



**Town of Whitingham
Office of the Selectboard**

MINUTES OF JANUARY 2, 2020

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 special meeting on Thursday, January 2, 2020 at 5:30pm 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, Scott Reed, members; Robin Kingsley, Chair.

Others present: Gig Zboray, Selectboard Office Administrator; Jill Muhr, Human Resources VLCT; Wade Masure, VLCT; Allan Twitchell, resident; Stanley Janovsky, Jr., Road Commissioner; Almira Aekus, Town Clerk/Treasurer; Marshall Dix, resident.

Call to Order. Additions or Changes to Agenda.

Wayne Wood called the meeting to order at 5:30pm. There were no additions or changes to the agenda.

Human Resources discussions with Jill Muhr of VLCT

Jill Muhr made a media presentation on Effective Performance Management.

Wade Masure noted that in 2017,18 and 19 the town only had 3 claims (one in each year), one was a minor workers comp, one was auto, and one was general liability. Our workers comp cost has gone down on the 20/21 budget.

Hearing of visitors (for concerns not on the agenda)

Allan Twitchell has some concerns about speeding on the local roads. He suggested it is probably time to get a radar sign.

Allan Twitchell is interested in broadband. Discussion of options ensued. Mr. Twitchell is not interested in serving on the Broadband Committee.

Robin Kingsley came to the table to thank everyone for the support provided to him during his illness. He has giving his decision a lot of thought and moving forward he feels it would be best for the town if he steps down from the Selectboard at this time. He tendered his resignation effective immediately.

Budget work session

Mr. Janovsky and Ms. Aekus came to the table to discuss the budget. When Wade Masure was presenting safety information he mentioned the annual VLCT PACIF grant for 50/50 matching funds for safety and security-related gear/equipment. Mr. Janovsky said it would be hard to budget for safety equipment when its unknown if we will win the grant. Gig mentioned that she would like a paper folding machine and Mr. Corse mentioned security cameras. We will work on a grant application, if we win the grant the match amount required can be in the 21/22 budget.

Discussion ensued about Halifax calls covered by the Whitingham Fire Department. It seems to be less than 25% of the calls.

Gig should cancel the 368-2323 ambulance phone number if it is still in use.

Fire Department budget looks good, but Mr. Corse feels that the payment of salaries should be changed to be paid closer to the end of the fiscal year. The same for the Selectboard stipend payment, Mr. Corse mentioned that perhaps the Selectboard should be paid on attendance.

Mr. Janovsky will discuss changing the pay to quarterly or lump sum at a different point in the year. Mr. Dix suggested a full payment in February rather than August. Next pay will probably be February of 2021.

Highway budget: Mr. Corse would like to revisit Mr. Janovsky's job description which currently says that Mr. Janovsky would be paid overtime over 44 hours per week between November and April, yet Mr. Janovsky is paid overtime over 40 hours per week in the summer. Things have been changed so many times in the past, moving forward it should be cleaned up and clarified. Mr. Janovsky would be happy with salary and paid overtime after 40 hours. More thought is needed. Ms. Aekus noted that the budget wouldn't be affected, it only requires an update of the job description.

Mr. Corse says the paving amount is higher than any other town he has looked at. Mr. Janovsky noted that Route 8A, with all its truck traffic, it is going to start deteriorating, it won't need as much work if it is addressed sooner. Mr. Janovsky would rather leave the paving budget up to the voters and not change it now.

Head of Pond Road is currently a Class 4 road and is maintained as a Class 3. When we do the legal warning to reclassify the entrance to the Municipal Center as a town highway, we should add in the upgrade of Head of Pond Road. Mr. Janovsky will measure it out.

The highway budget was approved after much discussion.

Create a Town Garage Committee

At the December 18, 2019 Selectboard meeting Richard Lemaire suggested it's time to focus on building a new town garage. He volunteered to be on a committee. Marshall Dix and Scott Reed are interested in serving as well. **A motion was made by Wayne Corse to create a Town Garage Committee of five members, seconded by Craig Hammer, all in favor.** Members will be appointed at a future meeting.

Mr. Lemaire suggested that a fund should be created and funded on the 2020 Warning. Ms. Aekus suggested that more money be put into the Municipal Facilities Fund rather than creating a new Garage Fund. The board agreed.

Other business / Office Administrator – as needed

Unity Lodge #89 The Mason's Lodge tax exemption will be expiring, Mr. Wood asked, as a member of the lodge, that an article be placed on the Warning to continue the tax exempt status for five more years. **A motion was made by Wayne Corse to include the Unity Lodge #89 article in the Warning, seconded by Craig Hammer, with Scott Reed in favor; Wayne Wood abstained.** The Lodge filed a petition for an article when they first requested the tax exemption, this is just for an extension of the exemption and the board feels a new petition is not needed.

Preparations for Open Forum Potluck Lunch on January 4th

Gig purchased tea, coffee and milk. Almira suggested using paper plates, Gig will purchase plates and napkins. We will use the town's silverware.

Audit Almira Aekus questioned if the board would be OK with her review and sign off on the draft audit so the 2018/19 audit can be finalized. The board agreed.

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by Scott Reed, seconded by Craig Hammer, all in favor.

Mr. Wood adjourned the meeting at 8:36pm.

Respectfully submitted,
~Gig Zboray