



**Town of Whitingham
Office of the Selectboard**

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 18, 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 18, 2024.

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

Others present: Gig Zboray, Selectboard Office Administrator; Almira Aekus, Clerk/Treasurer/Tax Collector; Stanley Janovsky, Jr., Road Commissioner; Lyman Tefft, interested in Selectboard vacancy.

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

Appointment to fill vacancy on Selectboard

A motion was made by James Weber to appoint Lyman Tefft to the vacant Selectboard seat. There was no second. Discussion ensued around waiting one more meeting to allow more time for others to put in their letter of interest.

Highway

Lettering on Pete's Truck is not in the budget to do this year, it will be done next year. It is estimated to cost approximately \$1,200.00.

Mr. Janovsky received a structures grant to repair Sullivan's bridge by Eames Village Park (TH63).

An agreement was made between the Highway Department and Green Mountain Power for gravel to fix what GMP has dug up on the roads where they are putting power lines under town roads.

The Mack Truck representative will be here next Wednesday for the paperwork to purchase a new chassis. We can now get an automatic transmission; it will have a smaller motor but more power than current truck.

Assessor's Clerk Assistant job opening

A motion was made by Scott M. Reed to appoint Gig Zboray to the position at \$10 per hour while training, seconded by James Weber, all in favor. Wage changes will be discussed when/if the current clerk retires.

Housing Rehab Committee: resignation of Don McKinley/interim appointment of Almira Aekus

Don McKinley verbally resigned from the Housing Rehab Committee last week during a phone call with Gig. Linda Donaghue resigned on July 26th. That leaves no representation of the Town on that committee. Almira Aekus volunteered to sit on the committee until March when her elected terms are over. **A motion was made by James Weber to appoint Almira Aekus to the Housing Rehabilitation Committee until she resigns, seconded by Travis Wheeler, all in favor.**

Health Officer: next step(s) for compliance at 7783 VT Route 100

On May 9th the Town issued a "notice of intent" to file a health order against the property owners of 7783 VT Route 100 due to a failed septic. Since that time, we have been patiently waiting for the owners to get a new septic design with state approval, which was issued on August 15th. The owners have not contracted to build the new septic system yet. The board would like Gig to contact the town attorney to move this issue forward up to and including an order to vacate the property.

Sewer:

Review and sign "fair share objectives" letter

A requirement for the EPA CDS grant is to have fair share objectives to seek/engage minority and women owned business enterprises. Since the town has no official objective of its own the letter states that we will adopt the state's objectives. **A motion was made by Greg Brown to adopt the State of Vermont Fair Share Objectives and to appoint Scott M. Reed to sign the letter to the EPA, seconded by James Weber, all in favor.**

Repayment of sewer interest the sewer department borrowed money from the sewer bond repayment account. Ms. Aekus questioned if the Selectboard wanted the interest (approximately \$900) on the "loan" transferred back to the bond account or not. The auditors said it does not need to be repaid. The board said whichever way was easiest.

Approval of Payables Warrant – September 19, 2024

A motion was made by Greg Brown to approve Payables Warrant #W2512, (correcting the warrant number on the paper version that was signed) dated September 19, 2024, seconded by James Weber all in favor.

Approval of Payroll Warrant – September 19, 2024

A motion was made by James Weber to approve Payroll Warrant #W2511 dated September 19, 2024, seconded by Greg Brown, all in favor.

Review and approve Minutes of September 4, 2024

A motion was made by James Weber to accept the Minutes of September 4, 2024, as written, seconded by Scott M. Reed, all in favor.

Other business

Review and sign contract for limited services (Mark Spiller) The Cemetery Commission engaged Mark Spiller to repair a few gravestones at a cost of \$2,054. A contract for limited services was drawn up for the purpose of a future Workers' Compensation Insurance audit. **A motion was made by James Weber to approve and sign the Contract for Limited Services with Mark Spiller and to allow Gig or Marylee to sign these types on contracts in the future, seconded by Travis Wheeler, all in favor.**

Request by neighbor to park at Municipal Center A new tenant on Route 100 has no off street parking and the landlord suggested that they get permission to park here at the Municipal Center. They indicate that they own two vehicles, which would leave the premises Monday through Friday to go to work. The board approved with a stipulation that they must park in spaces in front of the basketball court, vehicles must be moved daily. The Town of Whitingham is not responsible for any damage of any kind.

FEMA buyout of 568 VT Route 112 a “kick-off” meeting was held on Monday for this grant. Gig can now order an appraisal of the property and has asked the town attorney to start working on the title search. An important directive to remember is that demolition MUST happen within 90 days of closing. Demo equipment must use the driveway or use proper matting so as not to disturb the ground.

VTrans Culvert at 100/112 At the June 12th meeting we discussed gathering information from local property owners (upstream of the 100/112 culvert) regarding flooding damage costs and photos. Gig, with the Windham Regional Commission, is now ready to send out that request. The board reviewed and approved the letter.

Fines We received \$407.50 in municipal fines in September.

HHW Event has been scheduled for October 26th, 9-1.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Scott M. Reed to adjourn, seconded by Travis Wheeler, all in favor.

Scott Reed adjourned the meeting at 6:57pm.

Respectfully submitted,
~Gig Zboray