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

**June 27, 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 attended a special meeting on Tuesday, June 27, 2017 with the Executive Board of Windham Solid Waste Management District at 6:30pm in the Wilmington Town Hall, 2 Main Street, Wilmington, VT.

Selectboard members present: Chair, Keith Bronson; Vice Chair, Allan Twitchell; Members Greg Brown, Karl Twitchell and Robin Kingsley. Gig Zboray, Selectboard Administrative Assistant also attended.

Members of WSWMD Executive Committee: Merrill Mundell, Jan Ameen, Michelle Cherrier. Bob Spencer and Vicky Hayes of the WSWMD office also attended.

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

Jan Ameen called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. There were no additions or changes to the agenda.

Introductions were made.

**Discuss Whitingham’s Concern Regarding WSWMD Service and Letters Addressed to Supervisors February 1st and April 13th**

The Whitingham Selectboard wrote a letter to the WSWMD Board of Supervisors on February 1st, 2017. No response to the letter was ever received from WSWMD yet there was disrespect from the District towards the town. Karl Twitchell noted that the Selectboard has an obligation to the taxpayers; if the Selectboard feels money is not being spent correctly they will dig their toes in. The financial crisis at the District and the lack of professional, timely service is troubling. Greg Brown asked Jan Ameen if she feels the District is in financial crisis. Jan answered yes, but feels that with the solar array income on the horizon and no more trucking expenses the financial forecast is good. She feels nothing unprofessional has created the financial situation. She indicated a surprise workers comp claim increased their insurance assessment to approximately $40,000 (she didn’t know the exact figure) for two years.

Jan indicated that the ancient infrastructure of the District that worked in the 1990’s does not work now. She is not convinced that the District should be in any business and that they should only provide services to member towns.

Merrill Mundell believes that the District should never have an income greater than they can spend.

Greg Brown reiterated that he felt put out by the lack of respect shown by the District to the Town.

Jan Ameen responded that when she read the first letter she didn’t feel that a response was necessary because the Town had already pulled our recycling from the District.

Michelle Cherrier regretted that a letter had to be sent in the first place and personally regrets that she didn’t understand that a response was needed.

**Discuss Whitingham Quarterly Unpaid Assessments**

Jan Ameen did not understand why the Town did not pay the quarterly assessments due; she felt that the $50 payment was insulting. The Selectboard restated that they were unhappy with the service provided and was waiting for a response. Karl Twitchell replied that the quickest way to get someone’s attention is through their wallet. Now that we finally have the District’s attention a check in full payment (less the two $50 payments) was made on the two overdue quarterly assessments. Jan thanked the Selectboard for the check.

There was some discussion of the District charging penalties and interest but that decision is up to the Board of Supervisors and will be discussed at their next meeting.

Jan Ameen asked what the Town would like from the District. Keith Bronson mentioned composting and how the law feels a bit ridiculous for a small rural community. He questioned if the District is fighting the State on the creation of these new laws. Bob Spencer talked about Act 148, the Senate will open up the law for amendments in the future.

**Adjourn**

**A motion was made by Merrill Mundell to adjourn, seconded by Michelle Cherrier, all in favor.**

Jan Ameen adjourned the meeting at 7:34pm.

Respectfully submitted, ~Gig Zboray