



**Town of Whitingham
Office of the Selectboard**

MINUTES OF JANUARY 12, 2022

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, January 12, 2022.

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

Others present: Gig Zboray, Selectboard Office Administrator; Elaina Gibb-Buursma, Adam Buursma; Stanley Janovsky, Road Commissioner; Tyler Lederer of Deerfield Valley News.

Call to Order. Additions or Changes to Agenda

Scott Reed called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. There were a few changes to the agenda since it was posted.

Hearing of visitors (for concerns not on the agenda)

None

Highway: review and sign Certificate of Highway Mileage

The board reviewed and approved the annual Certificate of Highway Mileage, **a motion was made by James Weber to sign the document as written, seconded by Craig Hammer, all in favor.**

Appraisers

Approve NEMRC proposal for parcel mapping services At the last meeting the board asked for a little more time to review the proposal from NEMRC for parcel mapping services estimated at \$4,448.75 for the first year. **A motion was made by Chris Walling to approve NEMRC's proposal for parcel mapping services as described in their letter dated December 3, 2021, seconded by James Weber, all in favor.**

Review and sign letter of appeal for reappraisal At the last meeting the board reviewed the 2021 Equalization Study Results which show a COD (coefficient of dispersion) over 20% which necessitates a reappraisal per statute. Due to the crazy real estate market resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic the board would like to put off reappraisal as long as possible. A letter of appeal was reviewed and approved. **A motion was made by Craig Hammer to sign the letter of appeal written to Vermont Property Valuation and Review, seconded by James Weber, all in favor.**

Elaina Gibb-Buursma – local food pantry idea

Elaina Gibb-Buursma would like to start a food pantry for local residents. In Vermont 1 in 7 people go hungry. The board will think about a good location for a small shelf. Elaina said it could be outdoors.

Budget-final review and approve

No changes were made to the budget since the last review, Almira Aekus recommended the board approve the budget for fiscal year 2022-23. **A motion was made by Greg Brown to accept the proposed budget for fiscal year July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023 of \$674,939.00 of which \$392,583.00 to be raised in taxes, the balance to be offset by \$207,501.00 in anticipated revenues and \$74,855.00 appropriated from prior year’s fund balance, seconded by Scott Reed, all in favor.**

A motion was made by Chris Walling to accept the proposed Highway budget for fiscal year July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023 of \$1,416,961.00 of which \$1,195,474.00 to be raised in taxes, the balance to be offset in \$129,287.00 in anticipated revenues and \$92,200.00 appropriated from prior year’s fund balance, seconded by James Weber, all in favor.

Approval of Payables Warrant – January 13, 2022

A motion was made by James Weber to approve Payables Warrant #W2230 dated January 13, 2022, seconded by Scott M. Reed, all in favor.

Approval of Payroll Warrant – January 13, 2022

A motion was made by Craig Hammer to approve Payroll Warrant #W2229 dated January 13, seconded by James Weber, all in favor.

Approve Minutes of December 29, 2021, January 3, 2022 and January 10, 2022

A correction is needed on the January 3, 2022 Minutes to note that rebid proposals usually come in at 60% of the original project bid estimate, the Minutes state 50%. **A motion was made by Scott M. Reed to accept the Minutes of December 29, 2021, as written, as well as Minutes of the emergency meeting on January 3, 2022 with a correction noted above and the special meeting on January 10, 2022 as written seconded by James Weber, all in favor.**

Other Business

Stan mentioned a photo of the new grader should be on the cover of town report.

Mr. Brown noted that he spoke with Sherry Adams today, she strongly recommends in person Town Meeting due to her concern that Australian ballot may become the new norm. We are waiting on recommendations from the legislature. A change of town meeting to Australian ballot during non-pandemic times requires a Town Meeting vote to change procedure, the question is not even allowed on the Warning of a pandemic town meeting.

Gig requested that board members read the Selectboard and Sewer Department annual reports

Sewer

A motion was made by James Weber to enter Executive Session to discuss the contract amendment from Weston & Sampson under the provisions of Title 1, Section 312(g)I of the Vermont Statutes to include Gig Zboray, seconded by Scott M. Reed, all in favor.

With no decisions made executive session was exited at 7:27pm.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Craig Hammer to adjourn, seconded by James Weber, all in favor.

Scott Reed adjourned the meeting at 7:27pm.

Respectfully submitted,
~Gig Zboray