**Minutes of regular meeting of the Whitingham Selectboard**

**February 15, 2017**

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, February 15, 2017 at 7:30pm in the Selectboard Office of the Municipal Center, 2948 VT Route 100, Jacksonville, VT.

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

Others present: Gig Zboray, Selectboard Administrative Assistant; Almira Aekus, Collector of Delinquent Taxes.

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

Vice Chair, AllanTwitchell, called the meeting to order at 7:35pm. An addition to the agenda was to sign contracts needed for Workers Comp audit with Barb’s Cleaning and Deerfield Valley Property Maintenance.

**Hearing of Visitors**:

No visitors.

**Review and Sign Contracts Needed**:

After discussion **a motion was made by Karl Twitchell to sign the Non-Employee Work Contracts with Barb’s Cleaning and Deerfield Valley Property Maintenance, seconded by Allan Twitchell, all in favor.**

**Review and approve Driveway Access Permit**

Tabled, permit not available.

**Review updated Tax Sale Policy**

Almira Aekus presented an updated Tax Sale Policy. The Selectboard was happy with the updates that included required certified check, treasurers check or cash after a certain point in the tax sale procedure.

**Letter/contract of engagement for Tax Sale**

Greg Brown would like a release signed at the beginning of the tax sale saying the participant(s) unequivocally understand what the purchase covers (i.e. which taxes are covered, what will still be due and what they are about to bid on). He would like the attorney hired to do the tax sale to handle all aspects of the sale including holding the money and handling the redemption, etc. By statute the attorney can only charge 15% and they charge the taxpayer, not the town. The Selectboard requested that Almira contact several attorneys and do a little more research.

**Transfer Station update** (if any)

The board is frustrated that WSWMD is still considering keeping the MRF going after it was voted to close it and the budget reflects closing it.

**School Funding/Act 46 updates**

Robin Kingsley would like to clarify to the voters what happens if the school budget is voted down. A new letter will be written to the taxpayers explaining what happens if it is voted down. Explaining that this is their voice, their chance to make a change. Almira stated that a budget must be approved by June 30, 2017. She will review the statutes to confirm proper procedure for voting down the budget without having a negative effect on the taxpayers.

It seems the State’s ultimate goal is to close Twin Valley Schools and then send the students to Bennington and Brattleboro to create larger student populations in those schools. Greg Brown suggested that the School Board ought to build the budget so Whitingham is not in the penalty box – the budget would not meet the state criteria of required curriculum. Then take that information to a lawyer and show the state that the system (Act 60) is failing and Whitingham, as a sending town, cannot meet the state criteria.

**House Bill H.42**

This bill is currently in the House. Almira can see both pros and cons to town clerks and treasurers being appointed rather than elected.

**Riggs Distler Act 250 questionnaires**

The board reviewed and approved the answers to be submitted.

**Approval of Payables Warrant – February 16, 2017**

**A motion was made by Greg Brown to approve Payable Warrant W1734 dated February 16, 2017, seconded by Robin Kingsley, all in favor.**

**Approval of Payroll Warrant – February 16, 2017**

**A motion was made by Robin Kingsley to approve the Payroll Warrant W1733 dated February 16, 2017, seconded by Greg Brown, all in favor.**

**Approval of Minutes of February 1, 2017**

**A motion was made by Allan Twitchell to approve the Minutes of February 1, 2017, as written, seconded by Karl Twitchell, all in favor.**

**Other business / Administrative Assistant – as needed**

None

**Adjourn**

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

Allan Twitchell adjourned the meeting at 9:05pm.

Respectfully submitted, ~Gig Zboray