**Minutes of special meeting of the Whitingham Selectboard**

**December 16, 2015**

These Minutes shall be accepted into the public record (with any corrections noted)

at the next meeting of the Whitingham Selectboard.

The Whitingham Selectboard held a special meeting on Wednesday, December 16, 2015 at 7:30pm in the Selectboard Office of the Municipal Center, 2948 VT Route 100, Jacksonville, VT.

Selectboard members present: Vice Chair, Allan Twitchell; Members, Greg Brown, Karl Twitchell and Robin Kingsley.

Others present: Gig Zboray, Selectboard Administrative Assistant; Karen Atwood, WSSU Business Manager; Almira Aekus, Town Clerk/Treasurer; Rolf Parker, Deerfield Valley News; John Doty & Seth Boyd Whitingham School Board; Dwight Williams, Whitingham School Board Chair.

**Call to Order.**

Vice Chair, Allan Twitchell called the meeting to order at 7:32pm.

1. **Karen Atwood of WSSU to explain school budgets**

Karen Atwood provided a summary of Twin Valley budget with Whitingham and Wilmington portions broken out as it stands right now, still awaiting additional information. Much discussion around the table about the School User Fee. The final analysis is that by funding the School User Fee through the Town Budget keeps the school out of the “penalty box” and saves residential taxpayers almost 4 cents per $100 in value.

The school budgets and other documents will be included in the Town Report rather than a separate booklet like it has been for the last few years.

Karen Atwood exited at 8:28pm.

1. **Budget Work Session**

**Greg Brown made a motion to offer a 2% cost of living increase for the fiscal year 2016/17 to all employees, seconded by Karl Twitchell, all in favor.**

Almira explained that she separated out the Windham Regional dues from the representatives stipend and mileage.

Greg Brown would like the School User Fee to be a separate article on the Town Warning rather than including in the General Fund budget**. Robin Kingsley made a motion to move the line item of Town Use of School Property out of the General Fund and present it as a separate article on the Warning, seconded by Greg Brown, all in favor.**

Karl Twitchell would like the School Board to have available at Town Meeting a chart that shows how the School User Fee saves the taxpayers money.

**Karl Twitchell made a motion to fund $110,000 for the Town Use of School Property as a separate article in the Warning, seconded by Greg Brown, all in favor.**

School Board members exit.

**Greg Brown made a motion to accept the format of the Municipal Budget in the amount of $562,441 as presented tonight, with $108,495 appropriated from prior year fund balance and $186,259 anticipated revenues and $267,687 raised in taxes, seconded by Robin Kingsley, all in favor.**

Rolf Parker exited. Almira will email him a copy of the budgets.

**Karl Twitchell made a motion to accept the Highway Budget of $1,253,062 as presented tonight, with $29,950 appropriated from prior year fund balance and $119,146 anticipated revenues and $1,103,966 raised in taxes, seconded by Robin Kingsley, all in favor.**

Discussed having a budget informational meeting before Town Meeting to be held in the Municipal Hall.

**3. Adjourn**

**A motion was made by Greg Brown to adjourn at 9:08 pm, seconded by Karl, all in favor.**

**Allan Twitchell adjourned the meeting.**

Respectfully submitted,

~Gig Zboray