



**Town of Whitingham  
Office of the Selectboard**

**MINUTES OF JANUARY 11, 2023**

*These Minutes are considered a DRAFT until accepted into the public record (with any corrections noted) at a future meeting of the Whitingham Selectboard.*

The Whitingham Selectboard held a regular meeting at 6:30pm in the Selectboard Office of the Whitingham Municipal Center on Wednesday, January 11, 2023.

Selectboard members present: Scott M. Reed, Chair; James Weber, Vice Chair; Greg Brown, Craig Hammer, and Robin Kingsley.

Others attending: Gig Zboray, Selectboard Office Administrator. Almira Aekus, Clerk/Treasurer. Stanley Janovsky, Jr, Road Commissioner. Tyler Lederer, DV News. Mary Wright, resident.

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

Scott M. Reed called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. Changes to the agenda were noted on the meeting copy.

**Hearing of Visitors** none

**Highway:**

Review and sign annual certificate of highway mileage The board reviewed the annual certificate of highway mileage for VTrans. There were no changes. **A motion was made by James Weber to approve and sign the Certificate of Highway Mileage for the year ending February 10, 2023, seconded by Greg Brown, all in favor.**

Review and sign access permit The board reviewed an access permit for Barry Passeser on Trails End Road (off Chapel Hill). Mr. Janovsky recommended a minimum of 30' wide access. **A motion was made by James Weber, to approve and sign the access permit for Barry Passerer, seconded by Robin Kingsley, all in favor.**

**Fishing Derby temporary traffic changes**

Change traffic patterns for annual fishing derby/limited atv use

Stanley Janovsky requested that the Selectboard allow a change in traffic patterns for the annual Fishing Derby. **A motion was made by Robin Kingsley to allow the following:**

*Beginning at 8am on Friday morning, January 20, 2023, to 8pm on Saturday, January 21, 2023 (bad weather/ice dates Friday, January 27, 2023 to Saturday, January 28, 2023) the following will be in force:*

*Sadawga Lake Road from Town Hill Road to Kentfield Road will be One Way Vehicular Traffic (north to south).*

*The second lane of Sadawga Lake Road will be reserved for parking.*

*Head of Pond Road will be open to include Recreational Vehicle travel.*

*It is anticipated that Recreational Vehicles will be in use on Maple Drive, Sadawga Lake Road, Kentfield Road to Head of Pond Road and on Head of Pond Road.*

**Seconded by Greg Brown, all in favor.**

### **Town Clerk**

Land records on the Cott System are still down after the hack.

Ms. Aekus has decided that this is her last term as town clerk, she has another two years left of her term. She plans to continue to do the Treasurer & Tax Collector after she gives up the Clerk position. She just celebrated 30 years working for the town. She has found a person who is interested in becoming her assistant now to learn the job and be able to run for the position when Ms. Aekus's term is over. Ms. Aekus estimates that she will go over her budget by about \$5,000 if she hires this person now.

**A motion was made by Greg Brown to approve \$18.00 per hour for a ten-hour a week assistant, seconded by James Weber, all in favor.**

### **Transfer Station**

Craig Hammer would like to reopen the Transfer Station at least every other Sunday, he feels people are getting less for their taxes now. The board feels that it would be better to do every Sunday because it would be less confusing. The board would like to wait until we know if we have a backup attendant.

The new HHW contractor asked if they can come on Friday to remove what was collected in October, the board approved of Mr. Davis being on site during the pickup.

### **Sewer: discuss email from ANR**

A pump was recently changed out. The Chief Operator is to check to confirm that the new pumps will be the same as the one they just installed.

Mr. Reed would like a summary of what the Chief Operator does on a daily basis. Gig will invite Mr. DiCantio to the next meeting.

We recently received an email from the ANR about the repairs on the riverbank at the Whitingham plant. They had ordered that we have the project reviewed by a geotechnical engineer if we found funding. We told them in March we had no funding for that. We still have no funding for such an expense at this time. The board would like Gig to respond that we have not found funding for a geotechnical engineer and the problem has been rectified.

### **Budget: third review of 23/24 budget**

Mrs. Robohm's request for an inventory: the board noted that the big ticket items are already in the town report and they don't plan to do any more.

Mr. Weber suggested a change under the Municipal Center to lower the cost of bottled gas, the board agreed it should change to \$6,000.

Mr. Brown questioned if there was a cushion built into the sewer budget for the assistant operator who may work more than 30 hours per week during the construction period? It should be clarified with Mr. DiCantio at the next meeting who will be on hand during construction.

**First review of Warning for Town Meeting**

The board reviewed the first draft of the Warning for Town Meeting. Discussion around a new article to increase the Reappraisal Fund; we are waiting for a figure from the Parks Committee for a new article they would like to add for funds to remodel and expand the picnic pavilion at Town Hill. January 19<sup>th</sup> is the last day for petitions for articles so we can't finalize the Warning yet.

The board was uncomfortable with the total budget submitted by the Parks Committee; they lowered the total budget to \$15,000 and suggested that if the Committee has big plans they should include funding request in the article mentioned above.

**Approval of Payables Warrant – January 12, 2023**

**A motion was made by James Weber to approve Payables Warrant #2328, dated January 12, 2023, seconded by Greg Brown, three in favor, Mr. Kingsley abstained.**

**Approval of Payroll Warrant – January 12, 2023**

**A motion was made by James Weber to approve Payroll Warrant #2327, dated January 12, 2023, seconded by Robin Kingsley, all in favor.**

**Review and approve Minutes of December 28, 2022**

**A motion was made by Robin Kingsley to accept the Minutes of December 28, 2022, as written, seconded by James Weber, all in favor.**

**Other business**

**Animal Control** The woman on School Street complained to the ACO again. When she met with the Selectboard she was told to gather complaints from her neighbors, apparently, she hasn't yet.

A dog on 8A is constantly running-at-large, there have been numerous complaints from the neighbors. The ACO has ticketed the dog owner in the past. Gig received a call from the mother of the young woman that owns the dog, they are going to try to retrain the dog to adhere to the invisible fence and keep it inside during the time frame that the neighbor's dogs are usually out in the morning and evening. For now, Gig suggested that no new fine be issued by the ACO.

**Traffic Fines** We received \$101.50 in traffic fines for December 2022.

**Adjourn**

**A motion to adjourn was made by James Weber, seconded by Scott M. Reed, all in favor.**

Scott M. Reed adjourned the meeting at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted, ~Gig Zboray