

**Town of Whitingham**

**Office of the Selectboard**

**MINUTES OF MAY 23, 2018**

*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, May 23, 2018 at 7:30PM in the Selectboard Office of the Municipal Center, 2948 VT Route 100, Jacksonville, VT.

Selectboard members present: Chair Keith Bronson; members: Allan Twitchell and Robin Kingsley.

Others present: Gig Zboray, Selectboard Office Administrator; Joann Erenhouse, Senior Solutions; Linda Donaghue, Deerfield Valley News.

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

Keith Bronson called the meeting to order at 7:31PM. There was one deletion to the agenda, the attorneys cancelled and rescheduled for June 6th.

**Hearing of visitors** none

**Public comment on the Whitingham Solid Waste Imprementation Plan (SWIP)** none

**Senior Solutions**

Joann Erenhouse came to the table to provide an update of services provided by Senior Solutions. Aside from *Meals on Wheels* and *congregant meals* there are many ways they can serve the seniors in our area:

* Senior Solutions will be hosting a public meeting in White River Junction to present an area (Windham & Windsor) plan on aging for the years 2019-22, anyone with good ideas can participate on May 29th.
* They help seniors with *SHIP (State Health Insurance Plan*).
* *3 Squares Vermont* is the new version of food stamps.
* *Crop Cash* doubles some of the 3 Squares money in partnership with Farmers Markets as a way to increase nutrition content.
* Once per month they offer a *Medicare bootcamp*, a free class to help applicants through the application process. Interested persons must register at 1-800-642-5119, free classes offered on June 14, July 17, August 22, September 13 and October 4.
* *Friendly Visitor program*.
* *Senior Companion program*.
* They are starting to put together a *Vet to Vet visitor program*.
* A *dance fundraiser* will be held on September 29th from 7-11pm at the old stone church in Brattleboro to raise money for Meals on Wheels.
* They offer grants for *family care-giver respite*.
* *Choices for Care* is a way for seniors to stay in their home.
* *Tai Chi and fall prevention classes* to help with balance.
* Training trainers from law enforcement and social services in recognizing, identifying, preventing and prosecuting elder abuse. (Adult Protective Services in Waterbury needs 3 new employees.)
* More information about all of these programs is available at SeniorSolutions.org or call the Senior Helpline for any need, question or problem 1-800-642-5119.
* **Senior Solutions needs an advisory council member from Whitingham, they meet once per month in Bellows Falls at the Senior Center. Anyone interested is serving in this position should contact Gig at 368-7500.**

**Education Funding Litigation, if any**

The attorneys cancelled for tonight and rescheduled for June 6th at 8pm.

**Transfer Station/WSWMD, if any**

At the May WSWMD meeting Bob Spenser was requesting approval to purchase a loader to help with his compost project. The loader he wants to purchase he is currently renting for $7,000 a month and would like to purchase for $58,000 (it is a 2005 John Deere Model 644J with over 12,000 hours on it). Gig tried to stop this purchase by mentioning that the District still has no plan for how they wish to proceed in business now that the MRF has been closed and that there will be no benefit to all the Transfer Station towns. Other compost facilities in the state are losing money. We found out that if the motor were to break down, as apparently, they do with so many hours on it, it would cost approximately $18,000 to repair and be out of service for 2 weeks. Others on the WSWMD board were pushing for the purchase of a brand-new loader (probably over $250,000). No decision was made at the May meeting, hopefully this can be put off until the new fiscal year when we are out of the District.

Gig attended a training session on Tuesday, May 8th regarding e-cycling and other collections. Now that we have a new Connex box at the Transfer Station we could offer collection of batteries (AA, AAA, C, D, button, rechargeables, etc.) and of fluorescent bulbs. Both programs are free. Jen already has a collection box for mercury thermostats at the Transfer Station, so Gig will start advertising that it is available. This topic was tabled until all board members are present to make a decision.

**A motion was made by Robin Kingsley to adopt the Solid Waste Implementation Plan to become effective on July 1, 2018, seconded by Allan Twitchell, all in favor with Keith Bronson casting his vote.**

**Approval of Payables Warrant – May 24, 2018**

**A motion was made by Allan Twitchell to approve Payables Warrant W1848 dated May 24, 2018, seconded by Robin Kingsley (with regret about payment of the School User Fee), all in favor.**

**Approval of Payroll Warrant – May 24, 2018**

**A motion was made by Allan Twitchell to approve Payroll Warrant W1847 dated May 24, 2018, seconded by Robin Kingsley, all in favor.**

**Approval of Minutes of May 9, 2018**

**A motion was made by Robin Kingsley to approve the Minutes of May 9, 2018 as written, seconded by Allan Twitchell, all in favor.**

**Other business / Office Administrator – as needed**

The Sadawga Lake Association won $750 from the Grassroots Fund towards the Plant Survey. That still leaves a balance of $787. The Selectboard again noted that the Grassroots check should be made payable to the Town for clean accounting purposes. The Association will try to raise the remaining balance, the Selectboard again noted that there are no funds in the town budget to make up the deficit in this grant funding.

Allan Twitchell mentioned that he heard of a meeting regarding changes to Act 250. Gig will try to find specific information about it.

Keith Bronson noted that the Jacksonville Cemetery has many grave markers tipped over, he is wondering if that is a result of winter damage, vandalism or age and how they will be fixed.

The Town Hill Committee voted to remove the dome shaped climbing equipment and the Selectboard tonight approved the removal. Gig will let Pete know. The Committee will discuss replacing with some other piece of equipment at a future date.

The Selectboard discussed the installation of the new Mutual Aid tower at Town Hill, Greg Brown said at a prior meeting that he would provide a fence to go around it. Allan Twitchell suggested putting large stones around the tower to protect it from vehicles hitting it.

**Adjourn**

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

Keith Bronson adjourned the meeting at 8:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

~Gig Zboray