



**Town of Whitingham  
Office of the Selectboard**

**MINUTES OF JULY 12, 2023**

*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, July 12, 2023.

Selectboard members present: Scott M. Reed, Chair; James Weber, Vice Chair; Greg Brown, Craig Hammer, and Robin Kingsley.

Others present: Gig Zboray, Selectboard Office Administrator; Stan Janovsky, Jr., Road Commissioner; Joseph Maguire, Casella; Dave DiCantio, Chief Operator; Almira Aekus, Clerk/Treasurer; Daniel Parker, resident; Olga Peters, Deerfield Valley News.

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

Scott M. Reed called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. Changes to the agenda were noted on the meeting copy.

**Hearing of visitors (for concerns not on the agenda)**

None

**Set the municipal tax rate for 2023/24:**

Almira Aekus came to the table suggesting the Municipal Tax Rate to be set at \$.756 per \$100 and the local agreement rate at \$.0036 (last year \$.7444 and \$.003). She provided a spreadsheet with other options for the board to review. **A motion was made by Greg Brown to set the 2023/2024 municipal tax rate at \$.756 per \$100 and the local agreement tax rate at \$.0036, for a combined tax rate of \$.7596 per \$100 as recommended by the Town Treasurer, seconded by Robin Kingsley, all in favor.**

The Vermont Department of Taxes provided the Education Tax Rates for Fiscal Year 2024 – the Non-Homestead Tax Rate is \$1.6188 (last year \$1.5365) and the Homestead Tax Rate is \$1.7927 (last year \$1.5729).

Last year the residential/school combined rate was 2.3499. The projected 2024 rate would be 2.5523, an increase of .2024.

Last year the non-residential/school combined rate was 2.311. The projected 2024 rate would be \$2.3784 an increase of .0649.

### **Set the sewer rate for 2023/24**

Ms. Aekus suggested the sewer rate not be set until the audit is complete. Mr. Weber wants to go over the EU assignments and the classifications, we need need to discuss the new tap room. Mr. Brown suggested using a set number of students and/or employees for the school and businesses so we don't have to contact them each year. Review of the EU assignments will be on the next agenda.

### **Highway: review and approve access permit:**

Mr. Janovsky presented an access permit for Donald Hain at 119 Kentfield Road, he did not set any conditions on the permit. **A motion was made by Scott M. Reed to approve the access permit for 119 Kentfield Road seconded by Robin Kingsley, all in favor.**

### **Transfer Station:**

Joseph Maguire of Casella addressed the board to discuss a contract for waste removal.

Trucking will increase to \$420 per haul. Many options were discussed. The most intriguing idea is to get a much taller container for the mixed recyclables (comingled), it would double the tonnage and therefore cut down on the cost of hauling. Mr. Maguire will create a spreadsheet showing some different options and their costs.

Gig noted that John Ellison is interested in covering Sunday transfer station hours if we want to reopen on Sundays. The board found that costs are definitely increasing so we don't want to increase wages at this time. Gig hasn't had any complaints about the transfer station not being open on Sundays anymore.

### **Review and sign policing contract**

Today we received the updated annual contract with Wilmington Police Department to provide patrol coverage. Their rates have increased 8% and mileage increased 3 cents per mile. The contract is not to exceed \$14,000 for the fiscal year (per our budget). **A motion was made by James Weber to approve the contract with Wilmington Police Department for the fiscal year July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 and to appoint Scott M. Reed to sign it, seconded by Greg Brown, all in favor.**

### **Approval of Payables Warrant – July 13, 2023**

**A motion was made by James Weber to approve Payables Warrant #W2402 dated July 13, 2023, seconded by Greg Brown, all in favor.**

### **Approval of Payroll Warrant – July 13, 2023**

**A motion was made by James Weber to approve Payroll Warrant #W2401 dated July 13, 2023, seconded by Greg Brown, all in favor.**

### **Review and approve Minutes of June 28, 2023**

**A motion was made by James Weber to accept the Minutes of June 28, 2023, as written, seconded by Greg Brown, all in favor.**

### **Other business**

**Sign letter to school** A letter was drafted to the school board asking for a payment of one-third of the cost of the fence at town hill around the communications equipment that the school busses use. The board reviewed the letter and appointed Scott M. Reed to sign it.

**Sewer: discuss updated job descriptions, testing, and Whitingham plant**

**A motion was made by James Weber to enter into private session to discuss employee work assignments in accordance with 1 V.S.A. §312(g) to include Gig Zboray and Dave DiCantio, seconded by Greg Brown, all in favor.**

Private session was entered 7:16pm and exited at 7:45pm.

The board reviewed the proposed changes to the job descriptions. A motion was made by James Weber to accept the sewer job descriptions with the changes as discussed. Gig will finalize them.

Mr. Weber mentioned his discussion with the engineer about new sheetrock needed in the Jacksonville plant before the new electrical conduit is installed. Mr. Weber suggested we approve the added alternate for sheetrock. Discussion then ensued about having a meeting with Power Donnelly to discuss the issue and find out if the price includes insulation and if we could use that white plastic board used in restaurant kitchens to prevent mold.

Mr. Weber would like photos of Whitingham samples for at least the next week but especially during heavy rain periods.

Mr. DiCantio mentioned that the new RBC is working great; he is impressed with the cloth filter. Gig should ask Smitty how much the cloth filter is and how often they have to be replaced.

**Adjourn**

**A motion was made by Scott Reed to adjourn, seconded by Craig Hammer, all in favor.**

Scott Reed adjourned the meeting at 8:13pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
~Gig Zboray