



Office of the
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
272 Main Street
Townsend, Massachusetts 01469

Nicholas Thalheimer, *Chairman*
Andrew J. Sheehan,
Town Administrator

Sue Lisio, *Vice-Chairman*

Robert Plamondon, *Clerk*
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SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 23, 2012 - 7:00 P.M.
GREAT HALL, 272 MAIN STREET

I PRELIMINARIES

- 1.1 The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and roll call showed Chairman Nicholas Thalheimer (NT), Vice-Chairman Sue Lisio (SL), and Clerk Robert Plamondon (RP) in attendance.
- 1.2 NT gave notice that the meeting is being tape recorded.
- 1.3 Chairman's Additions or Deletions: None.
- 1.4 Motion was made by RP to approve meeting minutes of October 9, 2012. SL seconded. Unanimous. Motion was made by RP to approve meeting minutes of October 16, 2012. SL seconded. Unanimous.

II APPOINTMENTS /HEARINGS

- 2.1 7:05: Vacancy on Board of Library Trustees – filling of a vacancy: Pat Jeanig, Chair of the Board of Library Trustees recommends Alison Bird fill the vacancy left from the resignation of Karin Canfield. RP moved to appoint Alison Bird to the Board of Library Trustees until local election in April. SL seconded. Roll call vote of the BOS and Board of Library Trustees present: SL (AYE), RP (AYE), NT (AYE), Sherri Cloutier (AYE), Pat Jeanig (AYE), Kim King (AYE). Unanimous.

III MEETING BUSINESS

- 3.1 Sign Presidential Election warrant for November 6, 2012: RP moved to sign the warrant for the Presidential Election. SL seconded. Unanimous.
- 3.2 Sign Special Election Warrant for November 13, 2012: RP moved to sign the warrant for the Special Election. SL seconded. Unanimous.
- 3.4 Approve 1-Day Liquor license for John Fors, V.F.W. Post #6538, 491 Main Street, West Townsend, MA for a 40th Birthday Party, November 17, 2012, 7:00PM-11:00PM. RP moved to approve the license as written. SL seconded. Unanimous.
- 3.5 Halloween: Announcement of hours of Halloween observance. RP read the memo from Police Chief Erving Marshall into the record.
- 3.6 Approve new license fees: Mr. Sheehan announced that the license renewal hearing is coming up. He has reviewed license fees from the surrounding area and recommends increases in some license fees. Annual fees for Wine & Malt Package Stores would increase by \$200 from \$800 to \$1000; All Alcohol on Premises by \$700 from \$800 to \$1500; and Wine & Malt on Premises by \$200 from \$550 to \$750. All other fees will not be changed. RP read the license

fees and proposed changes into the record. RP moved to approve new license fees as proposed by the Town Administrator. SL seconded. Unanimous.

Town Clerk Sue Funaiole announced tomorrow, October 24 from 9-8 pm is the last chance to register for the Presidential election November 6th.

IV APPOINTMENTS OF PERSONNEL/OFFICIALS

- 4.1 Appointment of Michael Brown to the Energy Committee for a term from October 23, 2012 to June 30, 2015. RP moved to appoint Michael Brown to the Energy Committee for the term stated. SL seconded. Unanimous.
- 4.2 Appoint Ronald Sawyer and Robert Heffernan as Part Time Telecommunicators for terms from October 23, 2012 to June 30, 2013. RP moved to appoint Ronald Sawyer and Robert Heffernan as Part Time Telecommunicators for the terms stated. SL seconded. Unanimous.
- 2.2 7:15 Hawthorne Brook Tennis Courts update with Gary Shepherd, Recreation Commission and Townsend Recreational Activity Council (TRAC): Mr. Sheehan noted that he has spoken with Town Counsel and there are still some items outstanding before an Inter-municipal Agreement allowing the Recreation Department to invest in the new tennis, basketball and volleyball courts can be finalized. Recreation Chair, Sharon Whittier stated that once finalized the Commissioners will approach the school to discuss maintenance and upkeep. She invited interested parties to the next Recreation Commission meeting the second Wednesday in November. The amount they have discussed is \$40,000. With a new director on board they expect programs and income to increase.

