

approved: 09/07/15

TOWNSHEND SELECT BOARD

Meeting Minutes

August 17, 2015

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

In Attendance: Joe Daigneault; Kurt Bostrom; Mike Bills; Richard Lucier; Bob DeSiervo; Lloyd Church; Richard Melanson; Craig Hunt

1. Call To Order: Hege called the meeting to Order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Executive Session: LaPointe made a motion: **To enter into Executive Session with Daigneault and Hunt under 1 V.S.A. 313 (a)(3) at 6:02 p.m., for consideration of a new bookkeeper**, seconded by Martin and carried by those present.

The Board returned from Executive Session at 6:21 p.m. and, as a result, Martin made a motion: **To extend an offer of employment to Terry Garland as Townshend's bookkeeper for up to 15 hours per week at the rate of \$22.50 per hour**, seconded by Wright and carried by those present with one abstention.

3. Approval of the Minutes: Martin made a motion: **To approve the Minutes of July 6, 2015**, seconded by Stowell and carried by those present.

Martin made a motion: **To approve the Minutes of July 14, 2015**, seconded by LaPointe and carried by those present.

Martin made a motion: **To approve the Minutes of August 3, 2015**, seconded by Wright and carried by those present.

Martin made a motion: **To approve the Minutes of August 6, 2015**, seconded by Stowell and carried by those present with one abstention.

4. Additions and Deletions: To Correspondence, Valley Cares and the Planning Commission were added. From Members of the Public, Doug Winot was deleted.

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

Lloyd Church of the Southern Vermont Trail Riders was welcomed and requested that members of the trail-riders ATV Club be granted permission to travel along cross various Town roads, as had been granted in years past.

Following brief discussion, Martin made a motion: **To approve the request of the Southern Vermont Trail Riders to use Town roads, as stipulated in writing**, seconded by LaPointe and carried by those present.

6. Reports: Highway: Bostrom informed the Board that the Deer Ridge Culvert project had been completed and that Rice Tree should be finishing the roadside cutting within a week or so. He also conveyed that Springfield Paving would hold its quoted price on two paving projects still un-awarded.

The sidewalk at Our Lady of the Valley needs about 26 feet replaced, which, Bostrom said, the Highway Crew would be doing soon, as well as putting asphalt over the culvert cuts in Grafton Road and completing the area required for disposal of yard waste at the Town Garage. Roads sign replacement was discussed and Bostrom requested purchasing 20 more culverts for stock.

When discussion turned to sale of the 2007 Sterling truck, Martin made a motion: **For the Town of Townshend to keep the Sterling truck and use it to spare wear-and-tear on newer vehicles**, seconded by LaPointe and carried by those present.

7. Errors and Omissions: The Select Board welcomed Mike Bills and Richard Lucier of the Listers office who explained their requests to correct appraisal values. Discussions ensued.

LaPointe made a motion: **To change the assessment of Parcel # 05025-100 from \$69,300 to \$68,000**, seconded by Stowell and carried by those present, with two in favor, two opposed and the Chair breaking the tie.

LaPointe made a motion: **To make Parcel #05038-000 and 05039-000 contiguous**, seconded by Wright and carried by those present.

Stowell made a motion: **To reduce the appraisal of Parcel #13061-000 from \$314,300 to \$104,600**, seconded by LaPointe and carried by those present.

8. Reports: Law Enforcement: Nothing at this time.

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

Treasurer: Daigneault reported that the General Fund account held a balance of approximately \$537,000.00, before Reserve accounts were deducted and prior to the payment of Warrants before the Board. Daigneault informed the Board that another \$214,000 had been received in taxes, but had not been deposited.

With the line-of-credit agreement not yet received, LaPointe made a motion: **To table consideration of the un-awarded paving contracts until the meeting on September 7, 2015**, seconded by Martin and carried by those present.

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

81701 Payroll \$10,327.88, seconded by Wright and carried by those present.

81702 Payroll Deductions \$4,395.49, seconded by Wright and carried by those present.

81703 General Fund \$9,436.31, seconded by Wright and carried by those present.

81704 Highway Fund \$8,209.20, seconded by Martin and carried by those present.

81705 Equipment Fund \$1,046.94, seconded by Martin and carried by those present.

10. Correspondence: A letter from Rick Hege was read, requesting that the Town continue to keep the Town of Townshend website hosting. Stowell made a motion: **To**

approve the cost of keeping the Town of Townshend's website hosting, seconded by LaPointe and carried by those present.

A request from Valley Cares to use the Town Common for a fundraising event was discussed. LaPointe made a motion: **To approve the request of Valley Cares to host a benefit concert on the Town Common on August 22, 2015, upon receipt of insurance certificates**, seconded by Stowell and carried by those present, with one abstention.

A draft letter addressed to the governor and other State of Vermont representatives, concerning conditions at the Townshend Dam received by the Select Board from the Planning Commission was discussed at length with Bob DeSiervo. Concerns were expressed about the loss of this facility as a prime recreational destination, the Army Corps of Engineers failure to maintain adequate water quality and depth and the loss of revenue to Townshend from tourism and payments in lieu of taxes. The Select Board endorsed the efforts of the Planning Commission to address these issues and promised to stand behind them.

A letter from Thomas Chase was discussed concerning parking at the West Townshend Community Store on Friday evenings. Select Board members agreed that this situation needs addressing, but acknowledged issues pertaining to Vermont State Route 30 are nothing that the Board can remedy.

11. Old Business: Officer Appointments: Hege informed Board members that she'd received a call from Holly Hockertlotz relaying a request from Townshend Health Officer Shafer to appoint a Deputy Health Officer to assist with inspections. Lengthy discussion ensued, following which Martin made a motion: **To appoint Rob Wright to serve as Townshend Board of Health's representative in address of pending issues**, seconded by LaPointe and carried by those present, with one abstention. The Board then requested that Hunt assist Wright in re-inspection of the premises at 1314 Vermont Route 30 and bring report to the Board.

Municipal Land Sales Update: Nothing at this time.

12. New Business: Net Metering Agreement: Hege made a motion: **To find that premature public disclosure of privileged attorney-client communications would put the Townshend Select Board at a legal disadvantage**, seconded by Martin and carried by those present.

LaPointe then made a motion: **To enter Executive Session at 8:27 p.m., under 1 V.S.A. 313 (A)(1) to discuss confidential attorney/client communications for the purpose of providing legal service to the Select Board**, seconded by Martin and carried by those present.

The Board returned from Executive Session at 8:59 p.m. and, as a result, Martin made a motion: **For Hunt to follow-up with the Town attorney on matters and issues regarding the Net Metering Agreement referenced in the attorney's correspondence**, seconded by LaPointe and carried by those present.

13. Other Business: None at this time.

14. Meeting Schedules: Regular Meeting: September 7, 2015, at 6:00 p.m.

15. Adjournment: Stowell made a motion: **To adjourn at 9:04 p.m.**, carried by those present.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig K. Hunt