



**Town of Whitingham
Office of the Selectboard**

MINUTES OF MARCH 13, 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 Friday, March 13, 2020 at 9:00am in the Selectboard Office of the Municipal Center, 2948 VT Route 100, Jacksonville, VT.

Selectboard members present: Scott Reed, Craig Hammer, Wayne Wood, (via speaker phone), Wayne Corse (via Facebook Messenger video call), and Philip Edelstein (via speaker phone).

Others present: Marylee Putnam, Secretary pro temp; Stanley Janovsky, Road Commissioner and Fire Chief; David Briggs, Allan Twitchell, Richard Lemaire and Richard Tefft.

Call to Order. Additions or Changes to Agenda

Wayne Wood asked Scott Reed to run the meeting since he was present at the table. Mr. Reed called the meeting to order at 9:10am. Wayne Corse expressed his disappointment that two items he requested be added to the agenda were not added, i.e. Coronavirus discussion and reorganization of the board.

With regard to the reorganization of the board the general discussion was that it should be done at a regular meeting when there was at least a quorum present at the table so members could see each other face to face.

Discussion concerning the Coronavirus: Mr. Corse feels it is important to make a pre-emptive position and that discussions should be had on whether to close the Municipal Center to public functions. There was discussion about the upcoming Maplefest scheduled for the weekend of March 21 and 22. Mr. Edelstein stated the importance of social distancing by the entire country. It was mentioned that the Maplefest committee would be meeting later that morning to discuss cancelling/postponing and that also the EZ Riders Snowmobile Club was discussing cancelling their breakfast scheduled for Sunday the 21st.

With regard to Senior Meals, Mr. Hammer stated the board should watch closely to see how everything unfolds and not cancel just yet. Mr. Wood stated his concern this is the only healthy meal many of the seniors are receiving and it is important to their health and well-being. Seth Boyd had expressed his opinion to a board member prior to the meeting that meals should be cancelled and offered to assist in delivering meals to seniors who normally attend the meal site. Mrs. Putnam shared that she'd had a conversation in the Town Clerk's office with Terri Dumaine the previous day. Ms. Dumaine has been in contact with Senior Solutions and has permission from them to keep the meals going and possibly making them pick up only and to discuss even the possibility of a drive-up situation if need be. The general discussion at the time of this meeting was that the board would be in favor of that idea in the event it becomes necessary.

Hearing of visitors for concerns not on the agenda

Allan Twitchell stated he had visited the town garage that morning and felt there are safety issues. His biggest concern was there was a trailer being worked on at the garage which posed a safety risk for those working on it, including the fact there were not enough floor jacks being used and there were cinder blocks used to keep the trailer in the air. Mr. Twitchell also stated the trailer doesn't have proper air canister for parking brake. He felt the trailer is not repairable and should be "red flagged," taken out of service and replaced. Mr. Janovsky stated the trailer is used for hauling the roller and in the event an excavator is rented it is used for moving the rented excavator around town. He was trying to save the town money by fixing the trailer and had ordered new steel to include new I-Beams. Mr. Corse stated he admired Mr. Janovsky's attempt to save the town money but would like time to consider any other action. **Mr. Reed made a motion to stop repair work on the trailer and take it out of service for now with a decision to be made at a future meeting regarding it, seconded by Wayne Wood, all in favor.**

Richard Tefft was present at the meeting to request to be appointed to the highway garage building committee. Board reorganization and appointments were not on the agenda, so the appointment was not made.

