



**Town of Whitingham
Office of the Selectboard**

MINUTES OF MARCH 9, 2022

These Minutes are considered a DRAFT until accepted into the public record (with any corrections noted) at a future meeting of the Whitingham Selectboard.

The Whitingham Selectboard held a regular meeting at 6:30pm in the Selectboard Office of the Whitingham Municipal Center on Wednesday, March 9, 2022.

Selectboard members present: Scott Reed, Chair; Craig Hammer, Vice Chair; Greg Brown, James Weber, and Chris Walling.

Others present: Gig Zboray, Selectboard Office Administrator; Stanley Janovsky, Jr., Road Commissioner; Seth Boyd; Almira Aekus, Clerk/Treasurer; Tyler Lederer of DV News.

Others attending remotely: Karen Hein

Call to Order. Additions or Changes to Agenda

Scott M. Reed called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. Changes to agenda were noted on the paper copy and Mr. Janovsky asked to discuss the salt shed.

Annual reorganization:

Term Expires

- Nominations for Chair and Vice Chair for year:

SELECTBOARD CHAIR 2023

Greg Brown and Scott Reed were both nominated for Chair, after discussion Mr. Brown felt Mr. Reed was best suited to continue. **Chris Walling nominated Scott Reed as Chair, no second is required, all in favor.**

SELECTBOARD VICE CHAIR 2023

Craig Hammer nominated James Weber as Vice Chair, no second is required, all in favor.

- Annual Appointments of boards, committees, etc.

After review, a motion was made by Greg Brown for the Selectboard to appoint the following positions for the term indicated, seconded by James Weber, all in favor (the gray *italics* positions were appointed in a prior year).

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

Daniel Hollister

Three-year term

2025

DEERFIELD VALLEY COMMUNICATIONS UNION DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES

Phil Edelstein Term expires 05/10 2022
Keith Thompson Term expires 05/10 2022
Lauren Fitzpatrick Term expires 05/10 2022

E-911 COORDINATOR

Marylee Putnam 2023

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GROUP

Was put on "pause" May 5, 2021

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR

Vacant 2023

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR

Gig Zboray 2023

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Chief – Stanley Janovsky, Jr. 2023

First Assistant Chief – Michael Stevens 2023

Captains – 1st – Dennis Pike, 2nd – David Briggs 2023

Lieutenants – 1st – Sheldon Dix, 2nd – Marshall Dix 2023

Chaplain – Seth Boyd 2023

Training Officer - vacant

FIRE WARDEN

Dennis Pike, Sr. state appointed Term expires 06/30 2023

GRAND JUROR

Susan Cooke Johnson 2023

GREEN UP DAY COORDINATORS

Aysha Peltz 2023

Todd Wahlstrom 2023

HEALTH OFFICER (State appointed)

Gig Zboray Term expires 10/31 2022

DEPUTY HEALTH OFFICER (State appointed)

Jenepher Burnell Term expires 10/31 2022

HOUSING REHABILITATION COMMITTEE

Linda A. Donaghue 2023

Donald McKinley 2023

LEGAL COUNSEL

Fisher & Fisher Law Offices 2023

LEGAL NEWSPAPER

Deerfield Valley News 2023

Brattleboro Reformer (alternate)

MEMORIAL DAY COMMITTEE

Dana Dix 2023

David Farrington 2023

Craig Hammer 2023

(post meeting note: Mr. Hammer resigned the following morning)

PARKS COMMITTEE

Seth Boyd	2023
Aysha Peltz	2023
Erin Lackey	2023
Carol Millett	2023
Lyndsay Bushey-Hasselback	2023
Elizabeth Weber	2023

PLANNING COMMISSION

<i>Bradford Lackey</i>	2023
<i>Peter Barus</i>	2024
Linda Donaghue	2025
Keith Thompson	2025
Vacant	2023

TREE WARDEN

Adam Buursma	2023
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WINDHAM REGIONAL COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVES

Jenepher Burnell	2023
Peter Barus	2023

ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

<i>Lyman Tefft</i>	2024
<i>Troy Felisko</i>	2023
<i>Craig Aekus</i>	2023
Dana Dix	2025
Marshall Dix	2025

ZONING AND FLOOD PLAIN ADMINISTRATOR

<i>Gig Zboray (three-year term)</i>	2024
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- Set regular meeting day and time
Greg Brown made a motion to continue regular meetings at 6:30pm every other Wednesday, seconded by James Weber, all in favor.
- Set the bond amount
 Certain officers and employees must provide a bond conditioned on the faithful performance of their duties. These include road commissioners, collectors of taxes, treasurers, clerks, assistant treasurers when appointed by the Selectboard, and any other officer or employee of the town authorized to receive or disburse town funds. 24. V.S.A. § 832. VLCT PACIF provides coverage to its member municipalities that meets the statutory requirement for bonding but is technically not a bond. **A motion was made by Craig Hammer to set the bond amount at zero, noting that \$500,000.00 is covered by the VLCT policy, seconded by James Weber, all in favor.**
- Annual review and adoption of Guide for Meeting Procedure
A motion was made by Greg Brown to make the annual adoption of the Guideline for Meeting Procedure for the Whitingham Selectboard as written, seconded by Chris Walling, all in favor.

