



**Town of Whitingham
Office of the Selectboard**

MINUTES OF JANUARY 24, 2024

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 24, 2024.

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

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

Call to Order. Additions or Changes to Agenda

James Weber called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. There were no changes to the agenda.

Hearing of visitors (for concerns not on the agenda)

None.

Town Meeting: Review and sign Warning

Minor adjustments were made to the budget after last meeting, therefore updated motions were required: **A motion was made by Greg Brown to accept the proposed budget for fiscal year July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025, of \$768,609.00 of which \$399,887.00 to be raised in taxes, the balance to be offset by \$267,982.00 in anticipated revenues and \$100,740.00 appropriated from prior year's fund balance, seconded by Craig Hammer, all in favor.**

A motion was made by Greg Brown to accept the proposed Highway budget for fiscal year July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025, of \$1,628,053.00 of which \$1,473,589.00 to be raised in taxes, the balance to be offset by \$138,408.00 in anticipated revenues and \$16,056.00 appropriated from prior year's fund balance, seconded by James Weber, all in favor.

After reviewing the Warning for Town Meeting with the new budget figures above, **a motion was made by James Weber to approve and sign the Warning for Town Meeting 2024, seconded by Craig Hammer, all in favor.**

Personnel Policy: discuss nepotism

Mr. Janovsky suggested doing away with the nepotism section of the town Personnel Policy because all of our highway crew will be retiring in the next 5 years. A child of his might be interested in joining the town crew and the way the current policy is written it wouldn't be allowed to hire them before the parent retires. Mr. Weber suggested we add wording that if the best candidate/applicant is recommended that the Selectboard can discuss the nepotism aspect on a case-by-case basis. The board will discuss it further at the next meeting.

Sewer:

Review all remaining project alternates and decide which to proceed with A spreadsheet of all the remaining project alternates and some new project aspects was prepared by the engineer and Gig. The choices were weighted by several factors including safety and permit requirements. After reviewing the spreadsheet, the board would like more information about the particulars of each alternate.

Gig approved an expense of \$369 in order for a flow meter to work properly, this is not part of the project, it is something that SOS asked for.

Phone lines Gig noted that two new phone lines will be added to the Whitingham plant, one to the Jacksonville plant and one to the Whitingham Fire House this week. We may need an electrician to do any interior wiring needed at the Fire House, but the project electricians will handle the sewer plants.

Highway

Nothing. Mr. Janovsky was working on the roads tonight.

Tobacco License

In the past tobacco licenses were included with liquor licenses, but that changed recently. After review, **a motion was made by James Weber to approve the tobacco license for Village Fuel and Convenience, seconded by Greg Brown, all in favor.**

Animal Control: final review and adoption of updated Dog Ordinance

The Animal Control Ordinance was updated to become a Dog Ordinance and do away with most aspects that are not required by state statute, particularly the barking violation, which has proven to be very difficult to police and pits the town in the middle of neighbor disputes. **A motion was made by James Weber to adopt and sign the updated Dog Ordinance to become effective March 24, 2024, seconded by Craig Hammer, all in favor.**

Approval of Payables Warrant – January 25, 2024

The Payables Warrant is missing a check for \$222.03 to the Vermont Department of Labor for unemployment insurance. **A motion was made by Greg Brown to approve Payables Warrant #W2430 dated January 25, 2024 with the addition of \$222.03 to the VT Department of Labor, seconded by James Weber, all in favor.**

Approval of Payroll Warrant – January 25, 2024

A motion was made by James Weber to approve Payroll Warrant #W2429 dated January 25, 2024, seconded by Greg Brown, all in favor.

Review and approve Minutes of January 11, 2024

After the board approved the town and highway budgets at the last meeting minor corrections were made, see the new motions above to accept the updated budgets under "Town Meeting: Review and sign Warning". **A motion was made by Greg Brown to accept the Minutes of January 11, 2024, as written (but recognizing that the budget numbers have now changed slightly), seconded by James Weber, all in favor.**

Other business

None

Adjourn

A motion was made by Greg Brown to adjourn, seconded by Craig Hammer, all in favor.

James Weber adjourned the meeting at 7:06pm.

Respectfully submitted,
~Gig Zboray