

approved: Nov. 16, 2015

## **TOWNSHEND SELECT BOARD**

Meeting Minutes  
November 2, 2015

**Present:** Kathy Hege; Kit Martin; Irvin Stowell; Robert Wright; Kyle LaPointe

**In Attendance:** Joe Daigneault; David Thurber; Amanda Thomas; Richard Melanson; Craig Hunt

**1. Call To Order:** Hege called the meeting to Order at 6:01 p.m.

**2. Members of the Public:** Martin made a motion: **To suspend the rules and meet with members of the public**, seconded by Stowell and carried by those present.

Dave Thurber of Springfield Paving was welcomed by the Board and explained that the 300 ton over-charge for the Athens/Grafton roads paving project was simply the result of a mileage mis-measurement on the RFP, upon which bids were factored. That measurement, which was short by about 2000 feet, was also used in the grant application submitted to the State to offset costs to the municipality.

Martin expressed a need for better communications with and from the Highway Foreman and Thurber was thanked for his input on this matter.

**3. Board of Health:** Martin made a motion: **To recess as the Select Board and convene as the Townshend Board of Health at 6:14 pm**, seconded by Stowell and carried by those present.

Amanda Thomas was recognized and explained that electrical upgrades required in the Health Order issued against her property in West Townshend were not yet complete, but would be within a week, or so. Following brief discussion with Thomas, the Board, by general consent, extended the deadline for Thomas's compliance with the Health Order until November 16, 2015, provided that she submit documentation of compliance for the Board to review by November 13, 2015. Thomas expressed her appreciation and said that she would communicate with her electrician.

Martin made a motion: **To adjourn as the Townshend Board of Health and re-convene as the Townshend Select Board at 6:19**, seconded by LaPointe and carried by those present.

**4. Approval of the Minutes:** Martin made a motion: **To approve the Minutes of October 19, 2015**, seconded by LaPointe and carried by those present.

**5. Additions and Deletions:** Letters from Tiz Garfield and Barb Germain were added to Correspondence and other Old Business, discussion of the Dam Road closure.

**6: Reports: Law Enforcement:** An activity report was received from the Vermont State Police with the first bill on the Law Enforcement contract. Hunt will copy the report for Board review at the next meeting.

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

**Treasurer's Report:** Daigneault reported that the General Fund checking account held a balance of \$1,061,637.94, prior to the payment of Warrants before the Board.

**Highway Department Report:** With Bostrom absent due to an injury, Board members only briefly discussed the overage on the Springfield Paving bill; Bostrom's prior report that the Sterling truck was not road-worthy without mechanical repairs; the need for an up-to-date Network inventory, required by the State for full-percentage grants funding; the timely processing of grants paperwork and the purpose for a meeting with a FEMA representative inspecting East Hill Road.

**7. Warrants:** LaPointe made motions to approve the following Warrants:

- 10191 Payroll \$7,863.45**, seconded by Martin and carried by those present.
- 10192 Payroll Deductions \$3,309.76**, seconded by Martin and carried by those present.
- 10193 Highway Fund \$22,068.58**, seconded by Martin and carried by those present, with one opposed.
- 10194 Highway Fund \$85,566.00**, seconded by Martin and carried by those present.
- 10195 General Fund \$5,022.93**, seconded by Martin and carried by those present.
- 10196 Highway Fund \$10,103.45**, seconded by Wright and carried by those present with one opposed.
- 10197 Equipment Fund \$7,355.51**, seconded by Wright. Following discussion the motion failed to pass.
- 10198 Highway Fund \$4,900.00**, seconded by Martin and carried by those present.

**8. Correspondence:** With appreciation for her on-going assistance, the Select Board acknowledged receipt of a letter from Tiz Garfield pertaining to heating system modifications in historic buildings.

Hege then read a letter received from Barb Germain complaining about a neighbor's dogs defecating on her property and requesting that Townshend officials, if possible, help her prevent recurrence. During sympathetic discussion, the Select Board determined that control of domestic animals is an owner's responsibility and that, short of the municipality adopting a leash law, local government had no authority to effectively intervene.

**9. Old Business: Officer Appointments:** Martin made a motion: **To appoint Elaine Hill as an Auditor to fulfill the vacancy left by the resignation of Eric Scott, until Town Meeting**, seconded by LaPointe and carried by those present.

**Martin made a motion: To appoint Linda Spence to serve on the Town Report Committee**, approved by general consent of the Board.

**Townshend Dam:** Hege updated the Board on recent publicity regarding conditions at Townshend Dam and gave a tentative schedule for a meeting with State and Federal representatives.

**Grace Cottage Hospital Lease Agreement:** The Board discussed renewal of the lease that Grace Cottage Hospital holds for land upon which the septic field used by both the hospital and Townshend Elementary School is located.

**10. New Business: Budget:** Following discussion about healthcare insurance costs and the deadlines for enrollment, LaPointe made a motion: **To budget the FY2016-17 municipal health insurance costs at a maximum of \$11,700.00 per employee**, seconded by Martin and carried by those present.

**Dam Road:** Hege noted, for the record, that the Dam Road would remain closed by the Army Corps of Engineers until November 6, 2015.

**11. Other Business:** None at this time.

**12. Meeting Schedules:** Regular Meeting: November 16, 2015, at 6:00 p.m.

**13. Adjournment:** LaPointe made a motion: **To adjourn at 8:28 p.m.**, carried by those present.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig K. Hunt