



**TOWN OF TOWNSHEND**  
Selectboard  
PO Box 121 Townshend, Vermont 05353

**Selectboard Meeting Agenda**

**July 11, 2023 6:00 PM**

**Townshend Town Hall**

**Approved: 7/25/23**

**Present:** Rob Wright, Rob Swiger, Phoebe Connolly, Katie Marrow (via zoom).

**Absent:** Sherwood Lake

**In Attendance:** Galen Robinson - BCTV, Connie Holt - SB Assistant

1. **Meeting Call to Order:** Wright calls the meeting to order at 6:00pm
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Swiger makes a motion to approve the June 27, 2023 regular Selectboard meeting minutes and the June 29, 2023 Emergency Selectboard meeting minutes. Connolly seconds the motion. Motion carries 4-0-0.
3. **Additions and Deletions:** Wright goes through the additions and deletions to the agenda. Swiger makes a motion to delete these agenda items. Connolly seconds the motion. Motion carries 4-0-0.
  - a. **Deletion:** Approval of July 5, 2023 Special Selectboard meeting minutes
  - b. **Deletion:** Old Business (8a) - Proposed Common/Town Hall Use Policy
4. **Members of the Public:** None
5. **Correspondence:** None
6. **Warrants:** Wright makes a motion to pay warrants 1 through 7.

1. Payroll:	\$8,617.59
2. Payroll Taxes:	\$4,535.56
3. General Fund:	\$18,147.02
4. General Fund:	\$842.67
e. Highway:	\$10.65
6. Highway Equipment:	\$870.91
7. Common Fund:	\$175.00

**TOTAL: \$33,199.40**

Swiger seconds the motion. Motion carries 4-0-0.
7. **Reports:**
  1. **Highway:** Frisk gives his report.
    - a. Frisk asks that a new account be set up for the 7/10/23 flood expenses.

b. Frisk reports on the damage from the 7/10/23 storm. The town has 14 roads damaged. Three roads were completely closed. Following the same procedure as the 7/29/21 storm and FEMA process. VTrans will be touring Townshend to inspect the damage. It will either be a State funded recovery or FEMA funded recovery. Probably FEMA. We will meet the funding requirements for FEMA.

c. There were five mud slides on Back Windham Road that closed the road. A contractor was hired to reopen the road.

Phoebe asks to go out with VTrans to see the damage.

d. Basin Brothers Paving bid. The schedule for the paving project keeps getting pushed back due to the weather. The goal was to have it done by beginning of school. The estimate is slightly over budget, but Frisk thinks it is fair and the Board should do it. He reports that there is surplus monies this year due to the FEMA reimbursement that came in last year. Marrow makes a motion to approve the bid from Basin Brothers for \$113,785.00 which includes \$254,505 for 2.5 inches of milling and 8,450 sq. yards and \$89,280.00 that is 1.25 inch over-layer VTrans type 3 asphalt which comes out to 720 tons of asphalt. Swiger seconds the motion. Motion carries 4-0-0.

e. Bartlett contract: Frisk's issue with Bartlett was the tree planted. It looked like it was losing its bark. It turns out that the tree is a Swamp White Oak which sheds its bark when it is young. Swiger makes a motion to accept the Bartlett contract and pay the bill. Marrow seconds the motion. Motion carries 4-0-0.

2. **Treasurer:** Wright gives the report. General Fund True balance report: \$360,876.00. Checking has \$30,000.00.

3. **Town Clerk:** \$1,25.85 has been bought in in fees and services.

4. **Chair:** None

8. **Old Business:**

a. **Bazin Brothers revised paving bid** (see above)

b. **Bartlett Tree Service contract** (see above)

c. **Dead River oil contract:** Wright goes over the rates for the oil contract with Dead River. Swiger makes a motion to accept the contract with Dead River Oil. Connolly asks if we exceed the amount of oil used do we know what the rate will be. Wright says it will be the going rate. Connolly seconds the motion. Motion carries 4-0-0.

d. **Road name change:** Connolly makes a motion to change the name of the road from Taft Hill Trace to Brody Woodlands Road. Swiger seconds the motion. Matthew Brodie states that both Taft Hill Road and Taft Hill Trace are both the number 90. This causes a lot of confusion with postal deliveries.

Wright states that he is not in favor of changing the road names. Have never had a name change. Have named new roads, but have not renamed any. Connolly shares her

personal experience with confusion on deliveries. She states that she understands the concern about changing legacy names but understands the frustration of delivery confusion. Wright says that he is not concerned so much about the legacy issue. He suggested going to the delivery companies and get them to correct it. He is also concerned that the Selectboard will be setting precedent for people to change the name of their road to their name.

Connolly asks if there could be a policy that includes "at the Selectboard's discretion". Similar to the Town Hall and Common Use policies. Wright states that this is carrier problem not a geographic problem. Swiger interjects that the town appointed Helen Holt to be the E911 person. If she is bringing this to us it has merit. Swiger continues that he believes that the due diligence has been done in this case. Wright says that in the 20 years of E911 there has not been an issue with the road names. Brody adds that this is a new situation. The piece of property was to be divided into 5 lots. That did not happen and Brody bought the lots. It is a fairly new situation. The Charles Murray property is on Gale Road. He sub-divided and called it Taft Hill Trace. He put in a private road that is not on Gale Road. Marrow adds that she believes road names is part of the history of the town. She suggests that the Selectboard table this issues in order to have more discussion and put together a policy. Swiger agrees to work on a policy

There is a discussion on how to or whether or not to amend the motion.

Swiger seconds the original motion. Motion fails 0-4-0.

Marrow makes a motion to create a policy for road name changes by fall of 2023. Swiger seconds the motion. Motion carries 4-0-0.

**e. Common/Town Hall Use policy:** Deleted from agenda

**f. Green Mountain Power document to sign:** Wright gives an update on the Green Mountain Power project agreement. Wright states that the Selectboard is going back to Green Mountain Power to include some items in the agreement that Wright discussed with them and was put into an email.

**9. New Business:**

**a. Set date for Special Selectboard meeting to set the tax rate:** The Selectboard decides on Tuesday, July 18th at 6:00pm.

**10. Executive Session:** 1VSA 313(b) - personnel. Wright says there is nothing to report out.

**11. Adjournment:** Connolly make a motion to adjourn. Swiger seconds the motion. Morton carries 4-0-0.

**12. Adjournment:** meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.