

**Townshend Select Board
Minutes
August 6, 2012**

Present: Select Board: Hedy Harris; David Dezendorf; Kit Martin; Jeff Russ; Chad Greenwood

In Attendance: Kim Ellison; Joe Daigneault; Kurt Bostrom; Howard Lott; Cynthia Davis; Janet Stowell; Mary Merrill; Joe Novick; Holly Hockertlotz; Gaila Gulack; Molly Cook; Ed Cutler; Matt Sutkoski, (Burlington Free Press); Richard Melanson, (BCTV); Mike Faher, (Brattleboro Reformer); Craig Hunt

1. Call to Order: Harris called the Meeting to Order at 6:00 P.M.

2. Dezendorf made a motion: To set aside the Rules and take up the Municipal Firearms Policy which the Board adopted on July 16, 2012, seconded by Martin and carried by those present.

Dezendorf then made a motion: **To rescind the firearms policy adopted during the July 16, 2012 meeting of the Townshend Select Board, which prohibited firearms within Townshend municipal property and premises, except by duly authorized law enforcement officers,** seconded by Martin.

Brief discussion ensued with Harris stating that no intent infringe upon the legal rights of gun owners was intended, and Martin adding that while the Select Board acted without much thought and by mistake in the way it addressed this issue, it was responding out of legitimate concern for individuals who felt intimidated by firearms being present in open public meetings.

Dezendorf presented correspondence addressed to the Select Board from Ryan Hockertlotz.

The question was called, and the motion was carried by those present.

3. Approval of Minutes: Martin made a motion: **To approve the Minutes of July 16, 2012,** seconded by Dezendorf who amended it to correct the wording in the firearms prohibition policy from, "to draft and adopt a Policy..." to simply, "to adopt a Policy..." The motion, as amended, was carried by those present.

Dezendorf then made a motion: **To approve the Minutes for July 23rd and July 30th as corrected**, seconded by Greenwood and carried by those present.

4. Additions and Deletions: An Errors and Omissions report from the Listers was added to New Business, and Taft Meadows mowing was added to Old Business.

5. Warrants: Dezendorf made a motion: **To approve the Warrants for August 6, 2012**, seconded by Martin. Discussion followed, and the motion was amended: **to withhold the Highway Equipment Warrants until the Road Foreman could explain the charges**. The question as amended was called and the motion carried by those present.

General Fund	\$ 11,628.09
Highway Department	\$ 187,378.84
Payroll	\$ 21,762.84

6. Reports: Law Enforcement & Constable's Report: None at this time.

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

Bookkeeper's / Treasurer's Report: Ellison reported that the property tax bills had been sent out and that the checking account held approximately \$700,000. She reported that approximately \$320,000 was still outstanding from FEMA and the State toward payments for Tropical Storm Irene. Ellison then summarized a meeting she and Dezendorf had attended with representatives from FEMA, who are leaving the area. She informed the Board that FEMA requires that all paperwork earlier submitted needed to be duplicated and submitted again for corroboration and completing the closeout process.

Dezendorf then made a motion: **To suspend the rules to meet with members of the public**, carried by general consent.

7. Members of the Public: Ed Cutler of Gun Owners of Vermont was recognized by the Board and expressed his pleasure at learning the Select Board had rescinded the firearms prohibition policy it had adopted at the previous meeting. Cutler cited statistics indicating that the State of Vermont had one of the lowest violent crime rates and was the lowest in terms of firearms violence, drawing the

corollary that was attributable to Vermont's being among the highest in per capita gun ownership.

While lauding the Board for overturning the policy, Cutler suggested that different towns should not have different rules.

Mary Merrill asked why anyone would need to carry a loaded weapon into a public building, and Cutler responded, anecdotally, that not knowing who might be armed serves a deterrent to anyone intent upon committing a violent act.

Molly Cook said that no written policy is ever going to stop an individual from doing harm and that having a policy that prevents law-abiding people from protecting themselves might act as an inducement to someone with a grievance.

8. Correspondence: The Board received correspondence from Art Monette, chairman of the Planning Commission, announcing a joint meeting of the Planning Commission and Windham Regional Commission on August 8th to discuss the Town Plan.

9. Reports: Highway Department Report: Bostrom reported that paving the Dam Road by Bazin Brothers had been completed, though there was some confusion with the Army Corps of Engineers over the scope of their work. He also reported that most of the shoulder work had been complete on Route 35 and that cost estimates for the culverts for Deer Valley and Ellen Ware roads should be received soon.

Referencing the timesheets, Greenwood reminded Bostrom that State law requires that the crew take a break and that, "no lunch was taken," wasn't going to be accepted. Greenwood also reminded Bostrom that FEMA won't reimburse the Town for any labor exceeding 8 hours in a day on FEMA-related projects.

Dezendorf briefed the Board on the East Hill project stating that Stevens & Associates would be ready to begin as soon as a meeting of all parties involved could be convened, and that the Town would have to file with FEMA for an extension of the time to completion and for a change in the scope of the work to be done.

Following clarification by Bostrom of highway equipment expenses, Dezendorf made a motion: **To pay the equipment Warrants previously held aside**, seconded by Martin and carried by those present.

