



**Town of Whitingham
Office of the Selectboard**

MINUTES OF MAY 18, 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, May 18, 2022.

Selectboard members present: Scott M. Reed, Chair; 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; Katheryn Anderson; Seth Boyd; Christopher Roberts.

Call to Order. Additions or Changes to Agenda

Scott M. Reed called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. Additions to the agenda were noted on the meeting copy.

Hearing of Visitors

Seth Boyd observed that the ATV Ordinance addendum does not make specifications of what distance is allowed to be traveled (i.e. in its entirety, or measured distance). Mr. Boyd also mentioned that Ruba Road was discontinued in 1922, he feels that should not be listed in the ordinance. **A motion was made by James Weber to table any changes to the ATV Ordinance, seconded by Greg Brown, all in favor.**

Highway:

Open gravel bids Three bids were received.

Mitchell Materials, LLC – 1” crushed gravel, delivered 3,000 tons at \$16.50 per or 2,000 cubic yards at \$24.75 per

Cersosimo - 1” crushed gravel (2,000+/- CY) at \$26.25 per cubic yard delivered

Delta Sand & Gravel – 1” crushed gravel, delivered at \$24.70 per ton

Mr. Hammer would rather pay by the ton. **A motion was made by Chris Walling to accept the bid of Mitchell Materials at \$16.50 per ton, seconded by James Weber, all in favor.**

Power at new salt shed Mr. Janovsky would like a 200amp panel near the new salt shed for lights and to be able to plug in equipment. The board all agreed it was a good idea. A pole will be set. If the cost exceeds the highway budget the funds can come from facilities maintenance.

Review and approve access permit Mr. Janovsky recommended the board approve an access permit for William Garrity at 1846 Wilmington Cross Road. **A motion was made by Craig Hammer to approve the access permit for William Garrity, seconded by James Weber, all in favor.** The large ash tree must be removed for sight distance safety.

Other Mr. Hammer informed Mr. Janovsky that any Cat parts will be going up 15% on June 1st so he should place an order as soon as possible if anything is needed.

Parks Committee: open masonry proposals

Proposals were requested to get an idea of what should be done and how best to do it. Two proposals were received:

Deerfield Valley Property Maintenance – install approximately 80 feet of retaining wall replacement including steps in the center. Two prices based on what material will be used. Allan block Danville blend at \$7,458.37 or Hand laid stone wall at \$9,118. No mention of the monument work.

Saladino Property Maintenance, Inc. – remove and replace existing retaining wall, center stairs, install new base along with 115LF of Ideal pavers (color and style to be decided by the town), install top cap and new granite steps (2). They would also construct new monument to match existing monument. \$11,872.

The board prefers the idea of a hand laid wall. Mr. Boyd will discuss the proposals with both companies and will likely come up with a bid document so the prices can be properly compared.

Review and approve liquor license(s):

An email was received from Jason Klump, owner of the building of the original store, saying he thinks it would be inappropriate to consider a liquor license for a place of business that has neither begun site plan review nor taken ownership of a building”. A joint ZBA Planning Commission hearing is scheduled for June 9th for change of use, closing on the sale of the building is schedule for May 20th. The board reviewed the application and discussed plans with Mr. Roberts. **A motion was made by James Weber to approve the liquor license of Christopher Roberts doing business as Jacksonville General Store (JG Store LLC) at 2977 VT Route 100, seconded by Craig Hammer, all in favor.**

Sewer

Discuss bid options/funding John Gannon was not able to attend. Laura Sibilia did not zoom in. Gig will call to find out if there is any hope of more funding.

Documents to sign Two documents are needed to apply for the Pollution Control Grant; one is the Risk Assessment Questionnaire and the other is the Act 154 Good Standing Certification. Ms. Aekus already signed the risk assessment as required as Chief Fiscal Officer. **A motion was made by James Weber to appoint Scott M. Reed to sign the two documents needed for the Pollution Control Grant, seconded by Greg Brown, all in favor.**

Faulkner Road junk

A new complaint was received about junk on Faulker Road from Karen Landers. Ms. Anderson noted that she has been living there for six years and provided copies of emails to the board with her complaints and provided more photos. She questioned the safety of the plow drivers because the camper was in the town's right of way. We had sent a letter to Mr. Betit that the camper was in the ROW and if it was damaged by a plow that was on him. Mr. Brown noted that if we go after Mr. Betit for the pile of wood then we have to go after every property owner that might have something on their land. It is a slippery slope to dictate how people are allowed to use their property.

