



**Town of Whitingham
Office of the Selectboard**

MINUTES OF OCTOBER 19, 2022

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 19, 2022.

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

Others attending: Gig Zboray, Selectboard Office Administrator; Almira Aekus, Clerk/Treasurer. Mary Wright, Richie Lemaire, residents. Kristy Corey and Kathy Larsen, school board members. Tyler Lederer, DV News. Jennifer Herzig attended remotely.

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

Richard Tefft questioned if we have ordered a new one-ton truck. It takes 6-8 months to get one. Mr. Weber noted that the frame of the current truck is in great shape, the body is lacking. The board takes recommendations from the Road Commissioner for the purchase of highway equipment.

Transfer Station

Hauler request to use Transfer Station the hauler did not attend the meeting.

Meet with Attendant **A motion was made by James Weber to enter into executive session regarding the employment of a town employee in accordance with 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3) to include Jennifer Herzig and Gig Zboray, seconded by Robin Kingsley, all in favor.**

With no decisions made Executive session ended at 7:30.

Jennifer Herzig has been out on sick leave since mid-April 2022 and indicates that she expects to be out for at least another year. The board asked Ms. Herzig to send a letter noting her leave request.

Mr. Dave Munson, our backup attendant has stepped up and taken over during her leave. He tried to leave by September 1st, but we were unable to find someone to fill the position. He now plans to leave October of 2023 but would prefer the backup attendant position. The board asked Gig to post the Transfer Station Attendant job opening again.

Review and sign letter to out-of-town business Mr. Ed Metcalf is a town resident but his distillery is located out of town. He has been using our Transfer Station to dispose of all the cardboard he acquires at the business. Because the business is generating trash/recyclables from another town it cannot be accepted at our Transfer Station. A letter to that effect was reviewed. The board approved the letter.

Trash/cardboard compactor swaps Mr. Brown suggested that we swap the compactors so that the garbage goes in the newer (paper) one, it's got doors to keep the critters out, which has become a problem. We will still need some sort of door to close off the open compactor (which currently collects the trash). The board thinks it's a great idea. Gig will contact Trevor at Casella to make sure it is not a problem with them.

Highway: approve purchase of Hydro-Seeder with grant

Last year Mr. Janovsky wrote a letter of interest in purchasing a hydro-seeder with grant funds (the grant is being overseen by Windham Regional Commission). At that time, we were notified that grant funds had been used up and we were put on a waiting list. We were recently notified that funds of up to \$6,000 are now available to the Town of Whitingham. The grant requires a 20% local match (\$1,500). **A motion was made by Greg Brown to accept the recommendation of the Road Commissioner to purchase the hydro-seeder, seconded by James Weber, all in favor.**

Sewer

Resident's request to change EU from 2 family to 1 family Lori Williams has removed the second kitchen from her home, filed a zoning application for change of use from a two-family to a single-family home and is now requesting a change in her sewer Equivalent Units allotment. The property was inspected to ensure that the second kitchen was removed. **A motion was made by Scott M. Reed to allow the change (to account # J02 at 490 VT Route 112) from a two-family unit to a single-family unit for sewer billing purposes, seconded by James Weber, all in favor.**

Review and adopt new EU Classification System An update to the Equivalent Unit Classification System is required because we have new businesses in town that didn't fit the prior System. Some of the changes include: Change from Store-Retail Space with Meat Dept. to Store/Retail Space with Prepared Food. Added "Assembly Hall with food", "Tasting Room", and "Carwash/Detailing". Much discussion ensued regarding these changes and billing at "capacity to serve".

Kristy Corey expressed her concerns about the proposed changes to the EU System as it relates to the school. The school is currently paying 22% of all the sewer costs, the new proposal would increase that to 25%. No decisions were made tonight. A special meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 26th at 6:30pm.

Possibly set the sewer rate Because the new EU Classification System was not adopted the sewer rate could not be set, this will be addressed at the October 26th special meeting.

Discuss water pressure at Whitingham Plant Mr. Brown noted a problem with the water pressure at the Whitingham Plant. The board agreed that Kingsley Plumbing and Heating

should provide the fix needed, Mr. Kingsley would prefer to provide an estimate before he does the work.

Health Order – any follow up

The Wilmington PD delivered the Health Order on October 13th. If we allow 10-days to vacate from that date it will be October 23rd. Attorney Fisher agreed with giving her 10-days from date of delivery. He suggested that two or more members of the Board of Health speak with her and encourage her to leave and provide her with contact information for agencies that might be able to help her.

Discuss potential use(es) of ARPA funds

Mr. Brown suggested using the ARPA money as grant matching funds, it benefits everyone by a reduction in the tax rate for these larger projects that need to be done. Mr. Weber suggested that the topic be on the agenda again for our special meeting.

Assessors: review and approve Errors and Omissions Certificate

The assessor's office submitted a "Errors and Omissions Certificate" form for the Selectboard to review and sign. One property had a change of value from \$366,300 to \$307,800 (span # 753-239-10462) due to the sale of a small piece of the larger parcel. **A motion was made by James Weber to approve and sign the errors and omissions document, seconded by Craig Hammer, all in favor.**

Approval of Payables Warrant – October 20, 2022

A motion was made by Greg Brown to approve Payables Warrant #2316, dated October 20, 2022, seconded by Craig Hammer, three in favor, Mr. Kingsley abstained.

Approval of Payroll Warrant – October 20, 2022

A motion was made by Robin Kingsley to approve Payroll Warrant #2315 dated October 20, 2022, seconded by Craig Hammer, all in favor.

Review and approve Minutes of October 5, 2022

A motion was made by Greg Brown to accept the Minutes of October 5, 2022, as written, seconded by James Weber, all in favor.

Other business

We received \$107.50 for August traffic fines. We received \$12,396.23 for reimbursement of most of our legal fees for the Great River Hydro tax appeal. We received \$100 for a Cannabis Control Board from the State of Vermont and \$105,356.06 for the final payment on our ARPA funds.

Health Insurance after reviewing the annual memo about employee health insurance, **a motion was made by Greg Brown to continue with our health insurance plan as it has been for years, seconded by James Weber, all in favor.**

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by James Weber, seconded by Scott Reed, all in favor.

Scott M. Reed adjourned the meeting at 7:50pm. Respectfully submitted, ~Gig Zboray