Discuss and/or decide on purchase of fire truck

Mr. Wood stated the board should definitely approve the purchase of the fire truck. He stated he had been present at the meeting of the members of the fire department and the membership had agreed the purchase should move forward. The asking price for this fire truck is \$39,900. The town would never find another deal like this one and the town or fire department would never be able to afford a brand-new truck as good as this one as it would be close to \$400,000. Though this truck is 20 years old it only has 10,000 miles on it. It has a 1000-gallon tank capacity which would increase the fire department's capabilities. Riggs Distler is willing to transport the truck from Maryland to Vermont without charge. Mr. Edelstein asked where this truck had spent its 20 years. Mr. Janovsky noted that he, David Briggs and Tyler Janovsky went to Rawlings, Maryland to inspect the truck and found little to no rust. Mr. Reed and Mr. Hammer each stated that they trusted the opinion of those who went to look at it. Mr. Janovsky asked Mr. Briggs to come to the table. Mr. Briggs stated his opinion that the truck was an 8.5 to 9 on a scale of 10. It is a double frame, there are no leaks or concerns underneath, the age is out of the computer era, it is a mechanical engine. It is an 8.3 Cummins motor with 300 horsepower. It was test driven in a hilly area very similar to our area, except without salt and brine. Mr. Briggs noted this truck is very similar to our 2001 and 2006 trucks and has less rust than Wilmington's 5-year-old truck; the frame is like new. The aluminum and stuff underneath has no white growth and there is a lot to work with. Mr. Janovsky and Mr. Briggs stated the front bumper needs to be shortened; a few lights need to be added and lights need to be upgraded to LED; a place to hold and transport portable pumps needs to be added; replace oil primer with an air primer; add a rack for hard suction; and new tires.

Mr. Janovsky stated he hoped the total including purchase price to be not more than \$70,000. Mr. Twitchell stated he had attended the fire department members' meeting and had seen pictures of the truck. He stated he agrees with Mr. Briggs as to the condition of the truck. The truck has much more storage than trucks we have. With new tires, paint and a few other upgrades the town would be way ahead of a new purchase with the low miles, low hours, lack

of rust and lack of computers. Mr. Janovsky stated the fire department would sell the old truck when this one is placed into service with the hope to achieve a price of \$20,000 but would likely be less. Mr. Corse stated he felt due diligence had been done and that the Chief and the Association had done a great job to save the town money. **Wayne Corse made a motion to purchase this truck starting at a \$30,000 offer with authority to purchase up to the asking price of \$39,900 with the funds for the purchase price as well as the repairs and upgrades necessary to place the truck in service (up to \$100,000 total) to be taken from the equipment fund. Seconded by Wayne Wood, all in favor.**

Wayne Corse made a motion to appoint Craig Hammer to sign a special payables warrant to issue a check for the purchase of the fire truck once the purchase price is negotiated by Mr. Janovsky, seconded by Wayne Wood, all in favor.

Discuss and/or decide on locking in on fuel prices for FY 2021

Mr. Reed stated he had been informed by Guy E. Nido, Inc. that winter mixed diesel was at the price of \$2.06 per gallon and winter heating oil was at \$1.88 per gallon if the price was locked in by the end of the day. Mr. Reed stated that Greg Nido had informed him he had never seen the price lower. Mr. Corse stated he would abstain from the discussion. Mr. Wood stated he is in favor of locking in the price today if it would save the town money. Mr. Corse stated the price is a huge difference from last year's price. Mr. Reed stated we are only able to lock in for winter diesel and heating oil and would inquire as to summer fuel this afternoon. **Craig Hammer made a motion to lock in the winter diesel rate of \$2.06 per gallon and the heating oil rate of \$1.88 per gallon and to authorize Scott Reed to sign the agreement with Guy E. Nido, Inc., seconded by Scott Reed, four in favor; Mr. Corse abstained from voting.**

Other

Mr. Janovsky stated he had bids ready to be approved by the board. One bid is for paving 8A and the other is for full depth reclamation of Dam Road. Mr. Corse stated he believed the State would be milling Route 100 and wondered if we could purchase millings for the Dam Road to buy time. Mr. Janovsky stated he would check into it but didn't think the State was planning to mill Route 100 until the summer of 2021.

Mr. Lemaire asked about the status of backhoe replacement. Mr. Janovsky stated he had heard there might be a model produced in the next couple months that did not require DEF fluid and was waiting to see if that is true before deciding the specs for the equipment.

Adjourn

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

Scott Reed adjourned the meeting at 10am.

Respectfully submitted,
Marylee Putnam, Secretary pro temp