



**Town of Whitingham  
Office of the Selectboard**

**MINUTES OF APRIL 24, 2024 Special Meeting**

*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 7:15pm in the Selectboard Office of the Whitingham Municipal Center on Wednesday, April 24, 2024.

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

Others present: Gig Zboray, Selectboard Office Administrator. Justin LaSelva, Matt Myska, Seth Boyd, and Aysha Peltz, residents.

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

Scott M. Reed called the meeting to order at 7:24pm. Changes to the agenda were noted on the meeting copy.

**Hearing of Visitors for concerns not on the agenda**

Justin LaSelva to complain about a dog constantly running at large on Merrifield Road. Dog is owned by Joe Corriston. Mr. LaSelva has complained to the ACO "at least 11 times". Gig heard from the ACO about it in March and told him to ticket the dog and/or catch it.

**Parks Committee: Open pavilion expansion bids**

At the 2023 Annual Town Meeting the voters approved Article 12, to appropriate \$46,000 to expand and remodel the picnic pavilion at Town Hill Common. A request for proposals was issued March 21<sup>st</sup> with a deadline of April 17th at 2pm. Two bids were received:

Dovetail Tradition, LLC at \$62,309 for timber frame.

Pioneer Timber Frames at \$56,993 for timber frame and \$54,058 for pressure treated posts, braces, and top plates, all other specs included.

Both bids are over the approved budget. Mr. Myska of Dovetail Tradition, LLC noted that if the concrete was just on a slab, it would be less expensive. If it was a floating Alaska slab it would be approximately \$10K less.

Mr. Boyd will speak with the two bidders to find out how to lower the cost. The topic will continue at May 1<sup>st</sup> meeting.

**WISPr Project(s): review and sign Resolution to Authorize Indebtedness**

In conjunction with our sewer project the state will provide us with funding equal to 10% of our sewer loan for environmental/clean water (flood hazard mitigation) projects through a program called WISPr. There are several projects listed in the River Corridor Plan that are in the scoping phase now and should be ready for design/construction soon that this funding could pay for. The state is looking for a Selectboard Resolution to Authorize Indebtedness in order to move forward with the funding. The town is not actually supposed to incur any indebtedness, although we don't know the cost of these projects or the total funding that will be available to us yet. We do have money available in the hazard mitigation fund if necessary. **A motion was made by Scott M. Reed to approve and sign the Resolution to Authorize Indebtedness in conjunction with WISPr funding for hazard mitigation project(s) in town, seconded by James Weber, all in favor.**

**Hazard Mitigation: ratify MOU with WRC for downstream project**

The Windham Regional Commission has prepared a Memorandum of Understanding for their work on the downstream project. Their fees are included and will be paid by the Design Implementation Block Grant (DIBG). **A motion was made by Greg Brown to ratify the signing of the MOU with WRC by James Weber last week, seconded by James Weber, all in favor.**

**Animal Control: ratify Animal Holding contract with Humane Society**

There were no changes in the annual contract for animal holding with the Humane Society. Because the regular Selectboard meeting was cancelled James Weber signed the document last week. **A motion was made by Greg Brown to ratify the signing of the contract for Animal Holding with the Windham County Humane Society, seconded by James Weber, all in favor.**

**Other business**

Connex box: Kingsbury Construction is willing to sell the town the Connex box that is currently at the Municipal Center parking lot for a cost of \$3,000. Anthony Campbell of Kingsbury suggested it could be used for additional storage of the required redundant parts at the Jacksonville plant. They will move it for us. The board would like the box for sewer storage, they would like it hidden behind the building if possible.

Fines we received \$761 in fines for March.

**Adjourn**

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

Scott Reed adjourned the meeting at 8:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,

~Gig Zboray