**Minutes of regular meeting of the Whitingham Selectboard**

**July 20, 2016**

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, July 20, 2016 at 7:30pm in the Selectboard Office of the Municipal Center, 2948 VT Route 100, Jacksonville, VT.

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

Others present: Gig Zboray, Selectboard Administrative Assistant; Almira Aekus, Town Treasurer; Christina Clough and Tyler Colford, Library Trustees; Kristine Sweeter, Librarian, Jenepher Burnell, Lister.

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

Chair, Keith Bronson called the meeting to order at 7:33pm. There was one addition to the agenda: Review and approve access permit. Greg Brown would like to discuss an employee issue.

**Hearing of Visitors**

There were no visitors.

**Library Trustee**

Greg Brown said that in the past trustees had set the library employee’s rate of pay adjustments of their own accord. The library is a town entity. If and when the town offers pay increases he would like all entities of the town to offer the same increase percentage. The standard increase would be subjective to everyone. If the trustees feel a merit increase is appropriate Greg Brown asks that the Trustees bring it before the Selectboard. Kristine Sweeter mentioned that because the library budget is due before the Town budget is set, perhaps that was a reason why library increase(s) might have been different.

The Selectboard is looking for a little more communication from the Trustees. The Selectboard will provide the Trustees with any cost of living percentage increase before budgets are due.

**Set the tax rates**

Jenepher Burnell noted current tax rate is .585. Given the 3 appeals to the Board of Civil Authority and the TransCanada litigation Jen is not sure how much wiggle room the Selectboard would like in the tax rate. After discussion **Greg Brown made a motion to set the municipal tax rate at .680** (giving a surplus of $1,536.90)**, seconded by Allan Twitchell, all in favor.**

The local agreement rate is made up of veterans exemption of $300,000. Greg Brown questioned if would be wiser for the town to give the veterans a break on the amount of taxes they owe, rather than a break in what their house is valued at. Greg would like this topic revisited during the next town meeting. The state is the only one saving money; the veterans are not seeing the savings right now. **A motion was made by Greg Brown to level fund the local agreement tax rate (at .0030), seconded by Robin Kingsley, all in favor.**

**Jacksonville Dam registration fee**

The Selectboard would like to continue holding off on this payment.

**Review and approval of Municipal Center Rental Agreements**

The Selectboard has decided that no alcohol is to be served on the premises.  **A motion was made by Greg Brown to change the agreements to say that alcohol will not be served, seconded by Karl Twitchell, all in favor.** Gig is to revise the agreement to reflect this motion.

**Traffic flow changes for Old Home Week and grant permission to use recreational vehicles for the event**

Town Hill Road will be one way for the parade. ATVs will be allowed on Allard Road, Ginny Morse Road, Town Hill Road, Maple Hill Road, Goodnow Road and on Route 100 from Ginny Morse Road to Goodnow Road.

The Selectboard accepted Steve Morse’s offer to use his tractor and manure spreader as the Selectboard float for the parade.

**Discuss change of internet provider at Municipal Center**

The Selectboard suggested finding out about the security of the VTel system before we switch to it. If the system is secure we can use the free trial period on one computer to see how the service is. A better option might be to share the expense of Sovernet fiber optics service with the library. Almira mentioned that since the building was rewired the Fairpoint internet seems more reliable.

**Approval of Payables Warrant – July 21, 2016**

**A motion was made by Karl Twitchell, seconded by Allan Twitchell, to approve Payables Warrant W1704 dated July 21, 2016.** Robin Kingsley questioned a payment to Penn Valley Pipe Company; he would like clarification of what it is. **Robin Kingsley amended the motion to approve Payables Warrant W1704 with the exception of check number 11074 to Penn Valley Pipe Company in the amount of $3,840.00, seconded by Greg Brown, all in favor with Keith Bronson casting his vote.**

**Approval of Payroll Warrant – July 21, 2016**

**A motion was made by Robin Kingsley, seconded by Greg Brown, to approve Payroll Warrant W1703 dated July 21, 2016, all in favor with Keith Bronson casting his vote.**

**Approval of Minutes of July 6, 2016 and Vicious Dog Hearing**

**A motion was made by Allan Twitchell, seconded by Robin Kingsley, to approve the Minutes of July 6, 2016 and the Minutes of the July 6, 2016 Vicious Dog Hearing as written, all in favor with Keith Bronson casting his vote.**

**Executive Session to discuss litigation [Title 1, Section 313(a)(1)(A)]**

**A motion was made by Greg Brown to find that premature general public knowledge regarding the town’s tax sale litigation would clearly place the town at a substantial disadvantage if its legal strategy was made public, seconded by Robin Kingsley, all in favor.**

**A motion was made by Greg Brown to enter executive session to discuss the tax sale litigation under the provisions of Title 1, Section 313(a)(1)(A) of the Vermont Statutes to include Gig Zboray and Almira Aekus, seconded Robin Kingsley, all in favor.**

**With no decisions made a motion was made by Greg Brown to exit executive session, seconded by Robin Kingsley, all in favor.**

**Executive session to discuss employee issue**

**A motion was made by Greg Brown to enter into executive session to discuss a public employee issue under the provisions of Title 1, Section 313(a)(3) of the Vermont Statutes to include Gig Zboray, seconded by Robin Kingsley, all in favor.**

**With no decisions made a motion was made by Robin Kingsley to exit executive session, seconded by Greg Brown, all in favor.**

**Other business / Administrative Assistant – as needed**

1. **Review and approve access permit for Jonathan Perdue, 824 Stonehouse Road.**

**A motion was made by Greg Brown, seconded by Robin Kingsley to approve the access permit, all in favor with Keith Bronson casting his vote.**

**Adjourn**

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

Keith Bronson adjourned the meeting at 9:31pm.

Respectfully submitted,

~Gig Zboray