



**Town of Whitingham
Office of the Selectboard**

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2019

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, September 11, 2019 at 6:30pm in the Selectboard Office of the Municipal Center, 2948 VT Route 100, Jacksonville, VT.

Selectboard members present: Wayne Wood, Vice Chair; Wayne Corse, Craig Hammer, and Scott Reed.

Others present: Gig Zboray, Selectboard Office Administrator; Sherriff Mark Anderson; Karen Horn, VLCT; Seth Boyd, resident; Jason Klump (and daughter), applicant for liquor license.

Call to Order. Additions or Changes to Agenda.

Wayne Wood called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. There was one addition to the agenda – review and sign contract with Myles Danaher.

Hearing of visitors (for concerns not on the agenda) none

Sheriff Anderson to discuss providing services

Windham County Sheriff Mark Anderson came to the table to answer any questions that the board might have about providing policing services to Whitingham. As the case with many police agencies, the Sheriff's office has an issue recruiting and retaining personnel. They can provide limited services and do not want to commit to a big contract. Contracts are designed on an hourly rate. They are discussing changing their contracts but haven't yet. November 1st new hourly rates will be posted, they are currently \$51 per hour including mileage. He thinks they might be able to provide about 5 hours per week. There is a deputy that lives in Wilmington who is familiar with Whitingham. Halifax might be interested in a joint contract with Whitingham for Sheriff services. Sheriff Anderson recommends a minimum of 2 hours per week be contracted. Contract says they control the schedule, staffing and where they are covering, but they would like a working relationship with the town and would try to meet specific requests for coverage. They are here for safety and compliance with the law, everyone gets treated the same. 911 calls can be worked out, in most contracts his Deputies do not respond to 911 calls. He noted they don't have much radio coverage in town and if contracted they would like to put an antenna at Town Hill.

Briefly discuss parking in Jacksonville Village with Sheriff Anderson

Sheriff Anderson indicated that his deputies could not write parking tickets if there is no parking ordinance and it would be very difficult to enforce a 2-hour parking limit when they might be coming through town so irregularly. He suggested having a parking ordinance that indicates the vehicle will be towed away rather than ticketed. He also suggested contacting Brattleboro about their parking ordinance. Brattleboro issues parking tickets and the fines are paid directly to Brattleboro, if someone contests the ticket they come before the Selectboard, it does not go through the Judicial Bureau.

Karen Horn of VLCT Advocacy

Karen Horn came to the table to discuss VLCT advocacy efforts in the next year. A main concern is to get legislation passed for towns self-governance (parking issues falls under this). She suggested adopting the following resolution to support the self-governance effort:

To express strong support for the Vermont League of Cities and Towns proposal to the Vermont State Legislature to create a limited self-governance pilot program for Vermont municipalities.

She also suggested discussing our local issues with our legislators.

Mr. Corse questioned how we would go about getting something to happen in the state to get the basics needs to be taken care of by the state – Class I highways are not paved until they are critical, state police coverage does not reach as far as it used to, but our taxes keep going up and up. Ms. Horn again suggested contacting our legislators.

(Re)Schedule strategic planning session(s)

At the last meeting the Selectboard chose a date of September 5th for a strategic planning session. However, Seth Boyd, who would implement the session was unavailable on that date.

The board scheduled a working session to address the sewer, policing, security cameras, lister services and other issues for Thursday, September 19th at 6:30pm.

A Strategic Planning working session has been scheduled for October 10th at 6:30

Banking and financial reports

Almira Aekus, Treasurer, provided the town's financial reports as well as a memo regarding changing the bank used for town transactions. Switching banks will be a topic on the September 25th agenda.

Review and approve liquor and tobacco license

The Selectboard reviewed and approved a new liquor license with a tobacco endorsement in case they choose to sell e-cigarettes. **A motion was made by Wayne Corse to approve the liquor license with tobacco endorsement submitted by Jason Klump and Heather Hebert of Jansonville Limited Company who are pursuing the purchase of the Jacksonville General Store, seconded by Craig Hammer, all in favor.**

Sewer Department, delinquent account

David Ranslow refuses to pay his sewer account as billed. The matter will be discussed with Attorney Fisher at the next meeting.

Transfer Station, if any

We received written approval of our Transfer Station recertification to include the new method of Household Hazardous Waste collection.

We also received approval of our first annual SWIP report. Our diversion rate (keeping waste out of the landfill) is calculated at 28% which is respectable and does not include any home composting estimates nor private hauler use.

The back-up attendant job opening has been posted and the job description finalized.

Highway Department, if any

The insurance company for Eilers Brothers is suing the town for the tree that fell on one of their trucks. The tree was in a town right of way but is not owned by the town. The information was forwarded to VLCT, our insurance carrier.

Town Hill vandalism

Burn outs that tore up the grass at Town Hill was reported to the Selectboard Office on Friday, September 6, 2019. Mr. Reed fixed the damage immediately because there was a tournament scheduled for the following day. Some pallets were stolen from a Town Hill contractor who is building a new monument. Gig will contract JC Electric about updating the cameras at Town Hill.

Health Officers reappointment

Gig Zboray has served as Health Officer and Jenepher Burnell as Deputy Health Officer for the past six years. Three-year terms are appointed by the Health Department at the recommendation of the Selectboard. **A motion was made by Craig Hammer to recommend the reappointment of Gig Zboray as Health Officer and Jenepher Burnell as Deputy Health Officer and to allow Wayne Wood to sign the documents, seconded by Scott Reed, all in favor.**

Review and sign contract with Myles Danaher

Myles Danaher refinished the floor in the dining hall of the Municipal Center. For insurance audit purposes we need to have on file a non-employee work agreement and contract for services. The Selectboard reviewed and signed the contract. **A motion was made by Craig Hammer for the Selectboard to sign the contract documents with Myles Danaher for refinishing the floor in the dining hall, seconded by Scott Reed, all in favor.**

Approval of Payables Warrant – September 12, 2019

A motion was made by Craig Hammer to approve Payables Warrant W2012 dated September 12, 2019, seconded by Scott Reed, all in favor.

Approval of Payroll Warrant – September 12, 2019

A motion was made by Wayne Corse to approve Payroll Warrant W2011 dated September 12, 2019, seconded by Craig Hammer, all in favor.

Approval of Minutes of August 28, 2019

A motion was made by Scott Reed to approve the Minutes of August 28, 2019 as written, seconded by Wayne Corse, all in favor.

Other business / Office Administrator – as needed

Education Funding Litigation – The pretrial conference scheduled for today was cancelled. The attorneys are on the verge of an agreement with the state to allow our expert witness into the state's data. At this time the pretrial conference has not been rescheduled.

Gig signed up to attend two days of Town Fair on October 2nd and 3rd and will spend the night of the 2nd at Killington.

Somerset is not interested in the lister use of Whitingham computer.

Wayne Wood will schedule the state police to come discuss policing services with us.

We received official documents that Great River Hydro is pursuing their tax appeal through the court system. The documents have been forwarded to Bob Fisher, town attorney. He will enter his appearance on behalf of the town and will come to discuss this with the Selectboard on September 25th.

Phil Edelstein and Wayne Corse met with a gentleman from Matrix to provide fiber optic super high-speed internet services to the residents of Whitingham. We should expect a proposal before the next meeting.

A motion to adjourn was made by Wayne Corse, seconded by Craig Hammer, all in favor.

Mr. Wood adjourned the meeting at 8:25pm.

~Gig Zboray