qualify for any of those situations. In the absence of L. Martin being here, the Board has no other choice but to deny her request. Marrow reads a statement from the Town Treasurer regarding the tax penalty waiver request. Wright makes a motion to approve L. Martin's request to waive her tax penalty. Marrow seconds the motion. Motion fails 0-5-0.

b. **Gazebo Committee Report:** Allie Evans makes a presentation on behalf of the Gazebo Committee. Evans states that the Gazebo Committee is making a proposal to the Board tonight. The proposal is to purchase a pre-built Gazebo. The Committee would like to oversee the project. The Funding for the project would either be through a grant or by the Town. The Town would set aside funds for the maintenance of the Gazebo. The funds would also be overseen by the Gazebo Committee. The proposed budget for the project would be approximately \$31,000.00 for the structure,

approximately \$6,000.00 for the site for an overall approximate cost of \$41,260.00. The timeline suggested is, if we are awarded the grant, the grant payment would be in June, the site would be prepared in June, and by the end of June the Gazebo would be delivered and erected. Finally, it is proposed that a Gazebo Committee be appointed by the Board to oversee the project.

Evans clarifies the proposal for a vote by the Board;

1. To approve the proposed design for the Gazebo
2. To approve the budget for the project
3. To vote to fund the project if the grant is not awarded.
4. To continue the current Gazebo Committee
5. To set aside funds for the maintenance of the Gazebo.

The Selectboard asks questions regarding the proposal. Lake states that he would like to see a committee established that oversees the Common as a whole. Wright makes a motion to approve \$32,360.52 to replace the Gazebo to these specs, including site work up to \$1,000.00, and other expenses, approved by the Select Board, up to \$10,000.00, not to exceed \$42,000.00. Felker seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0-0.

9. **New Business:**

a. **Common Use Request:** Grace Cottage Fun Run: Wright makes a motion to approve Grace Cottage's request to use the Common on May 11, 2024 on the condition they supply an insurance certificate and have law enforcement for traffic control. Marrow seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0-0.

b. **Liquor License:** Big Picture Farm: Wright makes a motion to approve the liquor license for The Big Picture Farm. Marrow seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0-0.

10. **Executive Session:** N/A

11. **Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting:** Tuesday, February 27, 2024 at 6:00pm

12. **Adjournment:** Marrow makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. Felker seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0-0. The meeting is adjourned at 6:45pm.