Ellison referenced an AOT grant that could be available to offset the cost of the improvements on the Dam Road culvert which FEMA is un-willing to reimburse, and

Greenwood said that he would inquire about it, though there have been problems with getting State aid in the past since the Dam Road is on Federal land.

The Board then discussed updating Townshend's Road Standards to be in compliance with the State and Martin made a motion: **To adopt the, "Minimum Road and Bridge Standards," as outlined in Section 8 of the Handbook for Local Officials**, seconded by Dezendorf and carried by those present.

Bostrom reported that Bruce Orchitt had been notified and that roadside mowing would begin around the middle of August.

Martin informed the Board that he had spoken with Bernard Davis about the sumac and poison ivy in Taft Meadows, and made a motion: **To hire Bernard Davis to tend to the sumac and poison ivy and remove one dead tree in Taft Meadows for a sum not to exceed \$240.00**, seconded by Dezendorf and carried by those present.

Dezendorf then made a motion: **To enter Executive Session to discuss personnel matters with Bostrom at 7:30 P.M.**, carried by those present.

The Board returned from Executive Session on a motion by Dezendorf: **To leave Executive Session at 8:04**, and as a result, no action was taken.

Emergency Management Report: None at this time.

10. Old Business: Ancient Roads: Martin asked to have noted for the record that three of the Ancient Roads or corridors that were previously considered un-named, did have names. The unnamed Melis/Bills road, so-called, has been discovered on maps to be the Brookline Road. The unnamed Eastwood/Charles road, so-called, appears on maps as the Stage Road, and Phoenix Way, newly-named, used to be known as the Woods Road.

Martin requested that the Board hold another workshop to discuss ancient roads, and August 16th at 7:00 P.M. was agreed upon.

Cemetery Rights of Way: Harris reported that she hopes to report progress with the draft ROW proposals at the next meeting.

Honor Roll Plaques: Following brief discussion with Hunt, Martin made a motion: To hire Hunt to polish the bronze Honor Roll plaques at the Town Hall for a sum not to

exceed \$200.00, seconded by Dezendorf and carried by those present.

Dezendorf reported on having received quotes for municipal bulk propane and heating oil and will have contract proposals for the Board to review at the next meeting.

11. New Business: Errors and Omissions: Lister Howard Lott was welcomed and discussed details of the Listers report on Errors and Omissions with the Board.

Martin made a motion: **To approve correction to C9150-146, Lucien and Karen Berthiam, from \$17,500 to \$15,700,** seconded by Dezendorf and carried by those present.

Martin made a motion: **To approve correction to 04066-000, West River Condominium Association, from \$260,300 to 250,700,** seconded by Dezendorf and carried by those present.

Martin made a motion: **To approve correction to 13049000, William and Michelle Ryan, from \$126,100 to \$100,300,** seconded by Dezendorf and carried by those present.

Martin made a motion: **To approve addition of 13053000, William Ryan, at \$37,000,** seconded by Dezendorf and carried by those present.

Martin made a motion: **To approve correction to C9150033, Kim Lesure, from \$46,000 to \$4,600,** seconded by Dezendorf and carried by those present.

Martin made a motion: **To approve correction to UE01400, VT Transco, from \$14,733,071 to \$14,634,400,** seconded by Dezendorf and carried by those present.

Martin made a motion: **To approve corrections from omissions to 09078-500, Patricia DeFelice and Bank of New York/Mellon, in values of \$253,000, \$2,800, \$100,100, and \$534,400,** seconded by Dezendorf and carried by those present.

Lott agreed to provide the Board with an explanation of the VT Transco adjustment.

Board members then briefly discussed with Lott progress with the town-wide reappraisal.

Cell Phone Service: Dezendorf briefed the Board on a July 26th meeting with Christa Shute of the Vermont Telecommunications Authority, indicating that basic cell phone service along the Route 30 corridor should be available in 2013.

U.S.D.A. Grant: Dezendorf explained the importance of applying for this grant so the Town could move forward on

Tropical Storm Irene damage repairs to the Holland-Bixby Cemetery and removing trees in Mill Brook behind Leland & Gray. Martin made a motion: **To sign the U.S.D.A. Emergency Watershed Program grant application and designate Charles Marchant as the signator**, seconded by Dezendorf and carried by those present.

Repeater Grant: Dezendorf briefed the Board on the needs for a radio communications antenna and the opportunity of receiving a grant from the Vermont Department of Homeland Security which would pay up to 75% of the \$12,000 cost. Following lengthy discussion about the requirement that Town employees take training courses in emergency management, Martin made a motion: **To instruct Dezendorf to file the application for the repeater antenna grant with the Vermont Department of Homeland Security**, seconded by Greenwood and carried by those present.

12. Meeting Schedules:

Ancient Roads Workshop: August 16th at 6:00 P.M.

Regular Meeting: September 4th at 6:00 P.M.

13. Adjournment: Greenwood made a motion: **To adjourn at 9:12 P.M.**, carried by those present.

Respectfully submitted:

Craig K. Hunt, assistant