



**Town of Whitingham  
Office of the Selectboard**

**MINUTES OF APRIL 20, 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, April 20, 2022.

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

Others present: Gig Zboray, Selectboard Office Administrator/Health Officer; Stanley Janovsky, Jr., Road Commissioner; Almira Aekus, Clerk/Treasurer; Tyler Lederer, DV News; Bart Howes, Brian Marchegiani, and Joe Berard of Jack Pines Pirates; Andrea Arnstein and Calvin Wallace; Seth Boyd.

Shane Mullen of W&S Engineers attended remotely.

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

James Weber called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. Additions to the agenda were noted on the meeting copy.

**Hearing of Visitors**

None.

**Board of Health Hearing – determine if Health Order is necessary**

A Notice of Intent to file a Health Order was delivered to Calvin Wallace and Andrea Arnstein on VT Route 112 due to lack of sewer connection and human waste being dumped into a field. They claim a plumber (JEK Plumbing and Heating) is coming in May. But Ms. Arnstein also claimed that she repaired the sewer connection herself. The board ordered that the sewer connection MUST be inspected by a VT licensed plumber and a letter certifying the connection is good MUST be delivered to the Selectboard Office by April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2pm. Discussion ensued around leaving the gray water in the tank to take away the heavy sludge. Complaints about the garbage have been made to board members. The garbage must be cleaned up by May 18<sup>th</sup>. The house must be fit for living in before winter. The camper CANNOT stay on the property through the winter. A follow up letter will be issued on April 21<sup>st</sup>.

**ATV Ordinance: review and adopt update to Addendum A**

Great River Hydro approved of ATV use on small sections of their lands. The Jack Pines Pirates ATV Club asked the Selectboard to consider allowing ATV use on Freezing Hole Drive to Camp Poly gate and over to Ruba Road. The board reviewed the updated Addendum A: List of Town Highways and Town Trails Open to ATV Use, which is part of the Ordinance Regulating All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs). The update adds Freezing Hole Drive and Ruba Road to the list of

road/trails open to ATV use in Whitingham. **A motion was made by Chris Walling to adopt and sign Addendum A, as updated, seconded by Greg Brown , all in favor.** Gig will do the appropriate postings for the public.

### **Sewer:**

**Bid results** We received one bid at our bid opening on April 14<sup>th</sup>. The firm was again Kingsbury Construction, total for base bid and all alternates was \$4,282,400; still above our bond amount of \$3,915,000. Mr. Mullen addressed the board; he spoke about some ARPA funds that may be transferred to the CWSRF specifically for our project. We have a 60-day period to make a decision on the bid. W&S recommends that we wait on a decision to allow CWSRF and the legislature some time to put a new funding package together. State funding very much affects our decision. We need to know funding options by June 10<sup>th</sup>, we will likely need to hold a special meeting.

Gig will ask for an opinion from bond council to make sure we can accept a project that is higher than the bond amount with the understanding that the state will be kicking in funds to lower the project cost to our users.

**Discuss landslide repairs** An access permit was received from Great River Hydro to use the boat launch as a staging area. A state permit (1272 order) was issued to allow us to cross the river and make the necessary emergency repairs to the landslide.

This week the trees were cut and removed, and cement blocks were stacked. All work crossing the river was completed today. Next week they will start bringing in equipment and materials from the top of the bank. Craig Hammer and Greg Brown donated many, many hours of time to the project. We are thankful to Riggs Distler for donating use of a turbidity curtain and to the highway department crew for their help.

**Ratify signing of Temporary Access Agreement with GRH** A board member was required to sign the access agreement with Great River Hydro. James Weber was available to sign it. **A motion was made by Greg Brown to ratify the signing of the access agreement, seconded by Chris Walling, three in favor, Mr. Hammer abstained.**

**Northern Borders grant app** Gig submitted the Northern Borders Regional Commission Letter of Intent yesterday morning, today she received notice that it was rejected because the complicated Excel spreadsheets for the budgets were not complete. We have no capacity to complete those spreadsheets at this time because we don't know what aspect of the sewer project we will be pursuing. That information was noted in the letter of interest, at this time it is not even a grant application yet. Gig is frustrated that they rejected it already! She sent an email to WRC asking if they could help.

### **Tax Sale discussion**

Twenty-four properties (two are sewer only) are on the list for tax on June 30, 2022.

### **Review and adopt updated Purchasing Policy**

At the last meeting discussion ensued around updating the dollar amounts in the Purchasing Policy. The updates have been made increasing each category by \$5,000. **A motion was**

made by Greg Brown to adopt the Purchasing Policy as updated effective immediately, seconded by Chris Walling, all in favor.

**Review and sign contract renewal for mowing at Municipal Center and Eames Village Park**

Tyson Dix has been mowing at the Municipal Center and Eames Village Park for years, his contract expired at the end of the mowing season 2021. He does not seek a rate increase so therefore the contract can be awarded to him again without going out to bid. **A motion was made by Greg Brown to approve and sign the mowing contracts for the Municipal Center and Eames Village Park for three years as presented, seconded by Craig Hammer, all in favor.**

**Approval of Payables Warrant – April 21, 2022**

Check number 27533 in the amount of \$16.00 was voided. **A motion was made by Craig Hammer to approve Payables Warrant #2244, dated April 21, 2022, noting the voided check for \$16.00, seconded by James Weber, all in favor.**

**Approval of Payroll Warrant – April 21, 2022**

**A motion was made by Craig Hammer to approve Payroll Warrant #2243 dated April 21, 2022, seconded by Chris Walling, all in favor.**

**Review and approve Minutes of April 6, 2022**

**A motion was made by Craig Hammer to accept the Minutes of April 6, 2022, as written, seconded by Chris Walling, all in favor.**

**Other business**

Transfer Station costs continue to go up. We are now paying \$10 per ton for paper recycling. Gig and Almira will work on spreadsheets so the board can consider rate increases.

Fines we received \$89.50 for March traffic tickets.

No meeting May 4<sup>th</sup> The regular meeting scheduled for May 4, 2022, has been cancelled.

We need some AED signs to point out that we have one. Gig will order 2 sets of signs. Mr. Janovsky will schedule refresher training. He will also order a AED machine for the highway garage.

NEMRC is starting on the tax maps, they might be available by July 1<sup>st</sup> to be on the website.

**Executive Session to discuss work assignments**

**A motion was made by Greg Brown to meet in private to discuss work assignments in accordance with 1 V.S.A. § 312(g) with Stanley Janovsky and Gig Zboray, seconded by Chris Walling, all in favor.**

Executive session was exited at 7:56pm.

Discussion ensued. The board decided the May 14<sup>th</sup> HHW event will be canceled for now, we may be able to reschedule it in the summer.

The payroll clerk should research short-term disability benefits and provide the information to the Transfer Station attendant. For now, the back-up attendant is willing to cover.

**Adjourn**

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

James Weber adjourned the meeting at 7:57pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
~Gig Zboray