

Townshend Select Board Meeting Minutes

February 17, 2009

Present:

Select Board - Kit Martin, chair; Alene Evans; Brud Sanderson; Carole Melis; Joseph Juhasz (absent)

Members of the Public - Irving Stowell, WSWMD Rep; Kim Liebow, auditor; Kurt Bostrom (Highway Foreman); John-Michael & Grace Muise, Townshend Gardens (arrived 7:00); Craig Hunt, Select Board secretary

- 1. Call To Order:** At 6:15 P.M., Martin called the meeting to order and recognized Kim Liebow, auditor, who explained that the 2009 Town Report was being sent back to the printer for changing pages #10-16 and #19, and would be returned and mailed out on February 20th. Kim left at 6:18.

Martin recognized Irving Stowell, WSWMD Representative, and discussion ensued regarding the WSWMD Meeting of February 19th, which Irving was to attend, and the Town's position on a proposed changes in WSWMD surcharge and tipping fees which would be increased to offset the assessment. Melis made a motion: **To have Irving Stowell relay to the WSWMD Board the Townshend Select Board's serious concerns about the District changing fees during the course of the year, given a set Town budget**, seconded by Martin and carried by those present. Irving left at 6:40.

- 2. Additions and Deletions:** None at this time.
- 3. Approval of Minutes:** None at this time.

At 6:45 Martin made a motion: **To hear the Highway Foreman's Report**, seconded by Melis and carried by those present. Kurt Bostrom was recognized and presented an estimate from Brian Schmidt, of ICS Auto, in the amount of \$2350.00, for sandblasting and repainting the cast iron fountain for the Common. No action was taken by the Board at this time regarding that estimate.

Kurt presented the Board with an estimate for a new back door seal and fenders for the compactor from Osgood, Inc. in the amount of \$1423.90. Discussion about the compactor ensued, with Kurt

reporting that the frame and motor of the truck were sound, and that a new PacMor body with all hydraulics would cost approximately \$38,000.00. Melis made a motion: **To have Osgood, Inc. replace the gasket and rear fenders on the compactor for \$1423.90,** seconded by Sanderson. Evans reminded Kurt that one of the reasons he was hired was because of his ability to fix things in house, rather than spend Town money on outside repairs, unless necessary. After discussion that such fixes were only band aids on a much larger problem with the compactor, the motion failed to pass.

Kurt further reported on a meeting attended with John Alexander and Peter Russo regarding FEMA payments toward expenses and future clean-up costs from the December ice storm, with a proposal by FEMA that the Town contract for services to pick up and chip brush in the Town's right-of-ways this spring. FEMA would pay 78%, and the State of Vermont 12% of all costs incurred by that storm.

Melis presented a letter received by the Town Barn Committee from Gerold Noyes of the Environmental Conservation Commission giving the Town permission to construct a new Town highway garage and sand and salt shed on the Town's property on Route 35. That permission was granted because of, and Kurt spoke briefly about, an inspection of the current facility and a satisfactory review of present work habits and procedures by John Daly.

Martin read a letter from the West River Condominium Association dated February 16, 2009, in which permission to begin clearing overgrowth along Old Route 30 was requested, and a complaint about how the Town road crews plow snow on Favreau's Corner Road was lodged. The letter included a survey map of the area.

Sanderson spoke of recently having met with Richard Carusona at the site and discussing which properties were owned by whom and whether or not the public had rights of access, and also of inquiry he had made regarding whether an Act 250 Permit was required for developing property in the area.

Martin reported that he had spoken with both the Town's attorney about a dispute with the West River Condominium Association that was brought to the Board's attention by Claire Adams, and with

Donna Vondle of the Army Corps of Engineers about the locations of Town and abutters' property lines and high water marks.

Kurt spoke to the issue of plowing the road, and why, for the safety of both the equipment and driver, it is done as it is.

