

Townshend Select Board Minutes

October 18, 2010

Present:

Select Board: Hedy Harris; Jeff Russ; Bruce Bills

In Attendance: Kim Ellison; Joe Daigneault; David Dezendorf; Kurt Bostrom; Gaila Gulack; Ryan Hockerlotz; Robin O'Neil; Charles Marchant; Douglas Winot; Mitchell Putnam; Irvin Stowell; Dale Davis; Craig Hunt

1. Call to Order: Harris called the meeting to Order at 6:08 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes: Harris made a motion: **To approve the Minutes of October 4, 2010**, seconded by Bills. Following discussion, the motion carried to approve the Minutes of October 4 2010, as corrected, by those present. The corrections included a payment of \$712.50 to Marquise and Morano for work at the Town Garage, mis-identified as being a payment made to David Balk.

3. Additions and Deletions: None at this time.

4. Warrants: Bills made a motion: **To approve the Warrants of October 16, 2010**, seconded by Harris, and carried by those present.

General Fund	\$ 3,392.90
Highway Department	\$ 9,192.01
Payroll	\$ 11,251.98
Town Garage (David Balk)	\$ 570.00

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 7.0% remained past due on the collection of the first quarter of the 2010 taxes, and reminded Board members to consider a projected increase of approximately 17.5% in health insurance costs as they worked on the budget for FY 2011-12. Harris made a motion, **To schedule Budget Workshops for November 8, 2010 and November 22, 2010, beginning at 5:30 p.m.**, carried by general consent of those present.

By consent of the Board, the Highway Foreman's Report was postponed until the Foreman arrived.

6. Members of the Public: Irvin Stowell was recognized and reported to the Board that WSWMD would have a Hazardous Waste pick-up at the Town Garage on November 6, 2010. He also informed the Board that an illegal gate had been installed by Cersosimo on a road off of West Hill Road.

Charles Marchant was recognized and reported to the Board that the Fire Department had received prepared engineering plans to raise the doors on the Fire Station, widen the truck bays, install insulated windows, provide zoned heating and replace the roof. These plans were to be considered proprietary to the contractor and part

of the proposal made free of charge if the contractor was awarded the work, but otherwise, would cost \$3000.00 if used for open bidding. As a consequence, Marchant held that he was not at liberty to reveal the cost estimate for the work in public session, and requested knowing what the Select Board intended for the Fire Station – whether immediate and necessary repairs, only, or a moderate upgrade of the facility.

Lengthy discussion ensued, involving many members of the public. Central to this discussion is that the Board has indicated wanting specific recommendations from the Fire Department, and Marchant and others at the Department have sought direction from the Select Board as to the Town's interest.

Marchant requested that the Select Board decide whether to fund the construction with the insurance money received to replace the roof and with Fire Department and General funds, or simply repair and cap the existing roof, either of which needed to happen before Christmas.

Harris argued that not knowing the proposed cost made the project impossible for the Board to approve, and made a motion; **To enter into Executive Session with Charles Marchant and Doug Winot at 7:25 p.m.**, seconded by Bills, and carried by those present.

At 7:38 p.m., the Board returned from Executive Session, and as a result, no action was taken.

The Board then heard the Highway Foreman's Report.

Highway Foreman's Report: Bostrom provided a progress report of Renaud Bros. culvert replacement on the Grafton Road. Stowell advised that channel work within the stream be attended above the culvert. Bostrom said that that was not in the current plans, but would see what might be done.

Harris asked Bostrom about posting 35 mph speed limit signs on Townshend's unpaved roads, especially on Crane Mountain, to make the Speed Limit Ordinance adopted in 2003 enforceable, and Bostrom promised to provide the Board with a cost estimate of the needed signs, explaining that complying with all of the necessary regulations would be expensive.

Bostrom confirmed that the stone retaining wall on Howard Cutt's property was within the Town's right-of-way, and believed that repair costs were not the Town's responsibility.

He also indicated that the Windham Hill Road would be patched this week.

Ryan Hockerlotz and Robin O'Neil also asked Bostrom about traffic control and 911-required signage at the intersection of Mountain View Road and Route 30 and Bostrom provided them with State of Vermont contact information for traffic control, and said he'd look into the signs.

7. Correspondence: A contract from RESCUE, Inc. for the 2011-12 fiscal year was received. The terms not being attached for review, the Board decided to take it up at a later time.

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: Russ agreed to attend a meeting with representatives from Thermal House, Inc., and Bob DiSiervo of the Planning Commission scheduled for October 22nd.

Fire Alarm System: Nothing at this time.

Furnace: The Board is still awaiting another bid on new furnaces.

e. Town Garage Security: Nothing at this time.

f. Tax Sale Property – West Townshend: While the Delinquent Tax Collector's Deed for this property has not yet been received, Harris said that she would be talking further to the Town's attorneys this week about requirements for selling this property.

g. Animal Control Policy: Mithchell Putnam, Townshend's Animal Control Officer, was recognized and informed the Board that in his opinion the proposed Animal Control Policy which he and other members of the Board had reviewed would require a full-time officer and a very large budget to enforce. Putnam reported that he presently receives two to three calls per week regarding barking or trespassing dogs, but that the majority of these concerns he is able to straighten out without an Ordinance to require him to file reports or demand fines, or impound, care for, and possibly, euthanize animals. Putnam reminded Board members that he is already empowered to address serious complaints, such as attacks on persons or livestock, and that the Board has statutory obligations with animal control issues as well. Lengthy discussion followed, with the Board thanking Putnam for his testimony and promising to consider this matter carefully.

9. New Business: None at this time.

10. Executive Session: Harris made a motion, **To enter into Executive Session to conduct an employee evaluation at 8:47 p.m.** The Board left Executive Session at 9:08 p.m., and as a result, approved the evaluation of Kurt Bostrom, Townshend's Highway Foreman, by general consent.

11. Next Meeting: Regular Meeting: November 1, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.

Budget Workshop: November 8, 2010 at 5:30 p.m.

12. Adjournment: Harris made a motion: **To adjourn at 9:10 p.m.**, carried by those present.

Respectfully submitted

Craig K. Hunt, administrative assistant