



**Town of Whitingham
Office of the Selectboard**

MINUTES OF JUNE 30, 2021

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, June 30, 2021.

Selectboard members present: Scott Reed, Chair; Craig Hammer, Vice Chair; Chris Walling, and James Weber. Phil Edelstein attended remotely.

Others present: Gig Zboray, Selectboard Office Administrator; Stanley Janovsky, Road Commissioner; Chief Matthew Murano, Wilmington Police Department; Laura Sibilica, state representative; and James Martin, Deerfield Valley Sportsmen's Club President.

Others attending remotely: Michael Smith, sewer engineer;

Call to Order. Additions or Changes to Agenda

Scott Reed called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. There were minor changes to the agenda since it was posted.

Hearing of visitors (for concerns not on the agenda) none

Policing: discuss renewing contract

Chief Murano came to the table to hear what the board had to say about how the policing has been going since Wilmington started providing coverage in April. The PD is still getting complaint calls and they have been directing those callers to notify the state police. There is a statewide staffing shortage with small applicant pools; in the long-term Chief Murano feels that some changes might benefit the town, if we had a longer term contract he feels he could hire another officer so he wouldn't have to pay overtime. The Selectboard has heard no negative comments from residents about policing. The board is willing to be flexible and also willing to have a discussion down the road about how to improve it. Gig will forward the updated contract for the new fiscal year (not to exceed the budgeted amount of \$9,000) to the Chief.

Deerfield Valley Sportsmen's Club: discuss vandalism

James Martin, president of the Deerfield Valley Sportsmen's Club informed the Selectboard and Chief Murano that someone is tossing large screws into the parking area of the club. Mr. Martin is concerned that the mower blades might spit those screws into Fowler Road. Mr. Martin is aware that the board cannot do anything, he just wanted them to be aware.

Sewer

Latest status of our project/discuss funding options Laura Sibilica came to the table, she has spoken with ANR, a lot of money has been earmarked for water/waste water. Ms. Sibilica asked

Mr. Smith of Weston & Sampson Engineers (W&S) if we have BOD capacity, that apparently is an asset; yes, we are running at 50% capacity. Mr. Edelstein asked if we could ask the Rural Utility Service (RUS) of the USDA for a grant. The answer seemed to be that it is easier to get money through the state than the federal government. Mr. Smith has spent quite a lot of time with ANR over the last 2 weeks. They looked at reducing the scope with Kingsbury, focusing on Jacksonville and only purchasing the equipment for Whitingham. W&S recommends rebidding the project for common sense reasons. ANR said that in order to rebid the project we need to change the scope, the proposed change is to remove the roof extensions wanted for safety reasons. Another complicating factor is that we can't get any ARPA funding yet. Ms. Sibilica asked if there is a maximum that the state will reimburse. Right now, because the sewer users fall below the MHI we qualify for 27% grant. The best answer is for the town to lobby the state very hard, Whitingham has moved up on the priority list.

Other funding programs that may be available would be low interest loans but that still will increase user rates.

Mr. Smith suggested town officials, state representative and all the various departments of ANR all meet to discuss how best to move this project forward; he will create a doodle poll to see who can meet when.

Mr. Smith also suggested that the town rewrite the sewer ordinance to accept a new sewer user that has a large usage of capacity (brewery). We currently have a new draft ordinance in the works already.

A motion was made by Scott Reed to not accept the Kingsbury Construction bid due to the fact that is beyond the town budget, seconded by James Weber, all in favor.

A motion was made by Scott Reed to put the sewer project out for rebidding after the scope is modified at a later date, seconded by Chris Walling, all in favor. The hope here is that the project can go out to bid in the fall and be ready for early spring of 2022 construction and for current high cost of materials due to the Corona Virus to return to lower pricing.

Consider request to close account J22 a letter was received from Robert Root, owner of 130 VT Route 112. There has been no dwelling on the property for several years. He requested to be disconnected from the sewer system. He understands that if he does decide in the future to rebuild, he would have to pay the connection fee. **A motion was made by Craig Hammer to allow account J22 to be removed from the sewer billing, a letter will be written to clarify that any reconnect will be at the current rate at the time of reconnection, seconded by Chris Walling, four in favor, James Weber abstained.**

Junk: Mr. Liddy's proposed changes to Junk Ordinance

At the last meeting Mr. John Liddy volunteered to propose changes to the Junk Ordinance. Mr. Liddy did not attend the meeting, nor provide any suggested changes.

