



**Town of Whitingham
Office of the Selectboard**

MINUTES OF OCTOBER 2, 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, October 2, 2024.

Selectboard members present: Scott M. Reed, Chair; James Weber, Vice Chair; and Travis Wheeler. Lyman Tefft, Jr. was appointed, see below.

Others present: Gig Zboray, Selectboard Office Administrator; Almira Aekus, Clerk/Treasurer/Tax Collector; Stanley Janovsky, Jr., Road Commissioner; Lyman Tefft, interested in Selectboard vacancy. Keith Bronson, Historical Society. Dawn Kazokas, Mitchell Materials. Terry Dumaine and Glen Willard, 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

Appointment to fill vacancy on Selectboard

A motion was made by James Weber to appoint Lyman Tefft, Jr. to the vacant Selectboard seat, seconded by Travis Wheeler, all in favor. Mr. Tefft is required to run for election in March. Almira Aekus heard Mr. Tefft's oath of office.

Highway

Open Sand Bids

Bazin Brothers: $\frac{3}{4}$ winter sand delivered \$22.67 per ton delivered

Zaluzny: winter road sand \$28.90 per cubic yard delivered (approximately \$36 per ton)

Delta Sand and Gravel: coarse winter sand (not $\frac{3}{4}$) \$21.40 per ton delivered (\$27.40 per cubic yard)

Mitchell Materials: \$22.27 per ton (\$28.95 per cubic yard)

A motion was made by Scott M. Reed to accept the bid from Mitchell Materials, seconded by James Weber, all in favor.

Truck body ordered the second truck chassis, would like permission to order the same body (from Viking) to go on the new truck. Body wise the trucks will be identical, but one will be

automatic and one standard transmission. **A motion was made by Travis Wheeler to approve the purchase of the truck body, seconded by Lyman Tefft, all in favor.**

Scott M. Reed questioned the invoice from Ballard, Mr. Janovsky answered that it is an extended warranty for the newest truck covering all the electronics.

Town Clerk, Treasurer, Delinquent Tax Collector: determine pay rates for these positions for newly elected official(s)

Almira Aekus will not seek reelection as Town Clerk, Treasurer, and Delinquent Tax Collector. At a special town meeting on April 24, 2024, the voters decided that the Town Clerk position would no longer be paid partially in fees and the Delinquent Tax Collector would no longer be paid partially in penalties. There is potential that two or more individuals would fill these positions. Anyone running for election would need to know what the pay rate will be.

Almira suggested that the Treasurer should be there at least 3-4 days per week.

Terrie Dumaine is here because she is interested in the treasurer, tax collector and delinquent tax collector, but at \$23 per hour she is not interested. It is a lot of responsibility and \$23 does not seem reasonable.

We currently have a bookkeeper that does payroll and accounts payable.

No decisions made tonight.

Sewer:

Fair Share Objectives the EPA accepted our fair share objectives submitted on September 18th. Our first reimbursement request on the CDS grant was submitted on the 26th.

Recent E.coli tests Gig notified the engineers of failures of two recent Jacksonville E.coli tests. The engineer was at the plant on September 25th to discuss with the operators. He found no obvious overflow failure. The operators indicated they are not using the blowers. Sludge buildup had recently been hauled away. He will redesign how the UV lights are installed, but that shouldn't be the issue.

Historical Society: painting exterior and grant application

The Historical Society would like Green Mountain Hall, and the #9 schoolhouse painted before Old Home Week 2026. An estimate has been provided at \$33,600. That amount should be included in budget planning for next year.

The Society is also seeking grant funding for repairs to the slate roof, replacing damaged ceiling over stage as a result of roof leaking, bell tower repairs, etc. A 2025 grant application is due October 7th, Gig is working with the Society to get one submitted on time. It is a competitive grant, if we win great, if not we will learn how to submit a better application next year. This application requires a 50% local match, and the grant is a maximum of \$20,000. Because the buildings are owned by the town, the town would apply for the grant and be responsible for the local match. **A motion was made by James Weber to appoint Gig Zboray as the individual authorized to execute contracts and sign grant application on**

behalf of the town in relation to the 2025 Vermont Historic Preservation Grant, seconded by Scott M. Reed, all in favor.

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

Gig spoke with the town attorney; he will file an injunction with the court.

FEMA/HMGP grant – appoint authorized representative to sign grant agreement and reimbursement requests

A motion was made by Travis Wheeler to appoint Gig Zboray as the individual authorized to sign grant agreement and reimbursement requests on the FEMA/HMGP grant to buy-out 568 VT Route 112, seconded by Scott M. Reed, all in favor.

Approval of Payables Warrant – October 3, 2024

A motion was made by James Weber to approve Payables Warrant #W2514, dated October 3, 2024, seconded by Travis Wheeler, all in favor.

Approval of Payroll Warrant – October 3, 2024

A motion was made by James Weber to approve Payroll Warrant #W2513 dated October 3, 2024, seconded by Scott M. Reed, all in favor.

Review and approve Minutes of September 18, 2024

A motion was made by James Weber to accept the Minutes of September 18, 2024, as written, seconded by Scott M. Reed, all in favor.

Other business

Transfer Station backup attendant we still need a backup attendant, Larry would like to take some time off during rifle season. Any ideas of who we could ask?

Gig received State approval of annual SWIP activities and annual report for 2023.

Glen Willard is interested in being the backup for the backup.

Adjourn

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

Scott Reed adjourned the meeting at 7:28pm.

Respectfully submitted,
~Gig Zboray