Melis suggested that the Board consider throwing up Favreau's Corner Road and designating that portion of Old Route 30 a Town Trail.

The Board then instructed Hunt to send a letter conveying to the West River Condominium Association that the portion of Favreau's Corner Road under question is a Class 3 road which is plowed, under no arrangements ever made between the Town and the Favreaus, in a manner which serves the best interests of the Town, and that Board permission for clearing overgrowth within the Town's right-of-Way along Old Route 30 was denied at this time. Kurt left at 7:28.

At 7:30, Martin recognized Jon-Michael Muise, chair of The Townshend Community Garden, and Grace Muise. Jon-Michael provided an update on work that the committee had done and requested a letter endorsing the project from the Select Board to support a request for a \$500.00 funding grant from the Friends of Burlington Gardens.

The Board expressed its appreciation for Mr. Muise in developing the Community Garden concept and instructed Hunt to write a letter granting Select Board permission and support for the Townshend Community Garden for the coming year.

Jon-Michael and Grace Muise left at 7:44

4. Reports:

5a. Town Clerk's Report:

Martin made a motion: **To enter Executive Session at 7:46 to discuss correspondence received from the Town Clerk**, seconded by Sanderson. The Board returned from Executive Session at 7:57, and as a result, the Board requested that Evans meet with Nate Carlson and Joseph Daigneault.

Martin presented a written request from the Town Clerk to raise the

reimbursement paid for travel from \$ 0.25 per mile to \$ 0.55 per mile. Evans reminded the Board that the 2009 budget level-funded mileage payments at the current rate, expressing concern about the cost to the taxpayer for government services in a time, generally speaking, when Town employees earned a better wage, and traveled for Town business much less.

After Sanderson offered that the IRS accepts the \$ 0.55 per mile reimbursement, and Martin expressed that the request was reasonable request, Melis made a motion: **To reimburse travel costs at the rate of \$ 0.55 per mile**, seconded by Sanderson. After further discussion regarding the potential impact on the 2008 budget, however, the motion failed in a vote of those present.

Melis then made a motion: **To reimburse travel costs at a rate of \$ 0.55 per mile beginning on July 1, 2009**, seconded by Sanderson, and carried by those present with Evans voting against.

5b. Treasurer's Report: None at this time.

5c. Bookkeeper's Report: None at this time.

5. Warrants: After discussion of the Warrants as presented, and a conversation by phone between Evans and Meri Roberts, the Board postponed approval of the Warrants until they could be refigured by Roberts. Hunt was instructed to pick up the revised Warrants from Roberts and collect signatures from Board members on February 18th.

Melis made a motion; **To authorize the Treasurer to transfer from the Town Barn Money Market account the sum of \$6085.85, as reimbursement to the Town for expenditures, and deposit it into the General Fund account**, seconded by Martin and carried by those present.

6. Old Business: **None at this time.**

7. New Business: None at this time.

8. Correspondence: Martin read a letter from the Townshend Business Association requesting use of the Town Hall on April 27, 2009 and December 14, 2009. After brief discussion, Melis made a motion: **To approve the Townshend Business Association's request for using**

the Town Hall on April 27th and December 14th, seconded by Sanderson. Martin questioned whether the present Board should commit to the use of the Town Hall in December, when a new Board might want to look more closely at policies regarding the Town Hall. Melis withdrew her motion with Sanderson's approval, and made a new motion: **To approve the Townshend Business Association's request for using the Town Hall on April 27th**, seconded by Martin and carried by those present.

Melis then made a motion: **To approve the Townshend Business Association's request for using the Town Hall on December 14th**, seconded by Sanderson. The motion failed, and Hunt was instructed to send a letter to the Townshend Business Association approving its request for April 27th, but denying approval of the December date until a new Select board was seated, and could review the request.

9. **Adjournment:** Melis made a motion, **To adjourn at 8:50 p.m.**, seconded by Martin and carried by those present.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig K. Hunt, secretary