



**Town of Whitingham  
Office of the Selectboard**

**MINUTES OF JANUARY 19, 2022**

*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 special meeting at 6:30pm in the Selectboard Office of the Whitingham Municipal Center on Wednesday, January 19, 2022.

Selectboard members present: Scott Reed, Chair; Craig Hammer, Vice Chair, Greg Brown, Chris Walling, and James Weber.

Others present: Gig Zboray, Selectboard Office Administrator, Tyler Lederer, Deerfield Valley News. Michael Smith, engineer, joined remotely at approximately 7:15pm.

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

Scott Reed called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. There were no changes to the agenda since it was posted.

**Hearing of visitors (for concerns not on the agenda)**

None

**Discuss and decide on method of Town Meeting 2022**

Due to the ongoing pandemic the Governor recently signed S.172 Alternative Procedures for 2022 Annual Meetings in Response to COVID-19. This temporary law allows us to again hold town meeting by Australian ballot only to prevent large and close gatherings in an attempt to prevent the spread of the virus.

The board all agreed it was safer for the public to hold Town Meeting 2022 by Australian ballot. **A motion was made by Scott M. Reed to hold Town Meeting 2022 by Australian ballot, seconded by Chris Walling, all in favor.**

**Review and sign Warning for Town Meeting 2022**

The board reviewed the Warning. Gig noted that the copy of the document to sign is slightly different from the copy in the board's informational packet and the draft town report. The elected positions have been reorganized. Discussion around setting agency appropriation requests over \$4,000 as their own article.

**A motion was made by Greg Brown to sign the Warning for Town Meeting via Australian ballot with the addition of 4 articles for appropriation funding requests over \$4,000, seconded by Craig Hammer, all in favor.**

**Sewer: Discuss latest information from engineer and determine next step(s)**

The board reviewed the latest information from the engineers regarding the proposed costs of the project and each facet of it. Mr. Brown made it clear to the press that any numbers discussed tonight are hypothetical and we won't know any real numbers until bids come in.

The board would like the collection system as an add alternate.

Complaints about the 100 pages of addenda. W&S say that is normal. The state says they went through 20 years' worth of bids and found one 40-page addenda, that was the longest.

The new breakdown provided seems clear but might not be extremely accurate.

**Other business**

The board reviewed a draft letter to the Governor to request additional funding for our sewer project.

**A motion was made by Chris Walling to sign the letter to Governor Phil Scott requesting \$2M in additional funding for our sewer project to meet "this historic moment", seconded by James Weber, all in favor.**

**Executive session with Engineers to discuss contract amendment**

**A motion was made by James Weber to enter into executive session to discuss a contract amendment in accordance with 24 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)i to include Gig Zboray and Michael Smith, seconded by Craig Hammer, all in favor.**

Executive session was exited at 7:53 pm.

The Whitingham BioMax cost seems to be double billed, it is on both price sheets. The \$169,000 does not include the cost of purchase of the machine, it is the cost to set it up at Jacksonville and tear it down again. Smitty will have to sit down with Don Haddox to make sure the cost of the Whitingham unit is included in the Jacksonville bid as temporary treatment and make sure it is worded correctly.

Whitingham will be a bid alternate.

Mr. Brown asked if we could hash out these items could we get it out to bid by early February. As soon as Mr. Smith gets a signed contract amendment, he thinks it would be 2-3 weeks until the bid request goes out.

Two weeks is Friday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, the board said the 9<sup>th</sup> is the drop-dead due date. Once Mr. Smith gets the signed contract amendment back, he will pull his team together. We do not want to see it a day past 3 weeks. We have Smitty's word that he will do everything he can.

**A motion was made by Greg Brown to appoint Gig Zboray to sign the contract amendment as written, seconded by James Weber, all in favor.**

**Adjourn**

**A motion was made by Greg Brown to adjourn, seconded by James Weber, all in favor.**

Scott Reed adjourned the meeting at 8:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
~Gig Zboray