



TOWN OF TOWNSHEND

Selectboard

PO Box 121 Townshend, Vermont 05353

Selectboard Meeting Agenda

March 8, 2022 6:00 PM

Townshend Town Hall
and Zoom Virtual Meeting if possible

Approved: 3/22/2022

Present: Sherwood Lake, Steven Frisk, Rob Wright, Katie Marrow, Rob Swiger

In Attendance: Brian Guerino - BCTV Tech, Connie Holt

Members of the Public: Bob Desiervo, Eliza Martin, Helen Holt, Andy Snelling, John Evans, Paul Paytas, Helen Holt

1. **Meeting Call to Order:** Lake calls the meeting to order at 6:00pm.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Frisk makes a motion to approve the minutes for the February 22, 2022 Selectboard meeting and the March 2, 2022 Special Selectboard meeting minutes. Wright seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0-0.
3. **Additions and Deletions:** Lake runs through the additions and/or deletions to the agenda. Lake points out that there is no addition to the agenda regarding Grace Cottage banner on the common because the paper work is not yet in.
 - a. Correspondence: Windham County Humane Society Shots & Vaccine Clinic
 - b. ~~Correspondence: Grace Cottage Hospital regarding hanging a banner~~
 - c. New Business (9.3): Selectboard Appointments
 - d. New Business (9.4): Setting the Selectboard Regular Meeting days.

4. **Members of the Public:** No members of the public.

5. **Correspondence:**

1. Correspondence: Lake announces Windham County Humane Society Shots & Vaccine Clinic.

6. **Warrants:** Wright makes a motion to pay the warrants 1 through 9. Frisk seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0-0.

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| Payroll: | \$11,577.88 |
| Payroll Tax: | \$5,304.02 |
| General Fund: | \$30,255.43 |
| General Fund: | \$751.03 |
| General Fund: | \$14.99 |
| Highway: | \$1,090.29 |
| Highway Equipment: | \$4,657.82 |

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| Highway Equipment: | \$4,244.58 |
| Highway Equipment: | \$324.07 |
| TOTAL: | \$58,220.11 |

7. **Reports:**

1. **Highway:** Frisk gives the Highway report;

a. In last night's storm there was tree damage on several roads. Athens Road had 15 trees down and closed the road. We had it reopened by 3:00am. Tomorrow we will continue to do clean up from the storm.

b. Weather permitting we will continue our work on potholes.

c. FEMA: Connie and I have a meeting with FEMA to continue to give them information to obtain reimbursement for last July's storm.

d. We have gotten another mower contractor bid. Tony's Equipment Rental out of Morrisville, VT. The Cost of a mower is Tony's \$3,000.00 per week vs. HP Fairfield's \$4500.00 her week. Difference in cost is \$1500.00. Wright asks if there are any differences between the bids. Frisk says no. The mower is the same. Only difference would be the cost of Diesel, in August, in getting it to Townshend. Wright makes a motion to accept Tony's bid for a mower at the cost of \$3,000.00 per week for two weeks. Marrow seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0-0.

e. Payroll for the road crew was wrong last week. We were shorted OT. Elaine will correct the error in next week's payroll. Lake asked if this has happened before. Frisk says yes, several times.

2. **Treasurer:** Lake gives the report that in the Selectboard packet is the old People's account report and the new General Fund report.

3. **Town Clerk:** Lake reports that the Clerk's report is in the packet. Clerk deposits \$962.00.

4. **Chair:** Lakes report that the quarterly Loss Report from VCLT has come in and is in the Selectboard packets.

8. **Old Business:**

1. **8/21/21 Update to Wesner Report:** Lake reports that he invited Bob Desiervo, chair of the planning commission, to come to the meeting tonight to give us the update to Wesner report that was received in August 2021. Bob gives background information on how the Wesner Report came to be in 2007 or 2008. Based on the report there were modifications made to building in 2011 and 2013. Planning ask for money to get an update to the Wesner report and received that update last August. The update focuses on Fire Safety, Life Safety, ADA compliance, additional vault space, and space for the Selectboard Assistant. The architect designed an addition off the back of the building for a ADA compliant stairway and bathrooms, and for storage. The front two bathrooms would be modified into one ADA compliant bathroom and a wheelchair lift installed there. All of these things would get the Town Hall up to code and see us into the future. The cost would be roughly a million or a million two.

