**Minutes of special meeting of the Whitingham Selectboard**

**December 28, 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 special meeting on Wednesday, December 28, 2016 at 6:00pm in the Selectboard Office of the Municipal Center, 2948 VT Route 100, Jacksonville, VT.

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

Others present: Gig Zboray, Selectboard Administrative Assistant; Almira Aekus, Treasurer; and Richard Saudek, attorney.

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

Chair, Keith Bronson, called the meeting to order at 6:05pm. There were no changes to the agenda.

**Executive Session to discuss ongoing litigation**

**A motion was made by Greg Brown to find that premature general public knowledge regarding the town’s litigation with TransCanada would clearly place the town at a substantial disadvantage if its negotiation strategy was made public, seconded by Allan Twitchell, all in favor.**

**A motion was made by Greg Brown to enter executive session to discuss the town’s lawsuit against TransCanada under the provisions of Title 1, Section 313(a)(1)(A) of the Vermont Statutes to include Richard Saudek attorney, Almira Aekus, Treasurer and Gig Zboray, seconded by Karl Twitchell, all in favor.**

With no decisions made **a motion to exit executive session was made by Greg Brown, seconded by Robin Kingsley, all in favor.**

**A motion was made by Greg Brown to sign the Settlement Agreement with TransCanada as written, upon the recommendation of the Town attorney in this matter, Richard Saudek, subject to reconsideration if any other party asks for changes, seconded by Allan Twitchell, all in favor.**

**Finalize Budget for fiscal year 2017/18**

**A motion was made by Greg Brown to increase wages by 2% across the board (cost of living increase) and to allow a 1% merit increase with respect to those who were named by their supervisor, seconded by Karl Twitchell, all in favor.**

The cap for the fiscal year 2017/18 out of pocket deductible for employees will be $1,500. In the future it will be a 60/40 split (employee pays 60%) of deductible over $12,000 for a family plan/parent child plan; $6,000 for individual plan.

The Lister budget remained the same however the Selectboard determined that the pay rates would be as follows:

 1-3 years experience as a Whitingham lister $14.15 per hour

 4-6 years experience as a Whitingham lister 17.15 per hour

 7+ years experience as a Whitingham lister 20.15 per hour

These rates will become effective on July 1, 2017 and will include the 2% cost of living increase.

The highway budget will show years of experience, not employee name.

Almira will make the changes discussed and have the budget finalized and ready to vote on at the next meet.

Municipal Center budget was discussed and the impact of Senior Meals not paying rent if their petition request is passed at Town Meeting. The cost to the taxpayers to host Senior Meals will be researched, the recently purchased Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) of $1,800 plus an annual service contract of $99 was purchased specifically because of the many seniors that frequent the building. 40% of the annual building cleaning costs can be attributed to hosting the meals here plus propane for the stove, electricity, heating fuel, liability insurance, wear and tear on the building as well as the kitchen equipment, chairs, tables, carpets, etc.

During this conversation, it was questioned if the stove hood had been inspected lately. Gig will call Code 3 and request an inspection of the hood and all the fire extinguishers in the building.

**Adjourn**

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

Keith Bronson adjourned the meeting at 8:12pm.

Respectfully submitted, ~Gig Zboray