

Minutes of regular meeting of the Whitingham Selectboard

July 6, 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, July 6, 2016 at 7:30pm 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, Karl Twitchell and Robin Kingsley.

Others present: Gig Zboray, Selectboard Administrative Assistant; Almira Aekus, Town Clerk; Ray White, Halifax resident; Dan Hollister, Animal Control Officer; Jim Dassati, Deerfield Valley News; Terry Dumaine, resident.

Call to Order. Additions or Changes to Agenda

Chair, Keith Bronson called the meeting to order at 7:32pm. There were several additions to the agenda: Terry Dumaine to discuss Senior Meals; Approval of Payroll Warrant for June 30, 2016; school bus parking at Municipal Center during Old Home Week. Karl Twitchell wanted to add Sewer business, and Robin Kingsley wanted to talk more about dogs.

Hearing of Visitors

There were no visitors not on the agenda.

Ray White ACO complaint

Ray White runs cattle in Town. He explained that there is a local resident that is always very concerned about his animals. Mr. White worried that Dan Hollister could have been trampled in the field looking in on a newborn calf based on a complaint from the concerned neighbor. Mr. White is not sure that Mr. Hollister has any authority to oversee agricultural animals. Mr. White would like protocol followed on an issue like this in the future.

Dan Hollister showed Mr. White the Animal Control Ordinance in which he is granted authority covering Domestic Animals including livestock.

Mr. White told Mr. Hollister that he cannot rely on the complainant to do his work for him (making phone calls). Mr. Hollister learned from this experience that he needs to weigh complaints from over cautious neighbors and handle them in an appropriate manner. The Selectboard understands that Mr. Hollister was doing his job as Animal Control Officer. Mr. White now understands that Mr. Hollister has a job to do and he did it.

Discuss dog warrants

Dan Hollister said 4 people are still outstanding in registering their dogs. Most people on the list are trying to reach veterinarian, Miles Powers, for inoculations necessary before they can register their dog.

Hinsdale Tractor Supply holds a shot clinic the second to last Sunday of each month. For more information please contact the store directly.

Dan Hollister suggested that perhaps in the future the Selectboard should issue Dan a list of outstanding dogs rather than an actual Dog Warrant. The Selectboard feels that if the rabies shots are expired then it is important that Dan act on the matter.

The Selectboard would like a letter written to those who have not yet registered their dogs explaining the procedure and lay out the fines (immunization and licensing) that they are currently being charged. The letter should be sent by certified mail, return receipt requested from the Selectboard

Allan Twitchell made a motion to allow Gig Zboray to sign for Selectboard members who cannot sign the dog violation letter seconded by Karl Twitchell, all in favor.

Gig should put a note in the Town Report next year reminding everyone that licenses are due April 1st.

Terry Dumaine – Senior Meals

Senior meals is scheduled to end October 1st due to the extreme cost of the program to Senior Solutions. Terry Dumaine has been working with Senior Solutions to come up with a way to continue the program. The wages and the fringe benefits are the biggest problem with the current program.

Mrs. Dumaine has come up with two financial plans for the program:

1st plan would be to continue 3 days a week on site with home delivery.

2nd plan would be 2 days a week– Tuesdays and Thursdays and outsource the home delivered meals. She is leaning toward this option.

Mrs. Dumaine will have to find volunteer cooks and drivers. She would oversee and coordinate the cooks and drivers and work with Senior Solutions on the menus. Her entire program would be completely volunteer based. She provided a budget to the Selectboard.

Mrs. Dumaine is requesting that the Selectboard consider donating use of the Municipal Center for the Senior Meals program. Two days a week decreases the amount of meals served by about 10,000 per year because home delivered meals would come from an outside resource meaning less wear and tear to the building and less utilities and cleaning supplies used.

Mrs. Dumaine is the only individual or entity who has made a proposal to Senior Solutions to take over this meal site. She is not a fundraiser, and does not have the time but she does not want to lose this program in town. Mrs. Dumaine would like the Selectboard to request donations/stipends of \$1,000 or \$1,500 from other towns to help sponsor this program (Readsboro, Halifax, Wilmington, Dover, Heath and Colrain). For a period of time she is requesting that the Selectboard waive the rent.