Animal Control: review and sign annual Contract for Animal Holding

The Humane Society will safely hold animals for the Animal Control Officer as needed. The annual fee is \$350. **A motion was made by Chris Walling to appoint Scott Reed to sign the annual Contract for Animal Holding, seconded by James Weber, all in favor.**

Flood Resiliency: review and sign agreement with Two-Rivers

The Two Rivers-Ottauquechee Regional Commission is proving funding for the 20% match required on the FEMA grant to buy-out 2984 VT Route 100. **A motion was made by Craig Hammer to appoint James Weber to sign the VHCB Flood-damaged Property Subgrant Agreement with Two Rivers-Ottauquechee Regional Commission, seconded by Chris Walling, all in favor.**

Audit: review and sign Scope of Services contract with Sullivan-Powers

The board reviewed and signed a Scope of Services contract with Sullivan-Powers to perform the annual audit of fiscal year 20/21. **A motion was made by James Weber to approve and sign the contract with Sullivan-Powers, seconded by Craig Hammer, all in favor.**

Transfer Station: review and sign HHW service agreement/estimate

Clean Management Environmental Group, Inc. provided a cost estimate of \$1,938.60 to haul away Household Hazardous Waste in the fall of 2021. The board reviewed the estimate. **A motion was made by Craig Hammer to appoint James Weber to sign service agreement #54424 with Clean Management, seconded by Chris Walling, all in favor.**

Approval of Payables Warrant – July 1, 2021

A motion was made by Craig Hammer to approve Payables Warrant #W2202 dated July 1, 2021, seconded by Scott Reed, all in favor.

Approval of Payroll Warrant – July 1, 2021

A motion was made by Chris Walling to approve Payroll Warrant #W2201 dated July 1, 2021, seconded by James Weber, all in favor.

Approve Minutes of June 16, 2021

A motion was made by Chris Walling to accept the Minutes of June 16, 2021, as written, seconded by James Weber, all in favor.

Other Business

Hungry Lion Bike Tour The Hungry Lion Bike Tour will be September 25th starting at Town Hill, they asked that the potties are clean and upright for the event.

Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recover Funding (CLFRF) The CLFRF is the newest terminology for the American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA). In order to accept CLFRF/ARPA funding the board must confirm they want to accept it along with the required “Award Terms and Conditions” and “Assurances of Compliance with Civil Rights Requirements” and an authorized representative must be appointed who will sign the Acceptance of Award Terms, and a contact appointed who will accept all communications regarding funding and perform the administrative tasks associated with the ARPA/CLFRF funding such as tracking and managing the terms and conditions, compliance, reporting, etc.. **A motion was made by Chris Walling for the Town of Whitingham to accept its allocation of Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funding (CLFRF) from the US Treasury, along with the Award Terms Conditions and Assurances of Compliance with Civil Rights Requirements that are requirements to accept these funds, seconded by Scott Reed, all in favor.**

A motion was made by James Weber to appoint Scott Reed to act as “Authorized Representative” as required by the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funding (CLFRF)

from the US Treasury, to sign the Award Terms & Conditions and Assurances of Compliance with the Civil Rights Requirements, seconded by Chris Walling, all in favor.

A motion was made by Craig Hammer to name Almira Aekus as the “Contact Person” for the Town of Whitingham CLFRF Award from the US Treasury, seconded by James Weber, all in favor.

Review and sign thank you letter to Mr. & Mrs. Corse When Wayne Corse was a Selectboard member in July of 2020 he offered to provide the sewer engineers with information he had about the flood plain for property he owned on Sprague Brook Road adjacent to the Jacksonville sewer plant. A letter of thanks was reviewed and signed by the board. **A motion was made by Scott Reed to sign the letter, seconded by Chris Walling, all in favor.**

Current Use Hold Harmless Estimate for FY 22 The board received a “Hold Harmless” estimate for properties enrolled in the Current Use program of \$56,804.

Adjourn

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

Scott Reed adjourned the meeting at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted, ~Gig Zboray