



**Town of Whitingham  
Office of the Selectboard**

**MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 4, 2024**

*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, September 4, 2024.

Selectboard members present: Scott M. Reed, Chair; James Weber, Vice Chair; and Travis Wheeler. Greg Brown attended remotely.

Others present: Gig Zboray, Selectboard Office Administrator; Almira Aekus, Clerk/Treasurer/Tax Collector. Ed Dornburgh, Skipper Tefft, Mary Wright, Bobbi Resek, residents.

**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

**Highway**

None

**Sewer**

None

**Shooting of firearms in the village(s)**

Mr. Weber has received a number of complaints about shooting in the village at the old Honora Winery tasting room property. The property is now a short-term rental. The guests were doing quite a bit of shooting (about 4-5 hours of consistent shooting). They had a professional there teaching them how to shoot. During the shooting, Mr. Weber spoke to the game warden; the town has no formal ordinance that prevents this. The guests had called Wilmington PD about their plans and were told that Whitingham has no laws to prevent it. The question is will this continue? Apparently, the property owner asked the guests to film their shooting so she can advertise it. Rich Watkins, game warden, had strongly suggested to Mr. Weber to not go the route of a shooting ordinance; perhaps a noise ordinance would be better. Noise decibels can be measured on a cell phone. But who is enforcing it?

Discussion ensued about “a business” that advertises shooting, although it is not currently advertised as such now.

Mary Wright is uncomfortable with strangers coming to the village to shoot guns. Greg Brown’s opinion is that once it is advertised it goes from something that is recreational to a business.

Bobbi Resek suggested that noise could be a piece of this. She would like to know the definition of “thickly settled”.

Ed Dornburgh, a police officer for the town of Dover, noted that what these renters had been doing is not against the law.

The board will take no action tonight. They suggested that all the concerned neighbors contact the property owner.

**Review and sign paperwork for potential FEMA buyout of 2984 VT Route 100**

Gig recently submitted many documents that were signed by Robin Kingsley to pursue a FEMA buyout of his property, the town now needs to sign some of the same documents and some new ones. **A motion was made by Travis Wheeler to appoint Scott M. Reed to sign the Statement of Voluntary Participation, FEMA Model Deed Restriction, Memorandum of Agreement, FEMA Model Statement of Assurances for Property Acquisition Projects, and Maintenance Agreement, seconded by James Weber, all in favor.**

**Approval of Payables Warrant – September 5, 2024**

**A motion was made by James Weber to approve Payables Warrant #W2510 dated September 5, 2024, seconded by Travis Wheeler, all in favor.**

**Approval of Payroll Warrant – September 5, 2024**

**A motion was made by Scott M. Reed to approve Payroll Warrant #W2509 dated September 5, 2024, seconded by James Weber, all in favor.**

**Review and approve Minutes of August 21, 2024**

**A motion was made by James Weber to accept the Minutes of August 21, 2024, as written, seconded by Scott M. Reed, all in favor.**

**Other business**

The board reviewed and signed a thank you letter to Craig Hammer for his years of service on the Selectboard.

The board was invited to the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala of Deerfield Valley Rescue on October 5<sup>th</sup> at the Hermitage Club.

James Weber noted that he misread the rooms (option) tax amount at the last meeting; he thought it was for a year, but it was really for a month (i.e. the town could potentially receive +/- \$1,500 per month on rooms tax alone). He suggested that if we pursue that route it would go towards economic development.

Skip Tefft asked if he would have to resign from the ZBA if he was appointed to the Selectboard. Gig will research.

**Adjourn**

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

Scott Reed adjourned the meeting at 7:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
~Gig Zboray