



**Town of Whitingham
Office of the Selectboard**

MINUTES OF JANUARY 30, 2019

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 30, 2019 at 7:30PM in the Selectboard Office of the Municipal Center, 2948 VT Route 100, Jacksonville, VT.

Selectboard members present: Greg Brown, Vice Chair; and Allan Twitchell. Keith Bronson, Chair, attended via Skype.

Others present: Gig Zboray, Selectboard Office Administrator; Almira Aekus, Treasurer; Wayne Wood, Emergency Management Director/Lister/Selectboard Candidate; Seth Boyd, resident.

Call to Order. Additions or Changes to Agenda

Greg Brown called the meeting to order at 7:30PM. Discussion of professional assessor services was dropped from the agenda in anticipation of covering the topic at the February 13th meeting when more information should be available.

Hearing of Visitors Seth Boyd had questions about the Board of Listers versus going with professional assessors. Greg Brown met with one firm that we had received a proposal from, he explained that he is not quite sure it is the way to go, it's concerning to give up local control, and we need to get a better handle on each firm's proposal/pricing. Keith Bronson explained how he felt about his meeting with a different firm. Almira Aekus mentioned that the State Department of Taxes will be putting out an RFP for new software for appraisers so the NEMRC software might no longer be useful.

Review and finalize budget for 2019/20

The final budget was reviewed. **Greg Brown made a motion to accept the proposed budget for fiscal year July 1, 2019- June 30, 2020 of \$581,945.00 of which \$301,248.00 to be raised in taxes, the balance to be offset by \$189,090.00 in anticipated revenues and \$91,607.00 appropriated from prior year's fund balance, seconded by Allan Twitchell, all in favor.** It was noted that this budget will be a tax rate of approximately 66 cents, 5 cents more than last year. If the article to fund a new Hazard Mitigation Fund for replacing the culvert in front of the municipal center passes it would add an additional 2 cents. One cent on the tax rate will raise \$26,793.00.

Allan Twitchell made motion was made to accept the proposed Highway budget for fiscal year July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020 of \$1,325,795.00 of which \$1,129,863.00 to be raised in taxes, the balance to be offset in \$119,146.00 in anticipated revenues and \$76,786.00 appropriated from prior year's fund balance, seconded by Keith Bronson, all in favor.

Review and sign Warning for March Town Meeting

Allan Twitchell made a motion to approve and sign the Warning for the March 5, 2019 Town Meeting as written, seconded by Keith Bronson, all in favor.

Sewer Department Jen Herzig began taking classes to get her Grade 1 license, the books needed for the course have been ordered.

Transfer Station

Per our Solid Waste Implementation Plan (SWIP) we are required to provide composting information to the public. Gig mentioned that we could invite someone in to host a composting seminar. Almira Aekus suggested Verma-composting, Keith suggested that Gig contact the UVM Extension.

Education Funding Litigation the attorneys provided a one-page status of the case for inclusion in town report. Gig will confirm that the attorneys will be at town meeting.

Approval of Payables Warrant – January 31, 2019

A motion was made by Allan Twitchell to approve Payables Warrant W1932 dated January 31, 2019, seconded by Keith Bronson, all in favor.

Approval of Payroll Warrant – January 31, 2019

A motion was made by Allan Twitchell to approve Payroll Warrant W1931 dated January 31, 2019, seconded by Keith Bronson, all in favor.

Approval of Minutes of January 2, 2019

There was no meeting on January 16, 2019. **A motion was made by Keith Bronson to accept the Minutes of January 2, 2019 as written, seconded by Allan Twitchell, all in favor.**

Other business / Office Administrator – as needed

A draft Town Report was provided to Selectboard members for review. The auditor's report was offered to Selectboard members for review.

Seth Boyd questioned the new home on Sadawga Lake Road. Gig (as Zoning Administrator) explained that she had received quite a few complaints, she reached out to the engineer involved in the project and filed a complaint with the Shorelands Protection.

Almira noted that she purchased four wireless microphones for town meeting.

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by Allan Twitchell, seconded by Greg Brown, all in favor.

Greg Brown adjourned the meeting at 8:22pm.

Respectfully submitted,
~Gig Zboray