

approved: 01/10/17

TOWNSHEND SELECT BOARD

Meeting Minutes

December 27, 2016

Present: Kathy Hege; Robert Wright; Irv Stowell

In Attendance: Joe Daigneault; Will Bissonnette; Kurt Bostrom; Andrea Royce; Richard Melanson, (BCTV); Craig Hunt

1. Call To Order: Hege called the meeting to Order at 6:04 p.m.

2. Approval of the Minutes: Wright made a motion: **To approve the Minutes of December 13, 2016**, seconded by Stowell and carried by those present.

3. Additions and Deletions: Letters from Elaine Murray and from the Department of Taxes were added to Correspondence.

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

Will Bissonnette was greeted and Hege nominated Bissonnette to take Martin's seat on the Select Board until Town Meeting in March 2017, carried by those present.

5. Reports: Highway Report: None at this time.

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

Law Enforcement Report: None at this time.

Treasurer's Report: Daigneault reported that the General Fund checking account held a balance of \$1,215,370.39, with another \$29,800.00 in the sweep account.

Hunt provided an update on the work of Pieciak & Co. to resolve issues with the town's FY2016 finances.

5. Warrants: Wright made motions to approve the following Warrants, all seconded by Stowell.

122701 Payroll \$ **9,525.24**, Following discussion about errors in the calculations of payroll, the Warrant failed for lack of a quorum approving it.

122702 Taxes \$ **3,761.03**, carried by those present.

122703 General \$ **12,603.46**, carried by those present.

122704 Highway \$ **7,847.92**, carried by those present.

122705 Equipment \$ **2,249.87**, carried by those present.

122706 Highway \$ **6,404.12**, seconded by Wright and carried by those present.

122707 Highway \$ **17,920.90**, carried by those present.

6. Highway Report: Bostrom gave a report on plowing, sanding and salting.

Executive Session: Wright made a motion: **To find that premature public disclosure of information could put the Town at a legal disadvantage**, seconded by Stowell and carried by those present.

Hege then made a motion: **For the Select Board to enter Executive Session with Kurt Bostrom, Andrea Royce, Will Bissonnette and Craig Hunt, under 1 V.S.A. 313 a1d, at 6:30 p.m., to discuss a claim against the Town**, seconded by Wright and carried by those present.

The Board returned from Executive Session at 6:42 p.m. and, as a result, no action was taken.

Discussion ensued with Bostrom over what constitutes Highway Department, "Call Out," time and the fact that the Town restricts the crew no any obligations to be available, when called. Highway maintenance, after hours and in an emergency, is part of the job description, but does not prohibit anyone on the Highway crew from enjoying time away from the job, or require anyone to wait by the phone.

Stowell informed Bostrom that there are rocks that need moving on State Forest Road and that no brush burning had been done at the gravel pit in many years. Stowell also requested that Bostrom attend to stumps left in the right-of-way crossing above the gravel pit.

7. Correspondence: Hege read a letter from Elaine Murray regarding ground conditions at the compactor. Bostrom had previously been made aware of these issues and they had been attended.

The Department of Taxation provided a report with results of the 2016 Equalization study and stated that Townshend's CLA had increased up to 110.38% and the COD was 14.98%.

8. Old Business: Small Claims Court: Hege updated the Board on a lawsuit against the Town in Small Claims Court, by a former elected official, which had been given a court date of March 24, 2017.

WSWMD Budget: Stowell informed the Board that WSWMD was due to approve a proposed budget prior to the Select Board's first meeting in January.

9. New Business: None at this time.

10. Executive Session: Wright made a motion: **To find that premature public disclosure of information would put the Town at a disadvantage**, seconded by Stowell and carried by those present.

Wright then made a motion: **To enter Executive Session at 7:16 p.m. under 1 V.S.A. a1b to discuss employee evaluations**, seconded by Stowell and carried by those present.

The Select Board returned from Executive Session at 8:15 p.m. and, as a result, no action was taken.

11. Other Business: None at this time.

12. Meeting Schedules: Regular Meeting: Regular Meeting: January 10, 2017, at 6:00 p.m.

13. Adjournment: Wright made a motion: **To adjourn at 8:31 p.m.**, carried by those present.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig K. Hunt