



**Town of Whitingham
Office of the Selectboard**

MINUTES OF JANUARY 14, 2020

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 special meeting on Tuesday, January 14, 2020 at 6:30pm in the Selectboard Office of the Municipal Center, 2948 VT Route 100, Jacksonville, VT.

Selectboard members present: Wayne Wood, Vice Chair; Wayne Corse, Craig Hammer, and Scott Reed, members.

Others present: Gig Zboray, Selectboard Office Administrator; Stanley Janovsky, Jr., Road Commissioner; Almira Aekus, Town Clerk/Treasurer.

Call to Order. Additions or Changes to Agenda.

Wayne Wood called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. There were no additions or changes to the agenda.

20/21 Budget Work Session, finalize and approve

Discussion began with Selectboard pay, Mr. Corse is willing to give up his pay, Mr. Wood is not in it for the money, but this job requires a lot of time and he feels it would be an insult to accept less pay.

Mr. Reed did some preliminary math and determined that the proposed budget dated 12/27/19 is about 4% higher than last years budget.

Other employee wages was determined to be correct. Mr. Janovsky noted that the Fire Warden hasn't gotten a pay increase in a long time. Allan Twitchell texted that he is fine with the usual amount.

Revenues: these numbers were filled in based on the treasurer's years of experience. Ms. Aekus will run a report to see what the difference is between current use payment from state and what the town would have collected if the properties were not in the program. Mr. Hammer would like the names of those in current use to appear on the information provided in town report. Bank interest income increased quite a bit because Ms. Aekus renegotiated with the bank.

Delete word Traffic under Traffic Fines, it could be animal control fines and not traffic.

Transfer Station Stickers and Fees reduced to \$34,000.

Revenues are done.

Insurance is done.

Taxes are done.

Selectboard Administrator title changed to Selectboard Office but the amount is done.

Town Report is done.

Board of Health is done.

Town Clerk- Ballot clerk wages were increased a lot because it is a election year with more elections than usual. Programming was also increased to include primary election. Training was increased because Ms. Aekus is planning to attend a two-day conference leading to an official title of Certified Municipal Clerk. Town Clerk is done.

Financial Operations is done.

Listers – wait until Howard comes tomorrow night.

Tax Collector is done.

Animal Control Officer wages dropped to \$1,200 which also drops the FICA/Medi, so the total for ACO is now \$2,912.

General Expenses. Almira will double check the audit amount tomorrow. For town webpage the website professional will get a \$3,000 stipend for continued maintenance, security and backups; Ms. Aekus questioned if he would get FICA/Medi – she will question the auditor tomorrow, if we need to add it FICA/Medi will be an additional \$230 dollars. General Fund will be finalized tomorrow night.

Municipal Center is done.

Historical Society is done.

Planning Commission – change the wording of Windham Regional Member to Windham Regional Dues. Other than that – done.

ZBA is done.

Contract Law Enforcement Services – Wayne Wood will have a discussion with Chief Morano about the cost of policing services. Craig Hammer suggested looking into a lease of a speed sign. We can add a line for “equipment” for \$5,000 for either a lease or purchase of a speed sign.

Transfer Station is done.

Fire Department was done at a prior meeting.

Town Hill Committee needs to be changed to Parks Committee; their budget request was \$17,798. Mowing of Town Hill is \$5,500 and Municipal mowing would need to come out of the Municipal budget and added to the Parks budget. Improvements increased to \$10,000 to repair the stone wall. Some of that could come out of the Eames Fund (current value of \$174,295 but that can't be fully spent). We will leave that up to the voters if they want to lower the budget. Ms. Aekus will finalize for tomorrow night.

Appropriations were reviewed, the Ambulance went up \$5,000; Wings after school programs is \$10,000 and the rest are petitioned.

Library – we don't have any say. Ms. Aekus will change "Librarian Salary" to Librarian Wages".

Cemetery - \$20,550 is what the Cemetery Commissioners requested. Mr. Hammer would like to see more gravestones repaired; Ms. Aekus indicated that the Cemetery Commission has money in a fund, and they will repair some.

Highway was completed at last meeting.

Sewer discussion about putting a note in the budget page to "See Sewer Report". We should know more about what the sewer upgrade expenses will be by August of 2020. The final sewer budget should be determined before the rates are set in August.

Wages sheet: changes to the Fire Department titles. Line 635 should be 22 years, 632 is 26 years, 631 is 13 years. Ms. Aekus and Mr. Janovsky will discuss further.

Review and discuss articles for Warning for Town Meeting

Article 5 – Fire Department Equipment Fund is at \$168,000 right now, but the Cascade is being repaired. Leave it at \$20,000.

Article 6 – there was a deficit of about \$15,000 for the Highway Department but Mr. Janovsky should be able to make it up before June 30, 2020; if not he will need to appropriate it on the next budget by amending the article on the Warning at town meeting.

Article 7 – Mr. Corse had some suggestions on the Equipment Replacement/Inventory Schedule: the life span of the pickups should probably be 7 years instead of 5. The grader, loader and backhoe should be 20 years. Mr. Hammer indicated that with the new emissions the new machines cannot last 20 years. \$85,000 is tight but we are leaving it for tonight.

Article 8 – Hazard Mitigation Fund stay at \$25,000 for this year.

Article 10 – Municipal Facilities leave at \$10,000 even though a Highway Garage Committee will begin looking into repairing the current facility or looking for a site to build a new one.

New Article – Mr. Corse mentioned it might be a good idea to establish and/or join a CUD. Mr. Hammer is not in favor of a CUD. We will do a little more research on it. Ms. Aekus noted that if necessary, a special town meeting can be called to vote on the topic.

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by Wayne Corse, seconded by Craig Hammer, all in favor.

Mr. Wood adjourned the meeting at 8:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,
~Gig Zboray