

Townshend Select Board Minutes

February 18, 2010

SPECIAL MEETING

Present:

Select Board: Hedy Harris; David Dezendorf; Michael Charles; Bruce Bills; Steve Ovenden, (absent)

In attendance: Kim Ellison, Bookkeeper; Cynthia Davis; Joe Daigneault, Treasurer; Kathy Hege, TES chair; Craig Hunt, (Select Board administrative assistant)

1. Call to Order: Harris called the meeting to Order at 5:34 p.m.

2. Members of the Public: Harris welcomed members of the public and lengthy discussion ensued regarding the published 2008-2009 Town Report.

Hege noted that Minutes from the 2009 Annual Elementary School District Meeting, though provided to the Auditors, were missing from the published report, as well as the vital statistics records submitted by the Town Clerk's office, and suggested that in the future the auditors receive hard-copy of reports being submitted electronically, and that more time be taken to assure that all contributors review the proofs returned from the printer. Hege also informed the Select Board that she and others did not receive the Town Report in the mail, as expected.

A detailed letter of questions, comments and suggestions from Cynthia Davis, addressed to, and received by members of the Board, was then discussed line by line. Of particular importance, Davis noted that the Warning for the 2010 Town Meeting was incorrectly published in the Town Report, and Hunt assured those in attendance that the correct Warning was scheduled to be printed in the Brattleboro Reformer, as required, prior to the statutory deadline.

Further discussion ensued with specific attentions paid to:

- Distinction and separation of Highway and General funds
- Compactor revenue accounting
- Article VII - Lockbox and Tax Collector receipts of taxes
- Article IX - Equipment purchase authorities and responsibilities
- Article XI and XII - Capital reserve fund tax consequences
- Article XIV - Budget projections missing or confusing
- Article XVIII - Tax revenue accounting missing
- Reserve and Municipal Loan accounts - unclear, missing or shifted
- Equipment Reserve expenses - accountings changed
- Mosely and RDAG - fund expenditures
- Howard Legacy - accounting missing
- Abated taxes - no accounting
- Public Library - separate funding
- Town Meeting Minutes - inaccuracies
- Contract services - accounting incomplete or erroneous
- Bank and Delinquent Tax Collector - expense accounting
- Gazebo maintenance - funding of costs
- Anticipated Tax Shortfall - authority to budget for

Social Services - qualifications criteria
Town Report as an historic document that tells a story

While no specific actions were taken by the Select Board at this time, there was consensus that Articles in the Town Warning might warrant amending, or passing over, that some further information on a variety of subjects needed to be obtained prior to Town Meeting, and that printed handouts, clarifying certain issues for the voters at Town meeting, might be helpful.

At 7:35 p.m., with thanks to all participants, Harris made a motion: **To adjourn the Special Meeting**, carried by those present.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig K. Hunt, administrative assistant