

approved: 12/21/15

TOWNSHEND SELECT BOARD

Meeting Minutes
December 07, 2015

Present: Kathy Hege; Robert Wright; Irvin Stowell; Kyle LaPointe

In Attendance: Joe Daigneault; Kurt Bostrom; Becky Nystrom; Ruth Van Houten; Richard Melanson; Craig Hunt

1. Call To Order: Hege called the meeting to Order at 6:05 p.m.

2. Approval of the Minutes: LaPointe made a motion: **To approve the Minutes of November 16, 2015**, seconded by Stowell and carried by those present.

3. Additions and Deletions: Added to Correspondence were letters from SOVEREN Solar and Patrick Kiernan.

4: Reports: Highway Department Report: Bostrom reminded the Board of the equipment replacement schedule which would have the Town replace both the 2011 International plow truck and the 2012 F550 pick-up truck in the coming year. He reported that it is going to be a problem to fix the cab on the John Deere 544 loader for \$30,000. Replacement of that loader would cost around \$125,000.

The Board again requested that Bostrom put a budget proposal in writing for members to review.

5. Executive Session: LaPointe made a motion: **To find that having an open discussion with Townshend's Delinquent Tax Collector would put the Town at a significant disadvantage were information discussed be made public**, seconded by Wright and carried by those present.

Stowell then made a motion: **To enter into Executive Session with Becky Nystrom at 6:22 pm under 1 V.S.A. 317c4**, seconded by LaPointe and carried by those present.

At 6:30 pm, the Select Board returned from Executive Session and, as a result, no action was taken.

6. Reports: Law Enforcement: None at this time.

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 \$1,463,147.45, exclusive of reserve accounts and prior to the payment of Warrants before the Board.

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

- 12071 Payroll \$9,951.18**, seconded by Wright and carried by those present.
- 12072 Payroll Deductions \$3,747.17**, seconded by Wright and carried by those present.
- 12073 General Fund \$120.90**, seconded by Stowell and carried by those present.
- 12074 General Fund \$250.00**, seconded by Wright and carried by those present.
- 12075 Payroll \$8,094.82**, seconded by Wright and carried by those present.
- 12076 Payroll Deductions \$3,387.77**, seconded by Wright and carried by those present.
- 12077 Equipment Fund \$20,028.00**, seconded by Wright and carried by those present.
- 12078 General Fund \$129.80**, seconded by Wright and, following discussion, the motion failed to carry.
- 12079 General Fund \$585,721.68**, seconded by Wright and carried by those present.
- 120710 General Fund \$19,532.18**, seconded by Stowell and carried by those present.
- 120711 Highway Fund \$480.46**, seconded by Wright and carried by those present.
- 120712 General Fund \$1,259.44**, seconded by Wright and carried by those present.
- 120713 General Fund \$40.92**, seconded by Wright and carried by those present, with one abstention.
- 120714 Equipment Fund \$ 1,770.78**, seconded by Stowell and following discussion, the motion failed to carry by those present.

Stowell then made a motion: **To reconsider Equipment Fund Warrant 120714 in the amount of \$1,770.78**, seconded by LaPointe and carried by those present.

LaPointe then made a motion: **To approve Equipment Fund Warrant 120714 in the amount of \$1,770.78**, seconded by Wright and carried by those present.

8. Correspondence: Hege acknowledged receipt of a letter from Patrick Kiernan, Townshend Auditor, requesting that the Select Board authorize the payment of wages for work done last March and April. Hunt had not submitted Kiernan's claim because of its age and broach upon the prior fiscal year and recommended Kiernan address the Select Board. Following discussion, Wright made a motion: **To authorize the payment of a claim for wages from Patrick Kiernan for labor dating to last Spring**, seconded by LaPointe. The motion failed to carry by those present.

Hege acknowledged the Select Board's receipt of an application to the Public Service Board by SOVEREN Solar for installation of a 150kW solar farm on properties of Dugrenier in Harmonyville. The Board will discuss this project further at its next meeting.

9. Members of the Public: Ruth Van Houten was welcomed and expressed her interest in issues regarding Townshend Dam.

10. Old Business: Townshend Dam: CRVFCC Meeting: Hege and Hunt briefed the Board and Members of the Public on their attendance at the Connecticut River Valley Flood Control Commission's meeting of December 4, 2015, in Greenfield Massachusetts. Also attending were Bob DeSiervo from the Planning Commission, State Representative Emily Long and State Senator Becca Balint.

Payroll Services Contract: Following brief discussion, LaPointe made a motion: **To assume the responsibility of meeting employee payroll in-house, through NEMRC, and discontinue the contract with People's United Payroll Services, effective January 1, 2016**, seconded by Wright and carried by those present.

FY 2016-17 Budget: The Board scheduled a Budget Workshop for December 14, 2015, at 5:30 pm.

11. New Business: None at this time.

12. Other Business: None at this time.

13. Executive Session: None at this time.

14. Meeting Schedules: Regular Meeting: December 21, 2015, at 6:00 pm

15. Adjournment: LaPointe made a motion: **To adjourn at 8:17 pm**, carried by those present.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig K. Hunt