



TOWN OF TOWNSHEND

Selectboard
PO Box 121 Townshend, Vermont 05353

Selectboard Meeting Agenda
July 25, 2023 6:00 PM
Townshend Town Hall
Approved: 8/8/2023

Present: Sherwood Lake, Phoebe Connolly, Rob Wright, Katie Marrow, Rob Swiger.

In Attendance: Galen Robinson - BCTV Tech, Connie Hot - SB Assistant

1. **Meeting Call to Order:** Lake calls the meeting to order at 6:00pm.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Marrow makes a motion to approve the July 5, 2023 Special Selectboard meeting minutes, the July 11, 2023 Regular Selectboard meeting minutes, and the July 18, 2023 Special Selectboard meeting minutes. Wright seconds the motion. Motion carries 4-0-1.
3. **Additions and Deletions:** Lake announces the additions to the agenda.
 1. Correspondence (5b): Thank you note
 2. New Business (9a): Town Hall Use request
 3. New Business (9b): Grand List Errors/Omission
 4. Executive Session: Personnel Issue
4. **Members of the Public:**

Report from the Gazebo Committee: Vice Chair, Allie Evans, gives a report from the Gazebo Committee. She runs through that the committee researched the options of repair to the current gazebo or rebuild/replace the gazebo. She reports that the committee decided it is best to tear the gazebo down and rebuild a new one. Evans reads two motions that were voted on at the Gazebo Committee meeting. She reads the first motion, "Rob Wright makes a motion to remove the gazebo and return the fencing as soon as possible, and if people want pieces of the gazebo then they should be there when it comes down". Then she reads the second motion that was made by Evans, "To replace the gazebo as soon as possible with either a rebuilt or custom constructed gazebo". She reports that both motions carried. Evans then states that the committee would like to continue to come up with designs and get input from the towns people on designs. Connolly asks what the recommendation is on timeline. Evans replies that if taking it down then try to get it down prior to Fair Day. Marrow makes a motion to remove the gazebo and return the fencing as soon as possible. Swiger seconds the motion. Connolly asks if there is a way to ensure that the public be made aware of the timeline

and that any personal documentation can be completed while also considering the safety factors. Lake suggests that we take the motion one step at a time. Motion carries 4-0-1.

Lake asks Steve when the road crew can take the gazebo down. Marrow makes a motion that the road crew set aside 1 - 3 of the spindles, a piece of the filigree, and the topper of the gazebo for the gazebo committee. Swiger seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0-0.

Laura Richardson comments that the committee tried their best to look at options and it just was not feasible to repair the existing gazebo. Evans reiterates that the committee intends to continue and questions and requests should go directly to the Committee. Ken Hoffman, Townshend resident, gives his opinion on the condition of the gazebo. He states that the town should not take down the gazebo. He states that the town should build a base next to the current gazebo and move the upper part over to the new base. Connolly acknowledges all the work that Hoffman has done on the gazebo. Evans invites Hoffman to attend a gazebo committee. Lake states that the motion passed and the question has been resolved.

5. Correspondence:

a. **Laura Iezzi - School Marm Lane Road issue:** Laura Iezzi, Townshend resident, speaks to the Board about a road issue on Lot 53 on the corner of School Marm Road and Taft Road. She speaks on behalf of the homeowner Fran Fawley. She states that mud is coming down and getting into her basement. Iezzi states that she thinks it is the result of when the town road crew dug a ditch in the wrong direction that now diverts the water and mud into her house. Fawley is asking the town to dig a ditch along Taft Road. Steve Frisk, Road Foreman, states that he went to look at the issue. He states that there is a cross drain culvert under Taft Road. It is 15" metal culvert that has been there since the development of Townshend Arces. The issue, he states, is that there has been a drainage change. The heavy rains have changed the direction of the water drainage to go to her house. The issue is out side the town's right of way. The direction from the state is not to fix anything outside the right of way, but rather to call 211 for resources. Marrow asks if there is a FEMA representative and direct them to this person on School Marm Road. Iezzi states her disappointment.

b. **Thank you note:** Lake reads a note from Wayne Johnson thanking the town and the two women who staffed the evacuation center during the 7/11/23 storm.

