



**Town of Whitingham  
Office of the Selectboard**

**MINUTES OF OCTOBER 6, 2021**

*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 6, 2021.

Selectboard members present: Scott Reed, Chair; Craig Hammer, Vice Chair; Chris Walling, and Greg Brown.

Others present: Gig Zboray, Selectboard Office Administrator; Stan Janovsky, Jr., Road Commissioner, and Almira Aekus, Clerk/Treasurer.

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

Scott Reed called the meeting to order at 6:32pm. There were a few changes to the agenda since it was posted.

**Hearing of visitors (for concerns not on the agenda)**

None

**Sewer – follow up**

Wayne Graham and Elizabeth of VT Rural Water Association came down today to help us with getting the project at the Jacksonville Plant moving. Present at the meeting were Greg Brown, Scott Reed, James Weber, Gig Zboray and Jennifer Herzig. They arrived early and came to the Selectboard Office to review the printed plans and spec sheets then we all met at the plant. They feel it is a completely feasible idea to initially forgo most of the project as designed and concentrate on replacing the RBC at Jacksonville. The unit called for in the engineering specs would be the same one we would purchase. It is unclear at this point which unit (old or new) would run outside. The new one will need some time to be seeded, the old one can continue to do its job while seeding is happening. Some logistics are involved, and we need to discuss funding with the state. It seems like a very good alternative while we wait to see if any additional funding would be available through ARPA grants which we won't know until June of 2022, meaning construction wouldn't start until 2023. This new option would get us a new RBC up and running in 2022. Wayne Graham and Elizabeth have a meeting scheduled with our engineer next week.

**Theft of Services update** Mr. Michael Tyrrell, spouse of Sandra Vieira, contacted the Town Attorney and offered to pay \$200 per month towards his beginning balance of \$5,389.64, as funds allow he will make larger payments. The house was connected to the sewer system without paying the hookup fee in 2013 and had never been added to the sewer accounts since that time. The oversight was recently discovered.

**BDCC: annual presentation** They cancelled and rescheduled for November 17th.

**Highway – open sand bids:**

**Delta Sand and Gravel:**

Winter sand 3/8” minus at \$22.25 per ton

Coarse winter sand 1/2” minus at \$23.35 per ton

Both quotes include delivery to the highway department

**Zaluzny Excavating Corporation**

Winter Sand 3/4” minus at \$25.75 per cubic yard delivered

Board members prefer to go with the ton pricing because it has to go over the scale, we know what we are getting. The Road Commissioner agrees. He went to Delta Sand today and inspected the sand and liked it.

**A motion was made by Greg Brown to accept the bid from Delta Sand & Gravel for 1/2” minus coarse winter sand at \$23.25 per ton, seconded by Craig Hammer, all in favor.**

**Great River Hydro tax appeal, review and sign agreement**

At the September 22, 2021 meeting the board discussed a settlement agreement with Great River Hydro over their 2019 property tax appeal. The written agreement was presented to the board tonight showing no changes in assessed value for 2019 and 2020 and agreed values for 2021 and 2022 of \$57 million and for 2023 and 2024 of \$55 million. **A motion was made by Greg Brown to accept the agreement as written and to appoint Scott M. Reed to sign the document, seconded by Chris Walling, three in favor, Mr. Hammer abstained.**

Discussion ensued around the Assessor’s Clerk’s job description and that the Clerk is not allowed to change property values, that is NEMRC’s responsibility.

**Property Insurance – review 2022 property schedule**

The board reviewed the 2022 property schedule and determined that no changes were needed.

**Transfer Station – SWIP annual report accepted by ANR**

We are required to file an annual SWIP report showing that we have met all the stipulations each year. ANR accepted our 2020 report.

**Transfer Station – HHW fall event**

Our annual fall Household Hazardous Waste collection event will be Saturday, October 16<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 1pm at the Transfer Station. Flyers have been hung around town and an ad placed in the Deerfield Valley News.

**Animal Control – review ACO’s report**

Dan Hollister provided a report with concerns for several dogs’ welfare. Mr. Hollister has met with the caregiver/owner and is working with him. If improvements are not made Mr. Hollister will issue citations.

Other Animal Control Complaints Ms. Sherry Adams complained to Mr. Hollister and to Gig about a dog owned by Lynsey Dix. The dog is often running-at-large and Ms. Adams is afraid it will attack a farm animal on her property. The board would like Mr. Hollister to address the situation, issuing fines in accordance with the Ordinance if necessary.

**Approval of Payables Warrant – October 7, 2021**

**A motion was made by Craig Hammer to approve Payables Warrant #W2216 dated October 7, 2021, seconded by Chris Walling, all in favor.**

**Approval of Payroll Warrant – October 7, 2021**

**A motion was made by Scott Reed to approve Payroll Warrant #W2215 dated October 7, 2021, seconded by Craig Hammer, all in favor.**

**Approve Minutes of September 22, 2021**

**A motion was made by Greg Brown to accept the Minutes of September 22, 2021, as written, seconded by Scott M. Reed, all in favor.**

**Other Business**

National Opioids Settlement Gig provided a class action national lawsuit settlement overview to the board. The board does not want to be involved.

Address complaint from K. Andersen Kathryn Andersen lives on Faulkner Road and sent an email complaint about 771 Faulkner Road saying there are junk cars, piles of random wood and assorted junk and “now we have an abandoned white trailer next to it with no current license”. Peter Bernard checked out the property today and reported that the trailer looks to have a newer license plate on it, and it is likely registered, there seems to be another truck since we last looked (3 trucks and 1 torn apart). Mr. Bernard thinks some of the items might be in the town right of way (ROW). The Selectboard will write another letter to notify Mr. Betit that vehicles must be outside of the town right-of-way (25’ from the center of the road). The town will not be responsible for the vehicles in the town right of way. He has to move the vehicles out of the ROW by October 15th, then we will call the Wilmington Police to be on site when the tow truck comes.

Request from the school the school asked for space to tutor a student, there is no available space in the Municipal Center, the school asked to use the Library; the Selectboard does not have any say in who can use the Library. The board said absolutely no to any use of town buildings in this situation.

School Plowing and Snow Moving Discussion ensued about the cost to the town to plow the school and that Wilmington is being reimbursed for the expense of moving the large piles of snow, we are not reimbursed. Mr. Walling will discuss with the principal.

**Adjourn**

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

Scott Reed adjourned the meeting at 7:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

~Gig Zboray