

 **Town of Whitingham**

 **Office of the Selectboard**

 **MINUTES OF DECEMBER 20, 2017**

*These Minutes shall be accepted into the public record (with any corrections noted) at a future meeting of the Whitingham Selectboard.*

The Whitingham Selectboard held a regular meeting on Wednesday, December 20, 2017 at 7:30pm in the Selectboard Office of the Municipal Center, 2948 VT Route 100, Jacksonville, VT.

Selectboard members present: Chair, Keith Bronson; members Greg Brown, Karl Twitchell, and Robin Kingsley.

Others present: Gig Zboray, Selectboard Office Administrator; Almira Aekus, Town Clerk/Treasurer.

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

Keith Bronson called the meeting to order at 7:30pm.

**Hearing of visitors** None.

**Review and approve proposed budget for 2018/19**

The Board went through the budget and made some adjustments to several line items. The budget cannot be approved tonight because the County tax is currently unknown, and a few other items need to be hammered down. The budget will be finalized when the Warning is signed. The Transfer Station will be level funded, but several line items will be added for better tracking of expenses.

**Education Funding Litigation, if any**

Keith Bronson informed the Board of the School Board meeting on Tuesday, December 19th, which was attended by four Senators and two Representatives. The school board now seems to be pushing for education financing reform. The Senators and Representatives present agree that the formula does not work for rural schools but it’s a hard battle to fight in the House and Senate. The attorney asked to be listed on the Agenda for the January 3, 2018 Selectboard meeting.

**Approval of Payables Warrant – December 21, 2017**

**A motion was made by Karl Twitchell to approve Payables Warrant W1826 dated December 21, 2017, seconded by Robin Kingsley, all in favor.**  (See below for an addition to the Payables Warrant).

**Approval of Payroll Warrant – December 21, 2017**

**A motion was made by Robin Kingsley to approve Payroll Warrant W1825 dated December 21, 2017, seconded by Karl Twitchell, all in favor.**

**Approval of Minutes of December 6, 2017**

**A motion was made by Robin Kingsley to approve the Minutes of the December 6, 2017 as written, seconded by Greg Brown, all in favor**.

**Other business / Office Administrator – as needed**

1. Selectboard Office will be closed on Friday, December 22nd and reopen Wednesday, December 27th.
2. There was a grant opportunity called “Better Connections” that WRC thought would be good for us to apply for to get funding to design a plan incorporating Flood Hazard Mitigation, brownfields, economic development (what to do with Briggs building and help them market it, help our local businesses promote themselves) and traffic/pedestrian safety. The maximum grant is $67,000. Unfortunately, we can’t apply this year because the Planning Commission just won a Planning Grant. We will keep the Better Connections grant on the radar for next year.
3. Now that the school generator has its own fuel tank the Selectboard opted to sign a preventive maintenance agreement with Brook Field Service. **Karl Twitchell made a motion to sign the Brook Field Service annual contract for the generator at the school and add the amount of $685 to the W1826 Payables Warrant, seconded by Robin Kingsley, all in favor.**
4. The railing out front will be repaired by Springfield Fence, soon.
5. Keith Bronson signed the Municipal Planning Grant for fiscal year 2018.
6. The Selectboard set the price for collection of Food Scraps at the Transfer Station at $10 per gallon due to the high cost of hauling it away. The board again expressed their frustration with unfunded mandates from the state.

**Adjourn**

**A motion to adjourn was made by Greg Brown, seconded by Robin Kingsley, all in favor.**

Keith Bronson adjourned the meeting at 9:18pm.

Respectfully submitted,

~Gig Zboray