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

**April 27, 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, April 27, 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, Greg Brown, Karl Twitchell and Robin Kingsley.

Others present: Gig Zboray, Selectboard Administrative Assistant; Stanley Janovsky, Supervisor of Public Works; Listers: Jenepher Burnell and Howard Dix; Attorney Richard Saudek; Town Attorney Robert Fisher; Trevor Manse of TAM; John Gannon, Wilmington Selectboard; Almira Aekus, Town Clerk; Phil Edelstein, resident

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

Chair, Keith Bronson called the meeting to order at 7:30pm. There was one addition to the agenda: Add schedule Vicious Dog Hearing.

**Hearing of Visitors**

John Gannon of Wilmington Selectboard introduced himself, noting that he was running for a seat in the Vermont house.

**Transfer Station management options/recycling options**

Trevor Manse of TAM presented various ideas. As a hauler he would promote single stream recycling because it makes hauling easier. But he wouldn’t recommend Whitingham switching to single stream. If TAM were to take our recycling at the current box weights and hauling charges it would cost $9,148. If there was some training on how to fill the boxes better to get more weight in them (less hauls) the cost would be $4,893.

Another option would be to merge with another Town such as Halifax or Readsboro to get more product. It would be beneficial to at least partner with other towns, if cancelling membership with WSWMD, to help cover the costs of Household Hazardous Waste collection. The Londonderry Group is a good model to copy if a new group of towns were to be formed. NRRA has a boilerplate Solid Waste Implementation Plan (SWIP) that we could work with to create our own.

The Selectboard feels more research is needed but feel it might be a good idea to pull out of WSWMD membership.

**Transfer Station job description**

**A motion was made by Greg Brown to adopt the Transfer Station job description as written, seconded by Robin Kingsley, all in favor.**

**Deerfield Valley Sportsmen’s Club and how it affects the grand list**

Jen Burnell notified the Selectboard that there have been more and more complaints about the Deerfield Valley Sportsmen’s Club and people are now coming to the listers hoping for an “economic depreciation” rating on their houses. There are currently 5 properties that have this rating. Jen is pointing out that this depreciation could be extended to other properties that are affected by the noise but it will certainly affect the grand list.

Greg Brown pointed out that there are noise level decibel readings that could be taken. Yes, people can hear the gun fire but is the decibel level high everywhere? Karl Twitchell asked if a bank appraisal would lower the value due to the noise. Greg mentioned that eliminating the “economic depreciation” across the board at this time was a good idea as the Listers are going through a reappraisal at the current time. Property owners could then grieve it up the line to the state to get a true determination of the disturbance.

**Driveway permit for Lot 5 Stimpson Hill Road**

**A motion by Greg Brown to grant the driveway permit, seconded by Karl Twitchell, all in favor.**

**Phone In by Laura Sibilia regarding state purchase of TransCanada**

Laura Sibilia provided the Selectboard with the latest information on the sale of TransCanada. TC wants to sell all the hydro properties together which includes 13 dams located in Vermont, New Hampshire and Massachusetts. The state doesn’t see how they can make the purchase without a partner.

It is Laura’s sense that the delegation has significant concerns; they would like representation from towns that have a personal stake in the matter. She got comfort from the fact that the legislature could be required to come back into session to vote on this, that it wouldn’t move forward while the legislature was out of session.

Greg Brown questioned payments in lieu of taxes (PILOT) if the state partners with another entity in the purchase. The town is not interested in that.

Keith Bronson feels that it would be a conflict of interest for the state to set the appraised value of the dams, then purchase them, they wouldn’t purchase them at the appraised value.

The state is talking about bonding the purchase.

**TransCanada Litigation (executive session)**

**Greg Brown moved 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 Robin Kingsley, all in favor.**

**Greg Brown moved to enter into 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, Robert Fisher, Gig Zboray, Almira Aekus, Jenepher Burnell, and Howard Dix, seconded by Robin Kingsley, all in favor.**

**A motion was made by Keith Bronson, to exit Executive Session exited at 9:38pm, seconded by Greg Brown, all in favor.**

**A motion was made by Allan Twitchell, seconded by Greg Brown to have Chair Keith Bronson sign the agreement with Attorney Richard Saudek to represent the town in the litigation with TransCanada regarding the appraised values for the years 2013, 2014 and 2015, all in favor.**

**Highway Employee Evaluation**

**Greg Brown moved to enter into executive session to evaluate a public employee under the provisions of Title 1, Section 313(a)(3) of the Vermont Statutes with Stanley Janovsky and Gig Zboray, seconded by Allan Twitchell, all in favor.**

**A motion was made by Allan Twitchell, seconded by Robin Kingsley to exit executive session at 9:47pm.**

**A motion was made by Greg Brown to implement the health insurance benefit for Whitney Hamilton beginning May 1st, 2016, seconded by Robin Kingsley, all in favor.**

**Approval of Payables Warrant – April 28, 2016.**

**A motion was made by Allan Twitchell, seconded by Karl Twitchell, to approve Payables Warrant W1644 dated April 28, 2016, all in favor.**

**Approval of Payroll Warrant – April 28, 2016.**

**A motion was made by Greg Brown, seconded by Robin Kingsley, to approve Payroll Warrant W1643 dated April 28, 2016, all in favor**

**Approval of Minutes of April 13, 2016**

Greg Brown noted a correction to the Minutes of April 13th regarding the language on how to pay for the Automatic External Defibrillator. The Minutes stated that funding can come from Municipal Center Equipment Replacement “fund” or Municipal Center Repairs and Improvements “fund”, these are not actually “funds” they are line items. The final decision on how to actually pay for the defibrillator will be made when it is purchased.

**A motion was made by Greg Brown, seconded by Karl Twitchell, to approve the Minutes of April 13, 2016 with the correction noted, all in favor.**

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

1. **Email addresses for Selectboard members**

Gig asked the Selectboard if they would like separate email addresses for dealing with Town business, rather than using the personal email address. Selectboard general consensus is that when a new Town website is created we will have email addresses connected to it at that time.

1. **Schedule Vicious Dog Hearing**

Wednesday, May 4, 2016 at 7pm.

**Adjourn**

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

Keith Bronson adjourned the meeting at 10:04pm.

Respectfully submitted,

~Gig Zboray