

Townshend Select Board Minutes

October 4, 2010

Present:

Select Board: Hedy Harris; Steve Ovenden; Jeff Russ; Michael Charles

In Attendance: Kim Ellison; Joe Daigneault; David Dezendorf; Adrienne Esquivo; Kurt Bostrom; Michael Meyer; Capt. Lakin; Alice Muise; Craig Hunt

1. **Call to Order:** Harris called the meeting to Order at 6:01 p.m.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Ovenden made a motion: **To approve the Minutes of September 20, 2010**, seconded by Harris, and carried by those present.
3. **Additions and Deletions:** Under Correspondence, Harris requested adding a letter received from the Listers office, and Hunt, a request from Leland & Gray for rental of the Town Hall on October 15.
4. **Warrants:** Harris made a motion: **To approve the Warrants of October 4, 2010**, seconded by Charles, and carried by those present.

General Fund	\$ 7,186.93
Highway Department	\$ 2,386.63
Payroll	\$ 10,635.38
Town Garage (David Balk)	\$ 712.50

Harris then made a motion, **To instruct the Treasurer to pay a \$5000.00 deposit to Thermal House, Inc., as required by the contract for insulating the Town Hall**, seconded by Russ, and carried by those present.

5. **Reports: Town Clerk's Report:** The Board reviewed the Town Clerk's cash-journal reports from the prior weeks.

Bookkeeper's / Treasurer's Report: Ellison reported to the Board that about 8% remained past due on the collection of the first quarter of the 2010 taxes. She also reported that the loan application to the Vermont Equipment Loan Fund for the new highway truck would be submitted this week. The purchase price on the new International will be \$151,000.00, after the trade in of T-3, and includes a seven year warranty.

The Board then discussed the F.Y. 2011-12 budget, and asked Dezendorf to prepare a budget for Emergency Management needs; Ovenden to prepare Public Safety; Charles and Bills to work with Bostrom in preparing Highway Department; and Russ and Harris to prepare Municipal Government. It is hoped that the Fire Department, Planning Commission, Cemetery Commission, Listers, Auditors, Treasurer and Town Clerk will have their preliminary budget figures for presentation early in November.

Highway Foreman's Report: Bostrom reported that L & B will be painting the centerlines on the new Grafton Road paving, and there was brief discussion about funds in the budget for having fog lines painted, as well. He also reported that T-7 and T-8 were both in the shop for repairs, and that two weeks remained on the lease contract for the roadside mower.

There will not be any funding from the State for repairs being done on the Dam Road culvert, Bostrom informed the Board, as the Town receives no maintenance funding from the State for this road because it is on Federal property.

Russ asked about dead trees on Route 35 that need to be taken down, and Bostrom requested that the Board add to next years budget funds for professional tree services.

Bostrom reported that he was continuing his work on job descriptions for Highway Department employees, and that Windham Hill Road would be cold-patched this week, where possible, with the major work scheduled to be undertaken next spring.

The Board took no action, at this time, on a request from Howard Cutts for the payment of repairs to a stone wall on his property hit by the grader last Spring. Bostrom told Board members that that wall is in the Town right-of-way, but Harris said that she wanted to investigate the matter further.

6. Members of the Public: Michael Meyer was welcomed and requested that the SnoGoers be permitted, as in years past, to cross Town roads in order to access snowmobile trails. Brief discussion followed, and Charles made a motion, **To approve the SnoGoers request to cross Town roads with snowmobiles, under the same terms and in the same locations as requested last year**, seconded by Harris, and carried by those present. Meyer was then thanked by the Board for mowing Taft Meadows this summer.

Captain Lakin of the Windham County Sheriff's Department was welcomed and summarized discussions that he had had with Harris regarding the opportunity for Townshend to have, on a trial basis and at no cost to the Town, a deputy who would respond to complaints and conduct criminal investigations. This position would be funded by a grant that the Sheriff's Department had received and provide a deputy for 20 hours per week, starting in December. Lengthy discussion ensued, followed by a motion from Ovenden, **To accept the offer of the Windham County Sheriff's Department to provide Townshend with an on-call deputy 20 hours per week, for a one-year trial basis**, seconded by Charles, and carried by those present.

Alice Muise was welcomed and asked Capt. Lakin about speeding enforcement on back roads, as some vehicles are travelling at excessive and unsafe speeds on Crane Mountain Road. Capt. Lakin responded that unless the road is posted, the speed limit would be 50 mph., but that patrolling occasionally and running radar on unpaved roads is something that a deputy could do, if requested. Muise believed that vehicles were travelling in excess of 50 mph.

Muise also requested that the Select Board consider an Animal Control Ordinance for Townshend, as neighborhood dogs have been running loose on her property and have recently killed her livestock. Though she has spoken with the neighbors and with the Town's animal control officer, without a strengthened ordinance that provides for penalties, there is little that she expects will be done.

Hunt was requested to provide Board members with Animal Control templates from other Vermont towns.

Discussion about Ordinances continued briefly after Muise, Bostrom and Capt. Lakin left the meeting, and Russ and Harris reviewed the Speed Limit Ordinance adopted in September 2003, whereby the Select Board established a 35 mph speed limit on all unpaved roads in Townshend. Many of the Town's unpaved roads are still not posted,

Board members noted, and this matter should be brought to the Highway Foreman's attentions.

7. Correspondence: A letter from Leland & Gray requesting use of the Town Hall dining room for a meeting on October 15 was received, and, by general consent, the Board gave permission for Leland & Gray to use the Town Hall for a meeting. The Town Clerk will inform Leland & Gray of the rental policy and the cost.

Harris then read a letter received from the Listers office providing an update of work being done to address problems being discovered by State consultants.

8. Old Business:

a. Town Officer Appointments: None at this time.

b. Job Descriptions: None at this time.

c. Personnel Policy: Nothing at this time.

d. Town Hall:

Insulation/EECBG Grant: Hunt was requested to contact Bob Reuter of Thermal House regarding the payment of the requested deposit and inform Board members when the work would be scheduled. Randy Bean and Hunt will try to get things moved away from the walls in the Town Hall basement, and Hunt will see if there is anything which needs to be removed from the attic space.

Fire Alarm System: Nothing at this time.

Railing: Ovenden has finished priming the railings and hopes to begin painting them black this week.

Planter: Harris has gotten a hydrangea bush from the Newfane Greenhouse, and Hunt will deliver compost and soil to help her get it planted this week.

Furnace: The Board is still awaiting receipt of another bid.

e. Town Garage Security: Charles reported that he is still waiting for estimates.

f. Tax Sale Property – West Townshend: Enforcement Contract: Charles made a motion, To accept an estimate by Hunt to change the locks, mow and brush cut around the premises and generally clean-up the property, (formerly Martin) in West Townshend that was bought by the Town at Tax Sale last year, seconded by Ovenden, and carried by those present. Hunt was requested to speak with the Delinquent Tax Collector, and with attorneys involved in the sale to the Town about final receipt of the Deed.

10. Executive Session: No at this time.

11. Next Meeting: Regular Meeting: October 18, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.

12. Adjournment: Charles made a motion: **To adjourn at 8:45 p.m.**, carried by those present.

Respectfully submitted

Craig K. Hunt, administrative assistant