Mrs. Dumaine requested a response from the Selectboard before July 26th.

Almira Aekus suggested that we reach out to Adam Grinold to see if there are any grants available.

Gig will look into possible grant opportunities and perhaps contact other towns. She will also contact agencies such as the Wilmington Senior Group (Jennifer Fitzgerald or Claudia Green), Deerfield Valley Community Cares and Twice Blessed.

Review and sign contract for Municipal Center and Village Park mowing, etc.

A motion was made by Allan Twitchell to appoint Marylee Putnam to sign “work agreements” on behalf of the Town and for the Selectboard to sign the “short form” contract with Tyson Dix, seconded by Robin Kingsley, all in favor.

Review and sign annual contract with Windham County Humane Society

A motion was made by Karl Twitchell to sign the annual contract with the Humane Society, seconded by Robin Kingsley, all in favor.

Review and sign “Appendix B” as add-on to E-cycling contract

A motion was made by Karl Twitchell to sign “Appendix B”, seconded by Robin Kingsley, all in favor.

Review and sign letter of engagement with Sullivan, Powers & Co. for audit of fiscal year end June, 2016

Tabled, Almira would like a full audit not a “review engagement”.

Approval of Payables Warrant – July 7, 2016

A motion was made by Robin Kingsley, seconded by Allan Twitchell, to approve Payables Warrant W1702 with the exclusion of Fisher & Fisher legal services for \$3,000 (ck # 21646) dated July 7, 2016, all in favor.

Approval of Payroll Warrant – July 7, 2016

A motion was made by Robin Kingsley, seconded by Allan Twitchell, to approve Payroll Warrant W1701 dated July 7, 2016, all in favor.

Approval of Payables Warrant – June 30, 2016

A motion was made by Karl Twitchell to pay Payables Warrant W1654, seconded by Allan Twitchell, all in favor.

Approval of Payroll Warrant – June 30, 2016

A motion was made by Karl Twitchell to pay Payroll Warrant W1653 dated June 30, 2016, seconded by Robin Kingsley, all in favor.

Approval of Minutes of June 8, 2016

A motion was made by Robin Kingsley, seconded by Karl Twitchell, to approve the Minutes of June 8, 2016 as written, all in favor.

Review and sign Letter of Engagement for lawsuit

Tabled, unnecessary.

Other business / Administrative Assistant – as needed

a. Possible donation of land (parcel 06-0381)

The Selectboard is not interested in owning this property. (Taxes are \$2,444.95.)

b. Website RFP / work with EDG

The Selectboard has approved Gig working with EDG to prepare an RFP for developing a new Town website and also to work with them on updating brochures and other projects.

c. School bus parking at Municipal Center during Old Home Week

The Selectboard has approved parking the school busses at the Municipal Center during Old Home Week festivities.

d. Sewer

Gig is to write a letter to Dave DiCantio and Dave Dumaine saying that Karl Twitchell spoke with Uncle Bobs/Global Environmental, they are looking for somewhere to dump. Here is a viable customer for the sewer department. What is the status of other customers?

e. Other Dog Issue

Joanie May Sullivan on Allard Road dogs have created a lot of problems. Three different people approached Robin Kingsley to complain, no one can walk by there. Also the dogs are let out at night and bark for half an hour or more. The Selectboard would like Dan Hollister to go out and investigate the complaint. If the situation warrants a fine he can issue it.

Executive Session to discuss litigation [Title 1, Section 313(a)(1)(A)]

A motion was made by Keith Bronson to find that premature general public knowledge regarding the town's tax sale litigation would clearly place the town at a substantial disadvantage if its legal strategy was made public, seconded by Karl Twitchell, all in favor.

A motion was made by Keith Bronson to enter executive session to discuss the tax sale litigation under the provisions of Title 1, Section 313(a)(1)(A) of the Vermont Statutes to include Gig Zboray and Almira Aekus, seconded Robin Kingsley, all in favor.

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

Adjourn

A motion was made by Robin Kingsley to adjourn, seconded by Allan Twitchell all in favor.

Keith Bronson adjourned the meeting at 9:59pm.

Respectfully submitted,

~Gig Zboray