

**Town of Whitingham**

**Office of the Selectboard**

**MINUTES OF JANUARY 31, 2018**

*These Minutes shall be accepted into the public record (with any corrections noted) at a future meeting of the Whitingham Selectboard.*

The Whitingham Selectboard held a regular meeting on Wednesday, January 31, 2018 at 7:30pm in the Selectboard Office of the Municipal Center, 2948 VT Route 100, Jacksonville, VT.

Selectboard members present: Greg Brown and Robin Kingsley. Keith Bronson attended via Skype.

Others present: Gig Zboray, Selectboard Office Administrator; Wayne Wood, candidate for Emergency Management Coordinator; Mark Hanna, Lions Club member; Stanley Janovsky, Jr., Road Commissioner.

**Call to Order. Additions or Changes to Agenda**

Greg Brown called the meeting to order at 7:31pm. There was one addition to the agenda: discuss proposed state legislation.

**Hearing of visitors**

Mark Hanna of the Whitingham/Halifax Lions Club came to the table. The club raised more than $30,000 with the Hungry Lion Bike Tour last year. The Lions are undergoing a big membership drive. Mr. Hanna asked the Selectboard if the club could place some sort of sign at the intersection of Academy Road and VT Route 100 pointing towards the Dumaine House where they hold their meetings. Greg Brown didn’t see any reason why a sign no bigger than a road sign couldn’t be added to the existing sign post. Stanley Janovsky saw no issue with it. Mr. Hanna would like the sign installed before March 19th. Mr. Janovsky suggested that a regular Lions Club sign would be better. Mr. Hanna will provide the sign and the highway crew will install it.

**Emergency Management Coordinator candidate**

Wayne Wood came to the table, he is interested in filling the Emergency Management Coordinator position. Mr. Janovsky provided information about the position. Mr. Wood is certified for IS 100, 200,300 and 400 and NIMS 700 and 800, and is a member of the Whitingham Fire Department and First Responders. **Robin Kingsley made a motion to appoint Wayne Wood as Emergency Management Coordinator effective immediately, seconded by Greg Brown, all in favor with Greg Brown casting his vote as acting chair.**

**Education Funding Litigation**

**Keith Bronson made a motion to enter into contract with Attorney Mark Oettinger of the firm Montroll, Backus & Oettinger, PC for consulting services in connection with the Education Funding lawsuit, seconded by Robin Kingsley, all in favor with Greg Brown casting his vote as acting chair.**

**Transfer Station/WSWMD**

Discussed purchase of a storage container for the Transfer Station to house the swap shop. **Greg Brown made a motion to purchase the 40’ Used High Cube Storage Container for a price of $3,250 delivered, seconded by Robin Kingsley, all in favor with Greg Brown casting his vote as acting chair.**

Discussed SWIP (Solid Waste Implementation Plan) and draft Solid Waste Management and Variable Rate Pricing Ordinance. The Board approved the use of Attorney Fisher to review the proposed Waste Ordinance.

Jen Herzig, Transfer Station Attendant, questioned if she needed to continue to take attendance at the Transfer Station. The Board felt it was unnecessary at this time because there are currently no plans to change the hours.

**Discuss Medical Equipment Shed location**

With the purchase of a new storage unit at the Transfer Station (mentioned above) the Board decided that the Medical Equipment will be moved to the Transfer Station and Jen Herzig can keep it organized and keep track of the inventory.

**Approval of Payables Warrant – February 1, 2018**

**A motion was made by Greg Brown to approve Payables Warrant W1832 dated February 1, 2018 with the addition of a payment of $2,500 to Montroll, Backus & Oettinger, PC, seconded by Keith Bronson, all in favor with Greg Brown casting his vote as acting chair.**

**Approval of Payroll Warrant – February 1, 2018**

**A motion was made by Robin Kingsley to approve Payroll Warrant W1831 dated February 1, 2018, seconded by Greg Brown, all in favor with Greg Brown casting his vote as acting chair.**

**Approval of Minutes of January 17, 2018**

**A motion was made by Robin Kingsley to approve the Minutes of January 17, 2018 as written, seconded by Greg Brown, all in favor with Greg Brown casting his vote as acting chair**.

**Other business / Office Administrator – as needed**

1. Discussion of proposed state legislation-Open Meeting Law is proposed to be too restrictive, the definition of a “meeting” would include *any* communications between at least two board members, regardless of whether a quorum is reached. This would essentially prevent one board member from speaking to another. The proposed changes would also prohibit communication between board members that is transferred through an “intermediary” (Selectboard Office Administrator). A position of Ombudsman would be created (to investigate complaints of alleged Open Meeting and Public Records Laws) that would essentially be investigator, prosecutor, AND judge. Gig will draft a letter to our representatives expressing the Boards disfavor.
2. There was discussion around the Village of Waterbury disbanding, shutting down the Village Police Department and the Town hiring State Police to cover both the Town and Village at a cost of $365,000 per year for two full-time troopers for 80 hours per week.

**Adjourn**

**A motion to adjourn was made by Greg Brown, seconded by Robin Kingsley, all in favor.**

Greg Brown adjourned the meeting at 8:21pm.

Respectfully submitted,

~Gig Zboray