



**Town of Whitingham
Office of the Selectboard**

MINUTES OF JUNE 19, 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, June 19, 2019 at 6:30pm in the Selectboard Office of the Municipal Center, 2948 VT Route 100, Jacksonville, VT.

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

Others present: Gig Zboray, Selectboard Office Administrator; Almira Aekus, Town Clerk; Stanley Janovsky, Road Commissioner; Linda Donaghue, Deerfield Valley News; Mark Chapman and Tim Hunt of First Choice Communications; Justin Corey of JC Electric; Dan Hollister, ACO. Residents: Marshall Dix, Roy Corse, Jericho Crafts, Glenn Toole, and Rich Watkin.

Call to Order. Additions or Changes to Agenda.

Wayne Wood called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. Since the agenda was publicly posted Gig switched the order of two items to have the camera vendors first and Mr. Toole second.

Hearing of visitors (for concerns not on the agenda)

Jericho Crafts voiced a complaint that he feels the town does not provide enough notice that dog licenses are required by April 1st of each year. The Selectboard noted that notice is in the annual Town Report, on the cover of the Town Report, in the annual newsletter that is mailed to every address in town, and signs are posted around town and on the town website. Mr. Crafts also asked about Town Clerk hours and noted it is difficult for him to get to her office if he is working. The Selectboard noted that the Town Clerk has evening hours every Wednesday, Saturday hours once per month and is available by appointment.

Municipal Center, security camera discussion with vendors

First Choice passed out some information regarding megapixels and explained clarity and field of view. They are proposing 4.0 mp cameras to serve our needs with infrared, day/night. They showed us a view of Bennington Museum security on a cell phone. Infrared provides black and white, daytime shows color, the cameras are good out to 90'. Their cameras come with "low light" technology. First Choice proposed 7 cameras. They estimated it is roughly 30-40% more expensive to use 8 mg cameras.

Justin Corey presented his proposed system, 4mg and 8mg cameras depending on where placed, field of view is 90', his cameras use starlight technology which uses lumens in the area to create a color view in night vision. Cameras work down to negative 40 degrees. Mr. Corey proposed 13 cameras. He set up a sample for us to see. The low light example was impressive. Justin noted that he would use metal conduit if the wires run outside, most of the wires would run in the attic space.

The Selectboard will prepare a new request for proposal now that they have more information and understand the equipment better.

Glenn Toole, concerned about junk and speeding on the Cross Road

Mr. Toole resides on the Wilmington Cross Road. He is concerned about his direct neighbors and the number of junk vehicles on the property and about vehicles that have been flipped over and the fluids that are spilled into the environment. He questioned how many vehicles on a property throw up a flag for the town. His larger concern is the traffic on the Cross Road, he feels that cars are now traveling near 80 miles per hour on the road. Cars are crashing more frequently, cars are doing "smoke shows". Since the high school is now in town the traffic has increased dramatically. He truly believes that the town should offer police coverage. He feels it is unsafe, we are putting our kids, our families and ourselves in danger.

Rich Watkin, as Game Warden, noted that he gets many calls that are not related to fish and wildlife because there are no other options available. Almira Aekus noted that the Sheriffs patrolled when they wanted, the town could not request specific time frames when contracting with the Sheriffs.

Mr. Toole noted that even if we contracted one day per month it could make a difference.

Mr. Wood noted that he would be willing to contact the Sheriffs and State Police about providing coverage. In the past the Selectboard found that the State Police did not have adequate staff to be able to offer contracted coverage for the town.

Mr. Hammer noted that we received a speed sign from Wilmington, which could be installed on the Cross Road. It was mentioned that the Selectboard should contact the School Board to discuss policing and possibly share the cost.

Hazard Mitigation

On June 13, 2019 the WRC organized a meeting with VTrans, ANR, WRC staff and town officials to discuss how to proceed with flood hazard mitigation in Jacksonville Village. The different projects discussed were: removing the cement bridge and replacing the culvert in front of the Municipal Center as well as widening the river channel, FEMA buy out of the Kingsley house, creating a flood plain behind the Kingsley and neighboring houses, combining bridge crossings along Route 112 (there are currently 5 bridges, ideally combine 3 into 1), removing a berm on Sullivan's property, removing Irene debris from Honora/Farrington property and lowering the flood plain there, stabilizing the river bank at First Stop, ANR purchase of River Corridor easement upstream of the Municipal Center. This group, now called the "Stanley Committee", plans to meet again in late July or early August to hash out various topics such as whether to begin mitigation projects downstream or upstream, priority of projects, how to get funding, and changing classification of entrance to Municipal Center to a town highway.

