



TOWN OF TOWNSHEND
Selectboard
PO Box 121 Townshend, Vermont 05353

Selectboard Meeting Minutes

October 26, 2021

In Person & virtually via ZOOM

Approved 11/9/2021

Present: Sherwood Lake, Allison Dercoli, Haley Felker, Rob Wright, Steve Frisk

In Attendance: Galen Robinson - BCTV Technician, Connie Holt

Members of the Public: Helen Holt, Andy Snelling, Jeryl Cisse, Lyndall Boal, Juliette Carr, Stephan Brandstatter, Jenny Kessler, Alex Sorenson, Ellenka Wasung-Lott.

Meeting Call to Order: Lake calls the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Approval of Minutes: Steve Frisks makes a motion to approve the Selectboard 10/12/2021 meeting minutes. Rob Wright seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0-0.

Additions and Deletions: Lake adds;

1. New Business: the approval of a Class 2 liquor license for the Harmonyville Store's new owners.
2. Members of the Public: Update on the DVFiber project.
3. Chair's Report: Review of the Cost of Claims from the insurance carrier.

Members of the Public:

1. Andy Snelling gives a report on the progress of the DVFiber Project. The DVFiber Project is a Special Project Municipality set up by the State. Its' mission is to bring high speed internet to every household in VT. 24 towns in Windham County have joined the project. That represents almost every town in Windham County. Last week DVFiber received a 4.1 million dollar federal grant to start the design and pre-construction of the network to the 6 towns with the least coverage in Windham County. Because Townshend is currently 58% covered by broadband, we are not one of the 6 towns the project is starting with. In the next phase of actual construction, DVFiber is expecting to receive a 20 million plus dollar grant. They expect the total project to be in the 40 million plus dollar range. Hopefully, by

the end of next year this phase will be completed. The DVFiber annual report has been submitted to the Selectboard.

Correspondence: None

Warrants: Rob Wright makes a motion to pay warrants 1 through 10;

1. Payroll: \$10,854.43
2. Payroll: \$799.97
3. Payroll Taxes: \$4,766.11
4. Payroll Taxes: \$276.53
5. General Fund: \$11,332.94
6. General Fund: \$5.32
7. General Fund: \$16,780.00
8. Highway: \$105,714.68
9. Highway: \$21.30
10. Equipment: \$1,154.42

Total Warrants: \$151,705.70

Steve Frisk seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0-0.

Reports:

1. Highway: Frisk gives the report: the two Better Roads Grants have been submitted for approval.

A. The State bid the salt contract. Cargill submitted a bid of \$73.00/ton of salt. Frisk called Apalachee for a quote since the town used them last year. They submitted a quote for \$90.00/ton.

B. Cersosimo has increased the cost of winter sand from \$15.00/yard to \$16.00/yard. Frisk reached out to Zaluzny who gave a quote of \$23.00/yard. Wright makes a motion to contract with Cargill for salt and Cersosimo for winter sand. Felker seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0-0.

C. Currently the highway crew are clearing culverts and ditches in Townshend Acres. The leaf blower is out on the roads and is working fine in the rain.

D. Frisk will be attending a Road Forman meeting tomorrow in Dover sponsored by VTrans Better Roads and Windham Regional.

2. Treasurers: Lake gives the report;

Municipal Investment Fund: \$893,048.30

Checking Account: \$30,000.00

3. Chair: Lake reviews the Quarterly Loss report from the Town's Insurance Provider concerning the cost of claims. Lake points out that the report covers old claims as well.

4. Town Clerk: Ellenka Wasung-Lott gives the report;

A. Wasung-Lott has been researching the cost to digitize and maintain digital land records. She reports that most towns are digitizing their land records. Of the towns already digitized over 50% are using Cott Systems. Cost's quote to digitize the land records dating back 40 years is a one time cost of \$34,945.00 and a monthly fee of \$170.00 to maintain the system. Currently, the Restoration Fund has the money to cover the cost, but she requests to use some of the ARPA grant money, if possible, to cover the cost. The Restoration Fund money really can only be used on this type of expense. Wasung-Lott asks the Board if they have any questions or thoughts. Lake emphasizes that using the Restoration Fund money would ensure no glitch in fulfilling our costs in the contract with Cott. Felker states it is a very good idea. Dercoli agrees that it is a good idea.

B. Wasung-Lott presents her research and plan to offer electronic payments for town clerk transactions. All transaction fees go to the purchaser. It will not cost the town anything. Her research shows that other towns offering electronic payments are using either of two companies: PayGov.us or Municipay. She has decided to go with Municipay because they charge is slightly less to the purchaser. Felker states that this is another good idea.

Old Business:

1. Law Enforcement: Lake reports that the Selectboard has been working on this since the start of the fiscal year. The Sheriff never got back to the town and the state has just declined to enter into a contract for law enforcement with Townshend. As a result, the \$20,000.00 earmarked for the law enforcement contract will roll back into the General Fund.

2. Selectboard Public Statement on Hate Speech: Lake reports that the Selectboard has approved the following statement;

"The Town of Townshend values all residents and visitors, no matter their backgrounds or identities. While differences of opinion can be celebrated and debated, we condemn symbols of hate being displayed in our town, in disregard of the welcoming nature of our community as a whole."

Lake reports that this statement has been made public to the media and the unofficial website in town. Lake asks if anyone wants to add anything to this issue. Andy Snelling raises the issue that he does not think it appropriate for the elected officers to impact one's freedom of speech by defining hate speech through an individual's action. Lake responds by saying this is not directed at any individual it is a general statement about hate speech in our community. Other members of the public give statements thanking the Selectboard for their public statement made in a timely manner.

New Business:

1. Liquor License application by Donna and Charles Moitoza. The Moitoza's are applying for a Class 2 Liquor License for the Harmonyville Store. Wright makes a motion to approve the Class 2 license. Frisk seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0-0.

Next Meeting: Lake reports that the next regularly schedule Selectboard meeting will be held November 9. 2021.

Executive Session: None

Adjournment: Frisk makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. Wright seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0-0. The meeting is adjourned at 6:38pm.