



**Town of Whitingham
Office of the Selectboard**

MINUTES OF MARCH 18, 2026

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, March 18, 2026.

Selectboard members present: Scott Reed, Chair; James Weber, Vice Chair; Rick Gramlin; Craig Hammer; and Lyman (Skip) Tefft.

Others present: Gig Zboray, Selectboard Administrator; Stanley Janovsky, Jr., Road Commissioner; Sara Martin, Liz Fournier, Karl Twitchell, Adam Buursma, residents; Wendy Harrison, Nader Hashim, and Emily Carris Duncan, state representatives. Robert Fisher, town attorney.

Call to Order. Pledge of Allegiance. Additions or Changes to Agenda

Scott M. Reed called the meeting to order at 6:30pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Changes to the agenda were noted on the meeting copy. Items may be shuffled depending on when Mr. Buursma arrives and when our state representatives get online for the discussion.

Hearing of visitors (for concerns not on the agenda)

None.

Emergency Management

Annual adoption of Local Emergency Management Plan

Each year the Local Emergency Management Plan is updated. **A motion was made by James Weber to approve the Local Emergency Management Plan (LEMP) and to appoint Scott M. Reed and Gig Zboray to sign it, seconded by Rick Gramlin, all in favor.**

Annual Delegation of Authority

Each year a letter is approved to designate Gig Zboray, Emergency Management Director, with authority to purchase supplies as needed for a local emergency. **A motion was made by James Weber to approve and sign the annual delegation of authority to Gig Zboray, seconded by Skip Tefft, all in favor.**

Highway: sign annual documents for AOT

Annual review of Town Road and Bridge Standards, Certification of Compliance for Town Road and Bridge Standards and Network Inventory, Annual Financial Plan – Town Highways. **A motion was made by Scott M. Reed to approve and sign the three documents, seconded by Skip Tefft, all in favor.**

Hazard Mitigation: removal of garage:

Adam Buursma would like to remove the garage at 2984 VT Route 100 (the old Kingsley property). He spoke with the contractors, and they are OK with it. Gig reached out to the state about it but didn't get an answer yet.

Mr. Weber is concerned about others wanting to go on the property to salvage items from the property. Mr. Hammer is concerned about the liability if removal compromises the integrity of the structure. Mr. Reed suggested that the demo company might be able to come separate the garage from the house. Mr. Buursma carries general liability and workers compensation. Gig to check with state and VLCT.

Transfer Station: compactor repair estimate

At the last meeting Emily Barbieri mentioned that her husband, RJ, could likely make the repairs to the compactor. Mr. Barbieri looked at the compactor and provided an estimate of \$941.20 saying he thinks only the leaking hydraulic line and fittings need to be replaced, the other work in the Casella estimate is unnecessary. **A motion was made by Scott M. Reed to approve the estimate and appoint Scott M. Reed to sign it, seconded by James Weber, all in favor.**

Approval of Payables Warrant – March 19, 2026

A motion was made by Skip Tefft to approve Payables Warrant #W2638 dated March 19, 2026, seconded by Scott M. Reed, all in favor.

Approval of Payroll Warrant – March 19, 2026

A motion was made by Craig Hammer to approve Payroll Warrant #W2637 dated March 19, 2026, seconded by Skip Tefft, all in favor.

Review and approve Minutes of March 4, 2026

A motion was made by James Weber to accept the Minutes of March 4, 2026, as written, seconded by Skip Tefft, all in favor.

Resignation of James Weber, review and sign Notice of Vacancy

Mr. Weber notified the board by email on March 13th that he would be resigning from his position on the Selectboard at the end of tonight's meeting. The board accepted Mr. Weber's resignation with regret and reviewed the Notice of Vacancy to appoint someone rather than hold a special election. **A motion was made by Craig Hammer to approve the Notice of Vacancy and to appoint Scott M. Reed to sign it, seconded by Skip Tefft, all in favor.** Gig will post the Notice on the town website, in the newspaper, and on bulletin boards.

Other business

The Selectboard agreed to cover the entire cost of a Home Town Hero banner for Pete Cromack.

Mr. Weber asked the Jacksonville Electric board if they would donate the labor and equipment to hang the banners, they are asking the town to pay "at cost". The linemen have now volunteered their time, the town would have to pay for the fuel used in the bucket trucks. Mr. Weber noted that permission was received from the telephone company to use the poles.

Gig and Brad Lackey started working on updating the sewer ordinance. Chris Hayes has resigned from Simon Operations; Dylan Bell is now our Chief Operator and Anthony Cone is Assistant Chief Operator.

Approximately 7pm: Discussion about Act 181

Summary of the Discussion provided by AI from the recording transcript:

Mr. Weber raised concerns about how certain properties—specifically land owned by an electrical utility—are undervalued because they fall under federal regulations governing electrical businesses. He explained that the land is assessed at far lower values than it would be if privately owned, which creates frustration and potential complications for local planning and taxation. He noted that in Whitingham, a large amount of land is owned by the utility company and cannot be developed, which makes the town’s situation unique. He worries that if land values or classifications change—such as becoming Tier 3—it could create further issues, even though he acknowledges some of these scenarios may be unlikely due to federal rules.

The conversation briefly touched on broader policies like “30 by 30” and “50 by 50,” which Mr. Hammer suggested could further limit land use. Ms. Carris Duncan acknowledged Mr. Hammer’s knowledge of these issues, referencing his background.

Discussion continued speaking informally about:

- wanting to preserve power-company-owned land,
- feeling that certain regulatory targets (like the 800-foot rule) are unreasonable,
- wanting to be kept informed about developments,

There was discussion about the proposed map, Gig noted that the Windham Regional Commission will attend the May 6th Planning Commission meeting (at 6pm) to discuss Act 181, show the draft map(s) and answer questions. Mr. Hashim sent a link to the map.

Executive Session with town attorney to discuss ongoing litigation

A motion was made by Scott M. Reed to enter into executive session to discuss confidential attorney-client communications in accordance with 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1) to include Attorney Robert Fisher and Gig Zboray, seconded by James Weber, all in favor.

With no decisions made, executive session was exited at 8:20pm.

Adjourn

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

Scott Reed adjourned the meeting at 8:22pm.

Respectfully submitted,
~Gig Zboray