Invasive Pests In accordance with the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan a letter was drafted to VTrans requesting that they install a sign near the Massachusetts border informing travelers of the prohibition of transporting firewood across state lines as a preventive measure against the spread of invasive tree pests including the Emerald Ash Borer. **A motion was made by Scott Reed for the Selectboard to sign the letter to VTrans, seconded by Wayne Corse, all in favor.**

River Corridor Protection

At the June 13th Special Selectboard meeting Gig provided a map showing where River Corridor Protection would be regulated if the Selectboard decided to approve of River Corridor Protection in the update of the Zoning Regulations. **A motion was made by Craig Hammer to not include River Corridor protection in the update of the Zoning Regulation, seconded by Scott Reed, all in favor.** Selectboard members feel residents pay enough in property taxes and don't wish to hinder further use of property.

Final Review of draft Purchasing Policy

The Selectboard reviewed a final draft of the updated Purchasing Policy. **A motion was made by Wayne Corse to table the finalization of the Purchasing Policy for tonight and to hold another special work session on June 24th at 6:30pm, seconded Craig Hammer, all in favor.**

Transfer Station

The composting session put on by the library was well attended with 33 people. The Selectboard would like to discuss a community composting area and what our options are. The topic will be included in the Selectboard vision/goals when that document is prepared.

Sewer Department, review Sludge Management Plan

Every five years or so a "Vermont Sludge Management Plan" must be filed with the state. A draft plan was reviewed by the Selectboard with no comment.

Highway Department

Stanley Janovsky, Jr. came to the table to discuss Japanese knotweed and provided a stack of information to Selectboard members. In the past he has tried spraying it with Round Up. He would like a plan to get rid of it and stop the spread. The Highway Department will work on better practices of mowing so as not to spread it.

Listers

Grievance hearings (four today and three tomorrow) are running smoothly. The next step is to mail out results of grievances and then lodge the Grand List.

Approval of Payables Warrant – June 20, 2019

A motion was made by Wayne Corse to approve Payables Warrant W1952 dated June 20, 2019, seconded by Scott Reed, all in favor.

Approval of Payroll Warrant – June 20, 2019

A motion was made by Craig Hammer to approve Payroll Warrant W1951 dated June 20, 2019, seconded by Scott Reed, all in favor.

Approval of Minutes of June 5 and 13, 2019

A motion was made by Wayne Corse to approve the Minutes of June 5 and 13, 2019 as written, seconded by Craig Hammer, all in favor.

Appoint a Selectboard member or members to sign a special payables warrant before the end of the fiscal year

A motion was made by Wayne Corse to appoint Wayne Wood to sign the special warrant, seconded by Scott Reed, all in favor.

Town Clerk fee changes

Almira Aekus provided information regarding Town Clerk fees as raised by the State of Vermont that will add an additional \$5 per page. She is excited that more money would go into historic preservation and all the land records could potentially be available on computers and/or the internet in the future. Within two years she feels that digitizing the records could be put out to bid. She has never charged for vault time.

Mr. Wood questioned Ms. Aekus about extending her nighttime hours. She said that many town clerks are not open in the evenings and she is open every Wednesday night, and she is open one Saturday morning per month. The Selectboard agreed that no change of hours is necessary.

There was discussion of animal control fines with Dan Hollister and Almira Aekus and the number of residents who have not yet licensed their dogs.

Other business / Office Administrator – as needed

Gig presented a contract with the Windham County Humane Society for the fiscal year July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020 for Selectboard review and approval. Gig noted that the annual fee increased by \$50. **A motion was made by Wayne Corse to have Wayne Wood sign the contract, seconded by Craig Hammer, all in favor.**

The EDG is organizing a Farmers Market/Craft Show and Car Show as a one-time event on Friday, August 2nd as part of the Blueberry Festival. In the past the Selectboard did not require vendors to carry insurance. VLCT would like the vendors to have insurance. Gig asked the Selectboard if they would wave that requirement for this year's event. **A motion was made by Wayne Corse to waive the insurance requirement for vendors for the August 2nd event, seconded by Scott Reed, all in favor.**

Minor discussion about upcoming tax sale, the consensus is that the town would not want to purchase any properties.

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by Wayne Wood, seconded by Scott Reed, all in favor.

Wayne Wood adjourned the meeting at 9:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,
~Gig Zboray