



**Town of Whitingham  
Office of the Selectboard**

**MINUTES OF JUNE 1, 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, June 1, 2022.

Selectboard members present: Scott M. Reed, Chair; James Weber, Vice Chair; Greg Brown, and Craig Hammer.

Others present: Gig Zboray, Selectboard Office Administrator; Stanley Janovsky, Jr., Road Commissioner; Almira Aekus, Clerk/Treasurer; Robin Kingsley; Tyler Lederer, DV News.

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

Scott M. Reed called the meeting to order at 6:32pm. Changes to the agenda were noted on the meeting copy.

**Hearing of Visitors**

None

**Accept resignation of Chris Walling**

**A motion was made by Greg Brown to meet in private to discuss routine day-to-day administrative matters (1 V.S.A. § 310(2)), seconded by Scott M. Reed, all in favor.** Private session ended at 6:54pm.

An email of resignation was received from Chris Walling on May 31, 2022, effective immediately. The board accepted his resignation with regret.

**Highway:**

**Open paving and reclaim bids** Mr. Reed questioned if the bids are high and Mr. Janovsky didn't do as much paving as usual how far behind schedule will it put it. Mr. Janovsky feels that the roads are in good condition now and if these prices are super high, we could skip a year. The last road to be rebuilt is Town Hill. \$76 a ton was last years awarded bid.

These bids are based on 2,400 tons paving and 13,000 square yards of reclaim:

**Pike Industries:** \$98.70 per ton= \$236,880  
Reclaim at \$1.95 = \$25,350

**Bazin Brothers:** \$121.95 for total \$292,680  
Reclaim at 88 cents per square yard at \$11,440

Peckham Road Corp: binder(base) \$122.91 per ton / top \$132.41 per ton  
Reclaim at \$4.45 per square yard

All States Construction: \$106.50 per ton = \$255,600  
Reclaim at 84 cents per square yard = \$10,920

Arlington Paving: Reclaim only \$1.50 per square yard = \$19,500

Northeast Paving: \$142.00 per ton = \$340,800

Garrity Asphalt Reclaiming: Reclaim only \$1.00 per square yard at \$13,000

Mr. Brown recommends going with Pike for paving and All State for reclaim. Mr. Weber agrees. Mr. Reed would agree to that, but he feels that All States has done a great job and for holding their price from last year to do this spring's paving.

Mr. Janovsky asked if the board wanted to take the chance of rebidding in the spring but still in this fiscal year. Discussion ensued. The lowest bid is approximately \$30 per ton more than last year.

These prices don't include paving of the parking lot at Town Hill, Mr. Janovsky doesn't know how many tons that would require.

**Scott M. Reed made a motion to give the entire project to All States, seconded by James Weber,** Mr. Brown noted that splitting the award saves \$16,000. Mr. Reed withdrew his motion.

**Mr. Brown made a motion to go with Pike for paving and All States for reclaim, seconded by James Weber,** Mr. Janovsky noted that a contingency which may increase the price later is on every bid, **all in favor.**

Review and sign TA65 Mr. Janovsky requested that the board review and sign Form TA 65, Request for Reimbursement from the VT Agency of Transportation on the Class 2 Roadway Grant for Wilmington Cross Road last year. **A motion was made by Scott M. Reed to sign Form TA 65, seconded by Craig Hammer, all in favor.**

**Sewer: possibly make decisions on project bid**

The state has \$30M in surplus ARPA money, \$10M will go to the ANR, there doesn't seem to be any reason for the Governor to veto the bill. That \$10M will likely be split between clean water and drinking water. The ANR understands the severity of the situation in Whitingham. The state cannot apply the surplus funding to our project unless we have a contract. Another reason to move forward, according to Mr. Smith is the more we do on this project the more we money we can get. Mr. Brown noted that contradicts what the state told us before we put this project out for rebid.

Mr. Brown informed Mr. Smith that we cannot make a decision if we don't have a straight answer on what we can afford if the state cannot give us an answer of what each bid will actually cost the sewer users.

Ms. Aekus questioned if we could accept the bid (or portions thereof) but could reject if we don't receive the funding we expected. Mr. Smith said no.

Mr. Brown questioned if the new RBC come with their own chimneys, yes they do.

The sewer budget as projected for the future bond payment of \$200,000, but Mr. Smith is saying that if we accept the base bid with bid alternatives A & B our bond payment would be \$91,648.

Mr. Smith reiterated that the stimulus money, if we get any, would only be distributed on an active contract because it will stimulate jobs. He recommends moving forward with the base bid plus alternatives A & B as soon as we can so that the process equipment can be ordered.

Ms. Aekus suggested that the town commit \$100,000 per year for the life of the bond but town buildings would not pay any sewer user fees. It wouldn't affect taxpayers on income sensitivity. Mr. Brown tried to come up with some other idea that would benefit the other taxpayers. He questioned how adding another tax to a sewer user to offset a tax benefits the sewer users.

Ms. Aekus will look over the spreadsheet as presented by Mr. Smith tonight and speak with the bond bank.

**Discuss Audit:**

We have been using the same auditing firm for many years. There was some discussion in the past about using a new firm, if that is the case, it would have to go out to bid. Ms. Aekus wanted to know what the board wanted to do. The board feels the Sullivan Powers has been doing a great job so far.

**Tax Sale question – does town want to bid on properties**

There are only 4 properties that are delinquent, Ms. Aekus questioned if the board would like to put the tax sale off for a year. There is no reason to put it off, there is a procedure to follow. The board is not interested in purchasing any of the properties.

**Approval of Payables Warrant – June 2, 2022**

**A motion was made by James Weber to approve Payables Warrant #2250, dated June 2, 2022, seconded by Greg Brown, all in favor.**

**Approval of Payroll Warrant – June 2, 2022**

**A motion was made by James Weber to approve Payroll Warrant #2249 dated June 2, 2022, seconded by Greg Brown, all in favor.**

**Review and approve Minutes of May 18, 2022**

Kathryn Andersen pointed out that her name is spelled wrong in the Minutes of May 18, 2022. **A motion was made by Greg Brown to accept the Minutes of May 18, 2022, with the correction noted, seconded by James Weber, all in favor.**

**Sign animal holding contract with Humane Society**

It's time to sign the annual contract with the Humane Society. The contract cost was included in the payables of \$385, up from \$350. **A motion was made by James Weber to appoint Scott M. Reed to sign the animal holding contract with the Windham County Humane**

**Society for the year July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023, seconded by Greg Brown, all in favor.**

**Other business**

Gig noted that we received \$522.50 for traffic fines from the State of Vermont and \$196.21 for electronics recycling.

It's time to discuss fuel pre-buy with Nido's. Individual board members will speak with Mr. Nido.

Cemeteries: Jewell needs a new sign and post.

The board acknowledged receipt of an email from Wayne Corse and will address it at the next meeting.

We have an opening on the Selectboard. A prior board member came tonight. Mr. Brown asked Mr. Kingsley if he would be willing to come back. Mr. Kingsley is willing to give it some thought and let the board know. He noted that he is impressed with the discussion that the board had tonight.

The board will hold a special meeting on Tuesday, June 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm.

**Adjourn**

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

Scott M. Reed adjourned the meeting at 8:23pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
~Gig Zboray