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

**February 17, 2016**

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 17, 2016 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. Keith Bronson attended via Skype.

Others present: Gig Zboray, Selectboard Administrative Assistant; Almira Aekus, Town Clerk/Treasurer; Residents: Skip Tefft, Rosemary Tefft, and Claudia Green.

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

Vice Chair, Allan Twitchell, called the meeting to order at 7:30pm. There were no additions or changes to the agenda.

**Hearing of Visitors**

Skip Tefft questioned the difference between visiting nurse and Town Nurse. Rosemary Tefft mentioned that $19,000 is paid to the Town Nurse and $4,000 to Visiting Nurses. Greg Brown stated that our Town Nurse spends a lot of time providing comfort care and home checks and things that VNA hasn’t done or haven’t been asked to do. Mrs. Tefft said perhaps the Town Nurse position should be reconsidered due to the field becoming narrower and narrower. Karl Twitchell noted that in order to have a VNA visit a resident must meet certain criteria, for the Town Nurse to visit a resident only needs to make a phone call.

**Town Meeting Information Session**

**a. Questions from the Floor**

Chair, Allan Twitchell stated he feels the new Town Report is refreshing, the budgets are as they come out of NEMRC, other information is easier to find. Mrs. Tefft questioned whether a difference in attendance at Town Meeting has been found since the reports have stopped being mailed. The Selectboard feels attendance at Town Meetings has not changed much. Ms. Green asked if the Town is actually saving money by not mailing them. Yes, Almira Aekus will provide her with the figure. Almira Aekus noted that for this report the Town saved approximately $5,000 by using the budget reports from the NEMRC system and publishing the reports in house.

Claudia Green volunteers to proofread future documents.

**Jacksonville Pond Dam annual fee**

The dam is in the “high hazard” class and the board feels that it is not actually a high hazard. When the coffer dam went out no one even knew because there is not much water behind it. Gig will try to find if a letter was written and if not will write a letter of complaint.

**Senior Solutions contract renewal**

Greg Brown would like a 3 year contract and have it bumped up each year. Start at $550 and $15 increase each year.

Discussion: The expense of this rental is subsidized by the Town. Senior Solutions is also subsidized by an annual appropriation from the Town. Many of the seniors attending meals are not Whitingham residents. If a resident rented the hall it would be $100, Senior Solutions is currently paying about $41 per day. The Town provides cleaning supplies for the dishwasher and for cleaning the wooden floors. Other town expenses include an extra visit by Housekeeping, extra repairs and maintenance to equipment and the building due to the heavy use.

After more discussion, it was decided that Gig should contact Anila and say we feel that $600 per month including supplies is a steal, supplies have not been billed since 2014 and we would like a 3 year contract.

**Approval of Payables Warrant – February 18, 2016.**

**A motion was made by Karl Twitchell, seconded by Greg Brown, to approve Payables Warrant W1634 dated February 18, 2016, four in favor, Keith Bronson abstained from voting.**

**Approval of Payroll Warrant – February 18, 2016.**

**A motion was made by Robin Kingsley, seconded by Greg Brown, to approve Payroll Warrant W1633 dated February 18, 2016, four in favor, Keith Bronson abstained from voting.**

**Approval of Minutes of February 3, 2016**

**A motion was made by Karl Twitchell, seconded by Keith Bronson, to approve the Minutes of February 3, 2016 as written, all in favor by roll call vote.**

**Town Meeting preparation**

Selectboard members decided who would read each Article.

Gig will have better calculators, pads and pens available.

Greg Brown discussed providing the Highway crew some sort of stipend for being on call 24/7 November 1st through May 1st. He feels the Town has a hard working, responsible crew and would like to encourage them to stay in their jobs. He thought he might make a change on the Highway Budget during town meeting to offer the Highway crew a stipend of perhaps $15 per day for being on call November 1st though May 1st.

Rosemary Tefft questioned health insurance, Greg Brown answered that the employees pay 17% of their wages for insurance. Although that rate is lower than the average worker would be required to pay the wages paid are lower than industry standards (for example starting pay for a CDL driver is $20-25 per hour). Recent pay increases have just about covered the employees cost of insurance, it did not provide extra income. Our equipment is very expensive and we need responsible workers to handle that equipment properly.

**Other Business:**

Old Home Week – Dance Committee, Keith Bronson questioned if hiring police protection comes out of the OHW budget and not out of the Dance Committee budget. There is money in the Town Budget for police coverage.

Almira Aekus provided Selectboard members with a current budget report.

Greg Brown questioned if the Town has received any traffic fine income lately, he has seen the Wilmington Police ticketing traffic in Whitingham’s borders and therefore the Town is entitled to a percentage of any fines paid.

**Adjourn**

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

Allan Twitchell adjourned the meeting at 8:33pm.

Respectfully submitted,

~Gig Zboray