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

**April 12, 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, April 12, 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; Aaron Hurst, ANR State Lands Forester; Almira Aekus, Town Clerk.

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

Vice Chair, AllanTwitchell, called the meeting to order at 7:33pm. There were no additions or changes to the agenda.

**Hearing of Visitors**

None.

**Temporary upgrade request on Head of Pond Road**

Mr. Aaron Hurst, State Lands Forester, requested permission to use and upgrade approximately 2,200 feet of town highway to accommodate log trucks during the winter months for a planned timber harvest on the Steam Mill Lot of Atherton Meadows Wildlife Management Area. Upgrades will include reestablishing ditches and waterbars, and pulling some material from the road sides to level tread surface. Some rocks may be brought in to armor drainage structures as needed. The upgrades will take place within the established Head of Pond Road right-of-way and will be conducted during the summer of 2017 during dry conditions. Logging to be done winter of 2018/19.

**A motion was made by Karl Twitchell to approve the proposed use and upgrade of Head of Pond Road, seconded by Greg Brown, all in favor.**

**Transfer Station / WSWMD updates**

Gig received a call from Bob Spencer of WSWMD asking for payment of past due quarterly assessment. He spoke with attorney and the District could charge interest and penalty. Interest of 1% per month for first 3 months and 1.5% per month thereafter. Penalty of 8% could be charged. If we pay overdue invoice now we could save $456.06 in interest and penalties. We are currently still members of the district and are required to pay the assessment. The Selectboard will send a letter to WSWMD regarding the Town’s dissatisfaction with the service provided and the method used to try to collect these funds. The Board will consider paying the assessment after receiving a formal apology from Bob Spencer. The Board would like Bob Spencer to appear at the May 10th meeting to discuss this matter.

**Education Funding**

**Robin Kingsley moved to find that premature general public knowledge regarding the town’s education funding litigation would clearly place the town at a substantial disadvantage if its legal strategy was made public, seconded by Greg Brown, all in favor.**

**Robin Kingsley moved to enter into executive session to discuss education funding litigation under the provisions of Title 1, Section 313(a)(1)(A) of the Vermont Statutes to include Gig Zboray and Almira Aekus, seconded by Greg Brown, all in favor.**

With no decisions made, **a motion to exit executive session at 8:14pm was made by Greg Brown, seconded by Karl Twitchell, all in favor.**

**Greg Brown made a motion to hire the firm of Costello, Valente and Gentry, PC to represent the town in civil litigation, seconded Karl Twitchell, all in favor.**

**H.5 Investment of Public Funds**

The State seems to be considering changing the guidelines for investing public funds. The Town Treasurer has only invested public funds in FDIC insured accounts. She would be uncomfortable making a decision on her own about where to deposit funds that are not insured. She would consider depositing funds in uninsured investments at the advice of a knowledgeable investment committee.

**Review and adopt 2017 LEOP**

The annual Local Emergency Operations Plan was updated (email addresses and vulnerable population). **Karl Twitchell made a motion to adopt the 2017 LEOP as written, seconded by Robin Kingsley, all in favor.**

**Review and sign contract for Town Hill mowing**

The Selectboard signed the contract needed for Worker’s Compensation audit(s).

**Appointment of Fire Department positions**

The fire department held their annual reorganizational meeting and recommended the following appointments to the Selectboard:

**FIRE CHIEF**

Stanley Janovsky, Jr. 2018

**FIRST ASSISTANT CHIEF**

Michael Stevens 2018

**CAPTAINS**

Dennis Pike, 1st and David Briggs, 2nd 2018

**LIEUTENANTS**

Sheldon Dix, 1st and Marshall Dix, 2nd 2018

**CHAPLAIN**

Seth Boyd 2018

**TRAINING OFFICER**

Jeff Silverman 2018

**A motion was made by Greg Brown to make the Fire Department appointments listed above, seconded by Allan Twitchell, all in favor.**

**Review and approve driveway access permit**

Tabled until payment is properly made.

**Appointment of Cemetery Commissioner**

At the recommendation of the Cemetery Commission, **a motion was made by Greg Brown to appoint Tyson Dix to the Cemetery Commission, seconded by Robin Kingsley, all in favor.**

**Approval of Payables Warrant – April 13, 2017**

**A motion was made by Greg Brown to approve Payable Warrant W1742 dated April 13, 2017, seconded by Robin Kingsley,** after discussion of the Fairpoint telephone bill and cost of fire extinguisher inspection, **all in favor.**

**Approval of Payroll Warrant – April 13, 2017**

**A motion was made by Robin Kingsley to approve the Payroll Warrant W1741 dated April 13, 2017, seconded by Greg Brown, all in favor.**

**Approval of Minutes of March 29, 2017**

**A motion was made by Karl Twitchell to approve the Minutes of March 29, 2017, as written, seconded by Greg Brown, all in favor.**

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

Gig notified the Selectboard that the Ansul system in the kitchen and all the fire extinguishers in the Municipal Center and highway garage have been inspected and that the furnace in the Municipal Center was recently cleaned. Fire extinguishers in the Fire Houses and Sewer buildings still need to be inspected.

An unsolicited price quote was received from Best Septic to provide two potties at Town Hill. A price quote was requested from C&J Septic that has provided service for several years. Best Septic’s price is lower. Robin Kingsley has had positive experience with Best Septic. **A motion was made by Greg Brown to give Best Septic a try this year, seconded by Robin Kingsley, all in favor.**

Ed Metcalfe is upset about Gate House. Two residents complained about trucks on Route 8A. Gig will be taking the next 3 Fridays off.

**Adjourn**

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

Allan Twitchell adjourned the meeting at 8:50pm.

Respectfully submitted, ~Gig Zboray