Appoint member to sign Warrants if meeting is cancelled for any reason during the next year

A motion was made by Craig Hammer to appoint any one Selectboard member to sign the payroll and payables warrants in the event of a meeting cancellation for any reason during the next year until annual reorganization in 2023, seconded by James Weber, all in favor.

Hearing of visitors (for concerns not on the agenda)

Seth Boyd would like to get Requests for Proposals advertised for the monument work and retaining wall at Town Hill, he asked for guidance. Gig suggested that Mr. Boyd come in to create a draft for the board to review.

Mr. Boyd also noted that the AED pads are expired, he suggested they be replaced. It was discussed that there should be an AED unit at the highway garage.

Cheryl Rusin asked if the town was interested in having Narcan available in the Municipal Center. The board feels they need more information.

Highway

Review and sign Annual Highway Financial Plan

Mr. Janovsky presented the Annual Highway Financial Plan for the board to review and sign. **A motion was made by James Weber to approve and sign the Annual Highway Financial Plan as written, seconded by Craig Hammer, all in favor.**

Discuss email received about East Road

We received an email from Mr. Delgaizo thanking the board for considering his request to extend the plowing on East Road. His email indicates that he contacted the VT Department of Conservation to explore the possibility of state or federal grants to correct water flow and erosion occurring at East Road. He would like the road improved. The section he is referring is a Class 4 road. If Mr. Delgaizo wishes the road classification to change, there is a process per state statute (19 V.S.A. § 708). The board reviewed and approved a letter written to Mr. Delgaizo explaining the process.

Salt Shed

Mr. Janovsky told the board that part of the roof blew off the salt shed with the recent high winds, it doesn't need to be addressed immediately but the shed should be fixed/replaced before next winter. Mr. Reed noted that Mr. Janovsky should check with the insurance company to see what might be covered.

Discuss Afghan refugees coming into the area

Mr. Weber asked Ms. Hein what is happening and when the refugees are coming. She answered that one hundred Afghan refugees have been accepted in a new program, they have worked for the army before, they are COVID vaccinated and have other vaccines. They have a special visa, so they are eligible for Social Security, Medicare, Welfare and food stamps. The Lion's Club has created a committee to help the new program. They found three potential places that Afghans can rent (one house and two one-bedroom apartments) in Jacksonville.

Affordable housing is an issue but there are many jobs available here in the valley. The state will subsidize their housing for up to 18 months. Eight federal agencies verified these refugees, confirming that they worked for the US government, contractors, or non-profit organizations in Afghanistan. This is Phase 1; family members will likely come in Phase 2.

Mr. Brown questioned if there is a program actively seeking to help Ukrainians. Ms. Hein responded that phase 3 starts March 15th, and that phase will help refugees from other countries.

Mr. Weber questioned if Ms. Hein will be the contact person if questions come to the town. She said there is someone manning their email (dvnewneighbors@gmail.com).

Things we can do: donate furniture; volunteer to move furniture; provide transportation. They do not need clothing now. They need good neighbors and kids to introduce kids.

Approval of Payables Warrant – March 10, 2022

A motion was made by James Weber to approve Payables Warrant #W2238 dated March 10, 2022, seconded by Greg Brown, all in favor.

Approval of Payroll Warrant – March 10, 2022

A motion was made by James Weber to approve Payroll Warrant #W2237 dated March 10, 2022, seconded by Chris Walling, all in favor.

Review and approve Minutes of February 23, 2022

A motion was made by Greg Brown to accept the Minutes of February 23, 2022, as written, seconded by James Weber, all in favor.

Other business

Review and Sign Redetermination Stipulation Today we received a letter from the State Department of Taxes that they reviewed and accepted the proposed changes to equalized property values which brings our COD down from 21.4% to 20.54% for 2021. We may still be required to do a full reappraisal. Gig spoke with NEMRC to get us on their list, they wouldn't be available until 2025. The board reviewed the stipulation, **a motion was made by Greg Brown to appoint Scott M. Reed to sign the Stipulation, seconded by Chris Walling, all in favor.**

Review and sign correspondence One letter was written to Kristine Sweeter to thank her for nearly ten years of service acting as a Windham Regional Commissioner for the town. The second letter was written to Alan Bartlett, Jr. whose Jeep has been parked in the Municipal Center lot for months. The board reviewed and signed both letters.

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by James Weber, seconded by Chris Walling all in favor.

Scott Reed adjourned the meeting at 7:31pm.

Respectfully submitted,
~Gig Zboray