



**Town of Whitingham
Office of the Selectboard**

MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 26, 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 special meeting at 5:30pm in the Selectboard office of the Whitingham Municipal Center on Wednesday, February 26, 2025.

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

Others present: Gig Zboray, Selectboard Administrator.

Call to Order. Additions or Changes to Agenda

Scott M. Reed called the meeting to order at 5:30pm. Any changes to the agenda were noted on the meeting copy.

Hearing of Visitors for concerns not on the agenda none

Appoint temporary treasurer with authority to sign checks, etc.:

Effective March 4, 2025, Almira Aekus's term as treasurer is officially over and with it terminates Marylee Putnam's title of assistant treasurer, that leaves no one with authority to sign checks. We could potentially appoint a treasurer before that date but to be safe, Gig suggested we appoint an official check signer until the position is properly filled. **A motion was made by James Weber to appoint Almira Aekus to sign checks for the Town of Whitingham until the Selectboard appoints the next Treasurer, seconded by Scott M. Reed, all in favor.**

Discuss hourly rate to pay prior clerk/treasurer for training new position holders

Almira Aekus is willing to work some evenings to ensure that the Town Clerk's office functions (filing of land records, etc.). She is willing to provide some training to the new clerk and the new treasurer. **A motion was made by Scott M. Reed to pay Almira Aekus \$40 per hour for any hours worked starting on March 5, 2025, seconded by James Weber, all in favor.**

Discuss how to proceed with reassessment of Great River Hydro:

At last week's meeting we met with George Sansoucy about his firm reassessing Great River Hydro (GRH), he suggested also reassessing all the utilities in town and then provided a contract for either option. Since that time, Gig spoke with several state officials in the Vermont Property Valuation and Review department. They said that the state provides the value for the smaller utilities, we have no say in the value they place. They also noted that through the CALAP program which we were already approved for, the state would contract

with Sansoucy for the reassessment of GRH and provide attorney(s) for any legal needs to defend the value. Whether we contracted with Sansoucy or the state does, we would have the same (small) voice in the value. Gig suggested that we use the CALAP program to let the state pay for it. **A motion was made by Scott M. Reed to allow the state to contract with Sansoucy for the reassessment of GRH, seconded by James Weber, all in favor.**

Other business

Review and sign Vermont 250th Anniversary resolution the state is looking for all towns to sign a resolution declaring that the town plans to officially establish a liaison to work with the Vermont 250th Anniversary Commission on any or all activities and that the town may provide funding for planning or implementation of 250th related commemorations. Commemorations will begin in 2025 and finish in 2027. We could potentially include some commemoration(s) into our Old Home Week 2026 celebration. **A motion was made by James Weber to approve and sign the “Vermont 250th Anniversary Resolution” and to appoint Gig Zboray to be the liaison, seconded by Skip Tefft, all in favor.** We will get free stickers and magnets.

Adjourn

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

Scott M. Reed adjourned the meeting at 5:37pm.

Respectfully submitted,
~Gig Zboray