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

**August 30, 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, August 30, 2017 at 7:30pm in the Selectboard Office of the Municipal Center, 2948 VT Route 100, Jacksonville, VT.

Selectboard members present: Chair, Keith Bronson; Members Karl Twitchell and Robin Kingsley.

Others present: Gig Zboray, Selectboard Administrative Assistant; Linda Donaghue, Deerfield Valley News; Phil Edelstein, resident; Dan Purjes, part-time resident; Stanley Janovsky, Jr., Fire Chief.

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

Keith Bronson called the meeting to order at 7:31pm. There was one addition to the agenda: Stanley Janovsky, Jr. to discuss Fire Department.

**Hearing of visitors** None.

**Phil Edelstein**

The State awarded a $120,000 grant to Fairpoint to extend DSL to parts of town that are not currently offered the service (about 100 homes). Phil Edelstein feels it is spending a lot of money on antiquated technology. Quite a few residents on the roads that are covered by the grant already use VTel. Dan Purjes was offered higher speed internet from Fairpoint but was then told it would cost too much. He then wrote letters of complaint to Fairpoint, Consolidated Communication, the Public Service Board, etc. Phil would like the town to write a letter to say that the Town feels that the $120,000 is like putting bald tires on an old truck. The grant has already been awarded so there is no stopping it at this point. Karl Twitchell feels that short of rewiring there is no way that Fairpoint can do what they say they are going to do.

Dan Purjes has offered the top of his mountain as a site for a VTel cell tower. Phil challenged VTel to provide service to 90% of the residents in Whitingham. Phil and Dan will keep pressing VTel. The speeds are faster than they were one year ago.

The Selectboard offered that the office could send information to second homeowners about VTel service and help spread information via the newsletter or on the Town website.

**Stanley Janovsky, Jr., Fire Chief**

The Fire Department is planning to purchase a 4WD pickup truck for use by first responders, the Firemen’s Association has their own money for that purchase. In order to safely house the new truck they would like to build an additional bay (approx. 20’x20’) onto the back of the Jacksonville Fire House. The Firemen’s Association will provide $10,000 towards the addition. The Municipal Facilities fund currently has $31,226 and $10,000 for this current fiscal year will be added. The Eames Fund has an expendable balance of $25,721. Stan/FD needs to research a few things, he will contact Brian Johnson, State Fire Marshall. Karl questioned if it would be heated? Yes, they plan to knock down some of the current exterior wall to allow interior access the new area. The Selectboard feels if the taxpayers don’t have to be asked for any more money they are OK with the project. There seems to be money available in the current budgets. Stan was told to move forward, get some tighter numbers and figure out what needs to be done.

**Transfer Station/WSWMD**

We received an estimate of costs to exit membership in WSWMD. A meeting of the WSWMD Board of Supervisors will be held on August 31st to approve the estimated costs so that we can include them in the exit agreement. Keith Bronson will attend that meeting with Gig Zboray via teleconference.

Jen Herzig was wondering if it is OK for her to sell stickers at the Transfer Station. Stickers are numbered so it should be easy to track with a numbering system and the cash register. Almira will be numbering the punch cards in the future. The Selectboard feels that as long as the stickers and punch cards are numbered, logged and accounted for it is OK to sell them at the Transfer Station.

**Review and adopt Personnel Policy**

**A motion was made by Robin Kingsley to adopt the Personnel Policy as written, seconded by Karl Twitchell, all in favor with Keith Bronson casting his vote.** This new Personnel Policy will replace the Employee Handbook that was adopted in 2011.

**A motion was made by Robin Kingsley to sign the Personnel Policy agreements for elected officials (Stan and Almira), seconded by Karl Twitchell, all in favor with Keith Bronson casting his vote.**

**Review and adopt Drug & Alcohol Policy for CMV Operators**

**A motion was made by Robin Kingsley to adopt the Drug & Alcohol Policy for CMV Operators as written, seconded by Karl Twitchell, all in favor with Keith Bronson casting his vote.**

**Approval of Payables Warrant – August 31, 2017**

**A motion was made by Karl Twitchell to approve Payables Warrant W1810 dated August 31, 2017, seconded by Robin Kingsley (with regret on the WSWMD payment), all in favor with Keith Bronson casting his vote.**

**Approval of Payroll Warrant – August 31, 2017**

**A motion was made by Karl Twitchell to approve Payroll Warrant W1809 dated August 31, 2017, seconded by Robin Kingsley, all in favor with Keith Bronson casting his vote.**

**Approval of Minutes of August 16, 2017**

**A motion was made by Robin Kingsley to approve the Minutes of August 16, 2017 as written, seconded by Karl Twitchell, all in favor with Keith Bronson casting his vote.**

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

Next meeting is Wednesday, September 6 – Special Town Meeting and meet with Sewer Commissioners.

The Selectboard approved the purchase of Tshirts with the new Town logo on them for staff.

**Adjourn**

**A motion to adjourn was made by Robin Kingsley, seconded by Karl Twitchell, all in favor with Keith Bronson casting his vote.**

Keith Bronson adjourned the meeting at 9:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

~Gig Zboray