



**Town of Whitingham
Office of the Selectboard**

MINUTES OF JULY 3, 2019

These Minutes shall be accepted into the public record (with any corrections noted) at a future meeting of the Whitingham Selectboard.

The Whitingham Selectboard held a regular meeting on Wednesday, July 3, 2019 at 6:30pm in the Selectboard Office of the Municipal Center, 2948 VT Route 100, Jacksonville, VT.

Selectboard members present: Wayne Wood, Vice Chair and members: Wayne Corse, and Craig Hammer.

Others present: Gig Zboray, Selectboard Office Administrator; Stanley Janovsky, Road Commissioner; Linda Donaghue, Deerfield Valley News; Dan Hollister, ACO; Mark Hanna, resident and member of Lions Club

Call to Order. Additions or Changes to Agenda.

Wayne Wood called the meeting to order at 6:32pm. There were two additions to the agenda under other business; review and sign Municipal Resolution and review and sign generator contract.

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

Mark Hanna re: Hungry Lion bike tour

Mark Hanna, member of the Lions Club, came to the table to provide information to the Selectboard about the annual Hungry Lion Bike Tour. This year's event will be on September 28, 2019. Last year they grossed about \$42,000 mainly earmarked for food security. Their needs for the event are clean potties and power for communications. They will provide the town with an insurance certificate, they will notify EMT services of all the towns the bike routes travel through. Mr. Janovsky noted that Kentfield Road probably won't be freshly paved, but it should be easily passable for racing bike tires. Mr. Hanna requested that the event be posted on the town website. Mr. Corse asked Gig to contact the Town Hill Committee to see how they want to handle bookings at Town Hill.

Animal Control

Leftovers from earlier Vicious Dog Hearing none

Response to 8A animal/ticketing issue Justin and Crystal Benz of 3156 Route 8A have 2 dogs that have not been registered even though they were informed of the requirement when one of their dogs was lost and then found by the Animal Control Officer. On June 25th Dan Hollister went to their house to issue the citations for unregistered dogs and no proof of rabies, at the time he only had 2 tickets in his book so he could not issue the 6 tickets required. When Mr. Benz returned home and found out about the tickets, he was irate and called Mr. Hollister to tell him his property is posted as "no trespassing" and he is not allowed on his property in the future, nor is anybody allowed on his property. Mr. Hollister explained the whole situation to

Rich Watkin as a law officer, who said that Mr. Hollister was on the property within the context of his position but now that he has been informed by the owner, he is no longer allowed to enter the property. Since the incident the owners did register their dogs. In the future Mr. Hollister can mail the tickets as per information provided by the State Police.

Void 3 Citations Dan Hollister issued 3 citations to resident on a dog named Addy. He has since learned that Addy no longer lives in town and would like the Selectboard to void the citations through the Judicial Bureau. A letter was reviewed. **A motion was made by Wayne Corse to sign the letter to the Judicial Bureau requesting that they void citations numbered 106236, 118232 and 118233 per the ACOs request, seconded by Craig Hammer, all in favor.**

Breeders License or Kennel License In the past Mr. Hollister was told that there is no need to have a special license for a resident with 16 dogs, this resident has never been on the annual Dog Warrants for more than a week. Due to the expense of registration he is keeping some dogs out of state, but he would rather have a special license so that his dogs can be kept locally. Mr. Hollister spoke with VLCT and was informed that this resident doesn't qualify for a kennel license but he would qualify for a breeders license. Mr. Hollister requests that the town come to some sort of arrangement to allow the resident to have a breeder's license. The town clerk will need to find the appropriate form to allow this resident to file it and pay the appropriate fee. The breeder license will need to be renewed every year by April 1st. Each dog would receive an individual tag because each dog would need to have a rabies certificate. The Selectboard is open to approving the breeders license, they would like to wait to make a decision until after Mr. Hollister meets with the resident again.

Citations There are 7 owners with 24 dog currently unregistered. Mr. Hollister questioned if he should continue issuing citations, now for third offense. The Selectboard, at a prior meeting, had instructed Mr. Hollister to follow the Ordinance and they feel he should continue in that manner.