Ms. Anderson asked if the board would make a statement that the beautification of the town is important to them. The board is willing to make such a statement but questioned how that would benefit this situation.

Resident's request for changes to Town Report

Ms. Robohm would like an inventory provided in town report. At a prior discussion she was specifically asked what was the lowest dollar range she would like in the inventory, that question was never answered. Further discussion ensued. The request is denied due to lack of clarity. It was noted that Ms. Robohm could volunteer her time to create the inventory that she would like to see in the Town Report, and the board would take it under advisement.

Board of Health

The residents at 568 VT Route 112 did not provide proof from a VT licensed plumber that their trailer was hooked up appropriately to the sewer system as requested at the April 20th meeting (due date was April 28th at 2pm). Gig spoke with Ms. Arnstein again on May 9th verbally telling her we needed proof from a plumber. The board asked Gig to write another letter stating that the board does not accept the handwritten note "from a contractor" that Ms. Arnstein provided; we need a letter from a VT licensed plumber by May 25th or we will begin the Health Order process to order them to vacate the property.

Deerfield River Watershed – request for support

The Deerfield River Watershed Association requested an endorsement of a bill seeking Wild and Scenic River designation. The board was concerned that Great River Hydro is considering putting a turbine at the Glory Hole which will create enough power to generate Jacksonville and that this project could potentially put stumbling blocks on property owners. The board would like more information before writing a letter of support.

Planning Commission – applicant to fill vacancy

Jason Klump sent an email of interest to be appointed to the Planning Commission. He is the current owner of the property that housed the closed Jacksonville General Store. That name has now been purchased by another and plans are in the works to open the store at the Briggs Automotive Property. Due to the conflict of interest the town attorney recommends that this be tabled for now. The board questioned if Mr. Klump is even a Whitingham citizen; both apartments are actively listed on AirBnB. Tabled.

ARPA funds – discuss spending ideas

So far, we've received 3 ideas. The board feels the idea for solar panels on all town buildings is not a wise investment. The idea to purchase CDs for future broadband expense was discussed briefly but didn't get any board support. The Parks Committee idea to expand playground equipment was discussed. The board asked Mr. Boyd to come back with a better laid out plan and a request for a specific amount of funding. Mr. Hammer strongly suggested that all the dead trees at Town Hill get removed. Mr. Hammer volunteered to cut the trees, but he will not clean them up.

Mr. Brown suggested that a portion of the ARPA funds should be designated toward grant match funds. He also noted we might need to balance out the sewer budget for the emergency repair of the bank.

No decisions were made.

Cell Tower – review and sign lease buy out documents

A motion was made by James Weber for the board to sign where needed and to appoint Scott M. Reed to sign where needed on all the legal documents to finalize the cell tower lease buyout, seconded by Greg Brown, all in favor.

Approval of Payables Warrant – May 19, 2022

A motion was made by Craig Hammer to approve Payables Warrant #2248, dated May 19, 2022, seconded by James Weber, all in favor.

Approval of Payroll Warrant – May 19, 2022

A motion was made by Craig Hammer to approve Payroll Warrant #2247 dated May 19, 2022, seconded by James Weber, all in favor.

Review and approve Minutes of April 20, 2022

A motion was made by Craig Hammer to accept the Minutes of April 20, 2022, as written, seconded by James Weber, all in favor. The May 4th meeting was cancelled, the warrants were signed by Scott M. Reed.

Other business

Transfer Station

- We received notice that Bob's Tire Recycling will now add a 15% fuel surcharge on the total cost of all pickups.
- A help wanted ad was placed in the paper and posted around town to find someone to fill the vacancy left by Jennifer Herzig while she is out on medical leave.
- The new TAM bill reflects that hauling is now \$340 on all boxes (it was \$185 for recycling, \$170 for C&D, \$250 for paper, \$145 for trash).
- Cost of C&D was \$99 per ton, now \$105.
- Metal paid us \$91 per ton in April.

A motion was made by Greg Brown to pay Dave Munson the same hourly rate that Jen Herzig makes retroactively to when Jen become sick, seconded by James Weber all in favor.

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by Greg Brown, seconded by Craig Hammer, all in favor.

Scott M. Reed adjourned the meeting at 8:02pm.

Respectfully submitted,
~Gig Zboray