



**Town of Whitingham
Office of the Selectboard**

MINUTES OF JANUARY 22, 2025

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 22, 2025.

Selectboard members present: Scott M. Reed, Chair; James Weber, Vice Chair; and Lyman (Skip) Tefft, Jr.

Others present: Gig Zboray, Selectboard Administrator; Almira Aekus, Clerk/Treasurer; Rick Gramlin, resident.

Call to Order. Additions or Changes to Agenda

Scott M. Reed called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

Hearing of Visitors for concerns not on the agenda None.

Highway Nothing.

Town Meeting:

Discuss 1% Options Tax – add to Warning? The board discussed going with just rooms tax or all three (rooms, sales, and meals & alcoholic beverages). We all shop in Wilmington and never think about the extra 1%. The board would prefer to have one article for all three tax options. **A motion was made by Scott M. Reed to add all three tax options to the Warning, rather than just rooms tax, seconded by Skip Tefft, all in favor.** The 1% options tax should be earmarked for beautification and improvements to the town. We need to create that fund if the article is passed.

Review and approve town budget for fiscal year 25/26 Minor typos found: row 89, has a double T in VT; line 551 sewer electricity should be \$25,600. **A motion was made by James Weber to accept the proposed budget for fiscal year July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026, of \$821,444.00 of which \$425,246.00 to be raised in taxes, the balance to be offset by \$257,371.00 in anticipated revenues and \$138,827.00 appropriated from prior year's fund balance, seconded by Skip Tefft, all in favor.**

Review and approve highway budget for 25/26

A motion was made by James Weber to accept the proposed Highway budget for fiscal year July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026, of \$1,681,613.00 of which \$1,470,503.00 to be raised in taxes, the balance to be offset by \$138,676.00 in anticipated revenues and

\$72,434.00 appropriated from prior year's fund balance, seconded by Scott Reed, all in favor.

Review and sign Warning for Town meeting

After reviewing the Warning for Town Meeting, **a motion was made by James Weber to approve and sign the Warning for Town Meeting 2025, seconded by Skip Tefft, all in favor.**

Assessors Office: Review, approve and sign letter to request redetermination of equalization study

Nate Stoddard of NEMRC, our contracted appraiser, wrote a letter of response to the Vermont Department of Taxes regarding real estate sales that should be added to or removed from the equalization study. The board reviewed the letter. **A motion was made by James Weber to approve the letter and to appoint Scott M. Reed to sign it, seconded by Skip Tefft, all in favor.**

Approval of Payables Warrant – January 23, 2025

A motion was made by Scott M. Reed to approve Payables Warrant #W2530, dated January 23, 2025, seconded by Skip Tefft, all in favor.

Approval of Payroll Warrant – January 23, 2025

A motion was made by James Weber to approve Payroll Warrant #W2529, dated January 23, 2025, seconded by Scott Reed, all in favor.

Review and approve Minutes of January 8, 2025

A motion was made by Scott M. Reed to accept the Minutes of January 8, 2025, as written, seconded by James Weber, all in favor.

Other business

At Mr. Janovsky's request, Gig sent an email to the culvert engineer asking if the culvert can be extended 10 feet towards the south. They responded with a new drawing that clearly shows the culvert is 18 feet longer than the current culvert. It would cost considerably more to change the engineering at this time to make the culvert even longer. The design is better than we have currently, but it is not what we initially dreamed of.

Municipal Mowing bid was reviewed and approved for posting by the board.

Adjourn

A motion was made by James Weber to adjourn, seconded by Skip Tefft, all in favor.

Scott Reed adjourned the meeting at 7:03pm.

Respectfully submitted,
~Gig Zboray