6. Warrants: Marrow makes a motion to pay warrants 1 - 6. Wright seconds the motion.

1. Payroll:	\$9,465.83
2. Payroll Taxes:	\$5,973.28
3. General Fund:	\$18,027.17
4. Highway:	\$6,663.23
5. Highway equipment:	\$1,591.58

6. ARPA:	\$998.70
Total:	\$42,179.79

Motion carries 5-0-0.

7. **Reports:**

1. **Highway:** Frisk gives report

- a. Road side mowing begins tomorrow for two weeks.
- b. Truck 5 has been returned and is up and running.
- c. Bids for bridge 41 emergency repairs will be opened tonight.
- d. Scott Johnson from the State ANR has toured and is waiting for permits then will put out RFP's for the work.

Frisk ask several questions regarding the gazebo. He asks if it is to be taken down as soon as possible. Lake resounds, "yes". Frisk asks if it is to be immediately hauled to WCSD. Lakes resounds "yes". Frisk states that it will be taken down at 5am on Thursday morning.

Member of the public, Connie Fassuliotis, asks if the bridge repair will be in two stages (temporary and permanent). Lake replies , "yes".

Townshend resident, Eric Anderson, raises his concern about fiery safety and urges the repairs to be done quickly. Lake informs him that Wardsboro will be covering fire safety during this period.

2. **Treasurer:** Lake gives report. The true balance in the general fund is \$357,687.00.

3. **Town Clerk:** Lake gives the report. The Town Clerk took in \$737.90 for fees and services.

4. **Chair:** Lake reports that personal property damage they should contact 211 at the state of Vermont and sign up for FEMA.

8. **Old Business:**

a. **Open bids for Bridge 41 repairs:** Marrow opens and reads the bids for the emergency repair to bridge 41.

1. AS Clark & Sons: \$105,000.00 for the emergency repair to be completed by September 1st. The armoring would happen later.

2. Hunter Excavating: \$48,500.00 for the emergency repair to start immediately.

Wright makes a motion to hire Hunter Excavating according the specs not to exceed \$48,500.00. Swiger seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0-0.

b. **Green Mountain Power agreement:** Wright gives an update on the revisions to the agreement to reflect that Green Mountain Power will maintain any installation under the road as long as they are using that power source. Wright makes a motion to accept the agreement from Green Mountain Power for work done on West Hill Road and State Forest Road. Marrow seconds the motion.

Connie Fassuliotis, town resident, asks if this agreement overrides what private owners are doing with Green Mtn Power. Wright answers that this agreement pertains to the town right of way, not private property. Fassuliotis asks if Green Mountain Power will give advance notice of where they will bury the lines. Wright answers that Green Mountain Power has given the town a plan. He offered to have Connie Holt send the plan to her. Motion carries 4-0-1.

c. **Auditor's contract for signature:** Wright makes a motion to accept Sullivan & Powers auditor's contract. Marrow seconds the motion. Motion carries 4-0-1.

d. **Draft policy on Road Name Change:** Lake suggests taking up the draft policy on road name changes to another meeting. The other members on the board agree.

9. **New Business:**

a. **Town Hall Use request:** Marrow makes a motion to approve the Day of the Dead rain location town hall use request. Wright seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0-0. Sherwood signs on behalf of the Board.

b. **Grand List Errors/Omission:** Marrow makes a motion accept the errors and omissions to the Gran List. Wright seconds the motion. Motion carries

10. **Executive Session: 1VSA 313(b) - Personnel:** Lake states there will be an executive session with no report back.

11. **Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting: Tuesday, July 25, 2023 at 6:00pm**

12. **Adjournment:** Wright makes a motion to adjourn. Marrow seconds the motion. The motion carries 4-0-0. Meeting is adjourned at 7:45pm.