Blueberry Festival

Jenepher Burnell came to the table as a representative of the Economic Development Group. There will be Blueberry Festival activities in Jacksonville on Friday, August 2nd including a car show at Brigg's, a street market in the Eames Village Park, a church dinner at the Municipal Center and children's activities. The EDG requests that the Selectboard prohibit parking at the Eames Village Park from 2-8pm on August 2nd and for the Selectboard to send letters to the neighbors and the General Store. Parking is available across the street from the church, or at the Municipal Center. Ms. Burnell offered the Stone Soldier parking lot. **A motion was made by Wayne Corse to prohibit parking from noon to 8pm on August 2nd and for Gig to put out letters and notices to that effect, seconded by Craig Hammer, all in favor.**

Municipal Center-floor refinishing

Miles Danaher has refinished the floors in the dining hall for years. Almira Aekus had originally anticipated having the floors done in the fall but because Senior Meals is taking the month of July off, she felt it was better to do it while they were gone. The Selectboard agrees that July would be a good time to do it.

Transfer Station

Nothing

Sewer Department

Last we heard we were supposed to get the 20-year Evaluation Report from the Engineers by the end of June. Gig contacted them on Monday, July 1st and they responded that we should have it early next week.

Highway Department-adopt updated Town Road and Bridge Standards

Stanley Janovsky, Jr. came to the table and informed the board that one of the requirements of the Municipal Roads General Permit (MRGP) is to adopt updated Town Road and Bridge Standards. If we don't adopt their standards we would miss out on grants. The Selectboard reviewed the document. There were a few minor changes from the standards last year, nothing major. **A motion was made by Craig Hammer to adopt the 2019 Town Road and Bridge Standards as written, seconded by Wayne Corse, all in favor.**

Mr. Janovsky shared a funny story about Japanese knotweed. In the past he has spoken with a VTrans boss who said that they are teaching their employees about best practices in dealing with knotweed. Stan spoke with a VTrans employee and that employee didn't even know what knotweed was! The Selectboard is concerned about the spread of Japanese knotweed and concerned about the lack of knowledge that VTrans employees have. Craig Hammer suggested that information be posted on the town website.

Listers none

Approval of Payables Warrant – July 4, 2019

A motion was made by Craig Hammer to approve Payables Warrant W2002 dated July 4, 2019, seconded by Wayne Corse, all in favor.

Approval of Payroll Warrant – July 3, 2019

A motion was made by Wayne Corse to approve Payroll Warrant W2001 dated July 3, 2019, seconded by Craig Hammer, all in favor.

Approval of Minutes of June 19 and 24, 2019

A motion was made by Craig Hammer to approve the Minutes of June 19 and 24, 2019 as written, seconded by Wayne Corse, all in favor.

Other business / Office Administrator – as needed

Gig closed out a Municipal Planning Grant last week however the final requisition of funds could not be made because the authorized individuals were prior Selectboard members. Gig prepared a new Municipal Resolution to appoint Wayne Wood and Wayne Corse as the new authorized individuals. **A motion was made by Wayne Corse to approve the amended Municipal Resolution, seconded by Craig Hammer, all in favor.**

Today we received the annual invoice from Brookfield Service for a preventive maintenance agreement for the generator at the school. The town installed the generator and maintains it if the school is needed for a shelter. A letter was sent to the school in 2017 telling them that a new oil tank was purchased, and the town filled it for emergency purposes only, if the school wanted to use the generator as backup power, they are responsible to keep the tank full. We never heard back from them. The payment of \$722 for one year is on the payables warrant. **A motion was made by Wayne Corse to appoint Wayne Wood to sign the contract, seconded by Craig Hammer, all in favor.**

The Town Clerk's office will be closed on Friday, July 5th as well as many other town offices in the state, therefore Gig will close the Selectboard Office also.

Law Enforcement Follow Up

Westminster State Police cannot cover Whitingham because they are short-staffed. Shaftsbury barracks charges \$75 per hour and would only charge a half hour of travel time only under extreme measures, they would not charge us for court appearances, they will not run a money making effort by issuing lots of tickets, they believe in education more than ticketing, they can support 4-5 hours per week at the most. The difference between troopers and Sheriffs is that they will take 911 calls, but the Sheriffs are more focused on traffic violations. The State Police will send new troopers fresh out of the academy to the town for free, so they get to know the whole region (a few hours free per month).

Sheriffs may charge for court appearances; they would charge for travel time for the full amount of time depending on where they came from. They might short us a few hours if we had a monthly contract with a specific hours per month but say they would "make it up" to us. If we contract, say for four hours per month they cannot guarantee that they will be here four hours per month.

Mr. Wood will type up all his research on law enforcement.

Craig Hammer noted he may not be at the July 31st meeting.

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by Wayne Corse, seconded by Craig Hammer, all in favor.

Wayne Wood adjourned the meeting at 7:52pm.

Respectfully submitted,

~Gig Zboray