Lake asks if the planning Commision has explored any outside financing. Bob said no. Wright raises the concern of that these modifications are not compliant with the historical preservation of the building. Wright says that the planning commission should look into the preservation guidelines prior to committing any money. Bob points out that the building is not on the National Registry of Historic buildings. The Town Hall did play an important role in getting the historic district. Therefore, the outside should stay as is, but the inside has more flexibility in bringing it up to code. Andy Snelling states that the reason the architect is proposing an add-on to the back is to keep the front exterior as is.

Lake suggests that if we are going to do renovations we would need to find an outside funding source because of the signifiant cost. Snelling points out that there would not be grants of that size. He says that it would probably be a bonding situation. Wright says that being fiscally responsible, we are currently looking at the Fire Dept; we are already in a bond situation at the town garage, and points out that the schools may be going away. Wright suggests coming up with a list of priorities to do first and last.

Eliza Martin raises the concern that when a person pushes the lack of ADA compliance we need to have a plan. She says, however, to do nothing puts us in a bad position. Lake comments that the board is pointing out pitfalls; they are not suggesting that we do nothing. Snelling suggest that we no longer use the second floor area because not ADA compliant and certainly should not hold Town Meeting there. He suggests that the Selectboard get legal counsel to look at liability of not being ADA complaint.

Lake suggest that the next step be to put together a list of priorities and then see where we can get the money. Let's see what happens. Swiger asks for examples of other projects where the town has raised a substantial amount of money through fundraising. Lake points out the highway garage was a bond. Wright points out that the elementary school was a 25 year bond that ending around 2015. Wright states that bonds handicap future generations. Snelling states that there are other alternatives either by altering how we use this structure or using other buildings. Lake concludes the discussion by suggesting the priority list and then figuring out funding.

Lake asks the planning board about the radar speed signs that were approved by the voters. Lake requests that if the Planning Board considers putting up more than 2 signs that there be a discussion with the Selectboard as to the location of the signs. Evans asks if the Board has more money for more than two signs. Lake reiterates that he is asking for a discussion.

Wright asks how many signs is the Planning Board is considering. Snelling states that if they are popular could see up to five. He says that it is not for looks; it is shown to be effective in slowing down drivers. Lake thanks the Planning Commision for attending tonight, giving the update, and taking the feedback from the Selectboard.

9. **New Business:**

1. Riverbend Market liquor License: Lake reports that the Riverbed Market has submitted a class 2 liquor license for the Selectboard to approve. Wright makes a motion to approve the Class 2 liquor license to the Riverbend Market. Frisk seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0-0.

2. West River Valley 100% Renewable's Electric School Bus Project: Paul Paytas from West River Valley 100% Renewables gives a presentation on an effort being made to get the Windham School District to transition to electric school buses. He submits a statement of support to the Selectboard for their consideration. He also brings to the Board's attention the community petition of support that currently has 152 signatures. The statement and the petition ask the School District to develop a plan to transition to electric buses that includes a funding source, and possible source of income. State is pushing this initiative and there is some money for it.

Frisk asks who would own the buses. Paytas states that the current contractor is diesel based and under contract. So that would have to be part of the plan developed. Wright asks what the estimated cost of one bus and the number of buses needed. Paytas responds that each bus is around \$300,000.00 and there are currently 5 diesel buses being used daily. Wright asks there there are any other districts using the electric buses. Paytas say that there are districts in Northern VT but not around here.

Lake asks if Paytas is looking for financial support or just support for the project. Paytas says they are seeking for support for the project not financial support. They want to get that support to the school district. Marrow asks of the current contractor is interested in transitioning. Paytas says that they do not know, but it would be a very big project to get them to transition.

Lake recommends that the Selectboard review the material and takes the matter up at the next Selectboard meeting and let him now.

3. Selectboard Appointments: Lake points out to the Board that the list is in the packets. Lake reads off the list of appointments. Wrights makes a motion to accept the list of Appointees. Frisk seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0-0.

4. Setting the Selectboard Regular Meeting day and time: Lakes suggests continuing with 2nd and 4th Tuesday at 6pm. Swiger makes a motion that Selectboard meetings take place at 6pm on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month. Wright seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0-0.

10. Executive Session: N/A

11. Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting: Tuesday, March 22, 2022

12. Adjournment: Frisk makes a motion to adjourn. Wright seconds the motion. The motion carries 5-0-0. The meeting is adjourned at 6:54pm.