V WORK SESSION

- 5.1 Board of Selectmen Updates/Reports None.
- 5.2 Town Administrator Updates/Reports
Mr. Sheehan announced the certified free cash amount of \$772,528 some of which will be used for future capital stabilization. The amount received is 4.4% of the operating budget. The Water Department has its own free cash of \$339,857; 55.5% of their operating budget. The Presidential Election will take place on November 6th from 6:45 am to 8:00 pm at the High School. The November 13 election will be from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm at Town Hall. There will be a televised Special Town Meeting information session next Tuesday, October 30 at 7:00 pm. Discussion about creating a solid waste advisory committee.
- 2.3 7:30 Squannacook River Rail Trail: update from Squannacook Greenways and public forum to receive input on the proposed Squannacook River Rail Trail.
Mr. Sheehan gave a brief overview and informed the Board that a meeting with the Massachusetts Highway Department last week was productive. RP thanked everybody for attending. Steve Meehan from Squannacook Greenways (SG) elaborated and detailed the organization's request for a letter from the BOS. Mr. Meehan stressed that SG is committed to working with the abutters. He reminded those in attendance that the BOS tabled the vote on the letter of support pending discussion with the Chief of Police. In the interim members of SG have spoken with both Police Chief Marshall and Fire Chief Klein. The organization requests the BOS issue the letter of support.
Chief Marshall stated that his concerns are accessibility and parking. Both issues have been and will continue to be addressed. Chief Klein is satisfied with the information he received regarding public safety and accessibility. He has received a grant to aid off-road capability.

Extensive discussion with ample input from those present regarding safety, vandalism, pedestrian crossings, increased business opportunities, parking issues, recreational opportunities, environmental issues, hunting access, future costs, property values, options for abutters, liability, and additional cost to the town ensued.

The discussion wrapped up with SL supporting going forward with construction of the sidewalk since money for the engineering study has already been appropriated. She reiterated the purpose of the BOS is for the town as a whole. She is in full support of signing the letter but will oppose any requests for funding from the town in the future. NT is in support of signing the letter knowing that the abutters will be heard, the concerns of both the fire and police departments have been addressed, and the money has been allocated for the sidewalk. He will also oppose any requests for funds. SL moved to sign the letter for Squannacook Greenways. NT seconded. SL (AYE), NT (AYE), RP (NAY). Passes 2/1.

2.4 8:00 Water Department: discuss request of Water Department relative to the following:

2.4.1 Request to add a capital appropriation article to the Special Town Meeting warrant: The Town Accountant has advised the department to fund the entire meter reading improvement project at once since the money is available. The Water Department is requesting an additional \$150,000 appropriation from retained earnings.

3.3 Sign Special Town Meeting Warrant for November 14, 2012. Mr. Sheehan pointed out that Article 11 to fund consulting services for the Town's employee health insurance and benefits program is reduced from \$10,000 to \$8,000; Article 12 to increase the amount appropriated and transferred from Ambulance Receipts by an additional \$50,000; language revisions on Articles 15 and 16; revision of Article 17 by Town Counsel to use \$52,775 contingent upon receipt of the grant; and Article 19 ???

2.4.2 Discuss warrant article requesting establishment of an independent water district. SL expressed concern for increased costs to and loss of transparency for the water takers. RP brought up concerns about the possibility of inequitable pay for employees and the responsibility of water takers to repay any bonds acquired by the Water Department. SL is still concerned about potential conflict of interest. Mr. Sheehan informed the BOS that Town Counsel has proposed new language for this Article. The Board could approve it next Tuesday and the warrant could be posted on Wednesday. SL moved that the Water Department articles be put at the beginning of the warrant. RP seconded. Unanimous.

5.3 Review/Sign Payroll Warrant. RP moved to sign warrants out of session. SL seconded. Unanimous.

5.4 Review/Sign Bills Payable Warrant. RP moved to sign warrants out of session. SL seconded. Unanimous.