

Minutes of regular meeting of the Whitingham Selectboard July 5, 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, July 5, 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 and Karl Twitchell.

Others present: Gig Zboray, Selectboard Administrative Assistant; Dan Hollister, Animal Control Officer; Clyde Twitchell, Transfer Station Attendant; Resident Lois Brennan, Merrifield Neighborhood Watch.

Call to Order. Additions or Changes to Agenda

Allan Twitchell called the meeting to order at 7:36pm. There were no changes to the agenda.

Hearing of Visitors

Lois Brennan of Merrifield Neighborhood Watch came to the table to let the Selectboard know what is going on in that area. Thirteen or more burglaries/attempted burglaries have occurred between April 15th and July 1st in that area (including Readsboro). The Merrifield neighborhood had 6 burglaries/attempted burglaries. The residents are very concerned and don't see much trooper coverage. At any given time, there are only 4 troopers to cover Windham and Bennington counties. Ms. Brennan presented copies of the watch group minutes to show what they have been working on to protect the neighborhood. The state troopers have spoken with the watch group providing helpful information regarding protection, watching and reporting. The watch group is reaching out to others outside of the Merrifield neighborhood to encourage being watchful and perhaps create their own watch group. Ms. Brennan would like to be on the August 2nd agenda to discuss how to work together to create a safer community.

Gig to call Sgt. Buckley and asked for more information on how best to handle this and confirm how many incidents have been in town.

Transfer Station/WSWMD updates

Clyde Twitchell questioned what the fee will be for collection of compost and where is the best place to store the compost away from critters. Dan Hollister, ACO, indicated that using the dog pound is not appropriate for storage of compost. Clyde indicated it cannot be stored in the electronics container or the Lions Club shed either. At this time, there is nowhere to safely keep the compost away from the wildlife. **Karl Twitchell made a motion to table composting at this time until we have a better facility to handle it, seconded by Greg Brown, all in favor.** Individuals are not required by law to compost until 2020 so we will strongly suggest they do backyard composting. Clyde has 6-55 gallon cans for collection of compost. Gig will notify TAM to take away the containers.

Clyde has been keeping a tally count of Transfer Station users for quite some time. The Selectboard indicated that keeping count was not necessary now but asked Clyde to keep track of how many ask for composting. Gig will provide a status sheet of the attendance at the dump from all of Clyde's tally sheets.

If all Selectboard members are in attendance at the August 2nd meeting a vote will be held on whether or not to withdraw from WSWMD.

Animal Control Officer

Dan Hollister discussed the Windham County Humane Society contract and suggested we might not want to renew the contract. A possible alternate is Layla's Riverside Lodge which is the pound used by Wilmington and Dover. Layla's would deal directly with dog owners, and not charge the town, he is insured and will take any dogs (whether they were involved in a bite or not). The Selectboard asked Dan to talk to the owner of Layla's regarding a contract and they will await further information from Dan. The pound at the Transfer Station meets the state statute requirements.

Gig to look through the Minutes to find historic information (2011/12) about Erho and his dogs.

Education Funding

The attorneys might attend the August 2nd meeting.

Review and approve Liquor license

Spoonwood Cabin Creamery is requesting to upgrade their license to 1st class in order to allow them to serve alcohol in their new wine and cheese tasting area. **A motion was made by Karl Twitchell to approve the Spoonwood Cabin Creamery license upgrade, seconded by Greg Brown, all in favor.**

Approval of Payables Warrant – June 30 and July 6, 2017

A motion was made by Allan Twitchell to approve Payables Warrant W1754 dated June 30, 2017 and Payables Warrant W1802 dated July 6, 2017, seconded by Greg Brown, all in favor.

Approval of Payroll Warrant – July 6, 2017

A motion was made by Karl Twitchell to approve Payroll Warrant W1801 dated July 6, 2017, seconded by Greg Brown, all in favor.

Approval of Minutes of June 7, 14 and 27, 2017

A motion was made by Greg Brown to approve the Minutes of June 7, 14 and 27, 2017 as written, seconded by Karl Twitchell, all in favor.

Other business / Administrative Assistant – as needed

- a. **Sewer.** An email was forwarded to Selectboard members indicating that the expert helping the sewer commissioners is still working on the best option for the fee schedule and no information is available at this time. Gig to discuss meters with Dave DiCantio and should research what water meters are available and their cost and help Marylee with grant research.

Adjourn

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

Allan Twitchell adjourned the meeting at 8:48pm.

Respectfully submitted, ~Gig Zboray

MNW Meeting Agenda 6/3/17

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Sgt. Buckley of the VSP has agreed to come speak to the group.

We will present to Sgt Buckley the actions that the group has done or plan to do regarding the B&E's.

The hope is that we can establish strong communication between VSP and MNW.

If there is any time left the following information will be discussed:

Things we're doing:

providing patrols for 2nd home owners or homesteaders that are away from their homes.

setting up routine patrols looking for BOLO and unattended vehicles as well as suspicious activity.

helping homeowners with installation of security systems, lighting and cameras.

Signage for Neighborhood Watch

creating phone/email tree for alerts and current information

Recruiting and mentoring new Neighborhood Watch cells

Talking to PO employees to BOLO for unattended/suspicious/BOLO vehicles

Reaching out to Town Clerks, General Stores and our neighbors in MA with information about the B&E's

Things we plan on doing:

Ask the select board to authorize the Windham County Sheriffs to do routine patrols of the town

Write a Letter-to-the-Editor to be sent to the local papers regarding the break-ins

Ask the paper to do an article about the B&E's and what people can do to protect themselves

Contact our State Reps for help/funding

Run a Bake Sale at the Farmer's Market in Whitingham at the end of the month as a Fund/Awareness Raiser