



**Town of Whitingham
Office of the Selectboard**

MINUTES OF JUNE 7, 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 special meeting at 6:30pm in the Selectboard Office of the Whitingham Municipal Center on Wednesday, June 7, 2022.

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

Others present: Gig Zboray, Selectboard Office Administrator; Tyler Lederer, DV News. Don Haddox from the state attended by Zoom.

Call to Order. Additions or Changes to Agenda

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

Hearing of Visitors

None

Address Selectboard vacancy

A motion was made by James Weber to appoint Scott M. Reed to sign the legal notice of vacancy stating that the position will be filled on June 15, 2022, letters of interest should be submitted by 2pm on June 15th, seconded by Craig Hammer, all in favor.

Review and approve liquor license for Jacksonville Country Store

The board reviewed the liquor license application for Jacksonville Days of Old, LLC doing business as Jacksonville Country Store at 3054 VT Route 100. **A motion was made by Greg Brown to approve the liquor license for Jacksonville Days of Old, LLC, seconded by Scott M. Reed, all in favor.** Mr. Hammer phoned Brian Marchegiani to ask what the plans for the store are. They are going to open a store similar to the "historical general store". They have to address Dept. of Fire Safety issues, everything else is getting ready to move forward. The next phase would be to become an 802 Liquor Store. Shooting for opening July 4th weekend.

Sewer: potentially award project bid

There are many bid alternates available. The base bid of \$2,234,000 will replace the process equipment in Jacksonville, Alternate A allows us to get the RBC unit for Whitingham to use as temporary treatment at Jacksonville, Alternate B installs that equipment in Whitingham. The base bid plus A&B is a total of \$3,506,300, we would get a Pollution Control Grant of \$1,046,762 brings the price down to \$2,459,538 less 40% construction subsidy brings the construction cost to \$1,475,723; add in engineering, required contingency amounts, proposed sewer budget

needs and financing we are looking at a sewer EU fee of approximately \$1,268 per year. The state hopes to provide more funding but cannot promise at this time. If more funding becomes available, we can add more of the project alternatives to the construction contract or potentially reduce the project debt.

Mr. Brown would like to know if the last spreadsheet we got is something we can count on (the PC Grant 27%) It appears we would get \$2,744,410 in financial aid. Mr. Haddox could not guarantee the 27% but is quite certain we would get no less than 24%.

Mr. Weber feels the sewer users can afford a one-million-dollar project. He is also concerned that we were always told Kingsbury is a company we don't want to work with. He has spoken with approximately 30 sewer users over the last 3 days, they complained that rates have more than doubled in the last 3 years, how much more can they take? The sewer is a town problem, and it wasn't addressed by the Selectboard for many years. Mr. Brown asked what the alternative is, he feels we must do this project now. Mr. Reed agrees. The sewer buildings are town facilities and there is potential for needed repairs to come from the municipal facilities budget line. Mr. Weber would like to see expansion built into the sewer budget.

A motion was made by Greg Brown to accept the Kingsbury Construction base bid with Bid Alternates A & B for of total of \$3,506,300 knowing that we will get a 40% construction subsidy and a 24-27% Pollution Control Grant, seconded by Scott M. Reed, more discussion ensued, Greg Brown in favor, Scott Reed in favor, Craig Hammer in favor, James Weber in favor. Motion passed but the board noted they were reluctant however they see no other way forward. Prices are skyrocketing, if we put the project out to bid a third time it's likely no one would even bid on it, we got a great funding package from the state and the repairs MUST be made.

Mr. Brown noted that any money we might get back for the repairs on the Whitingham river bank will go back into the sewer coffers.

Other business

The board acknowledged the latest email from Mrs. Robohm requesting that inventory of town equipment be listed in the town report. Our town report includes an inventory of the large equipment for the Highway Department and the fire trucks for the Fire Department. Gig checked with several towns in the area and no other town provides an inventory of office supplies/equipment in town report. The board chooses to leave town report as is.

WRC will put the traffic counters out on Parsons Road "fairly soon".

We received notice from the state that the first marijuana cultivators license has been issued for Whitingham. The board had asked for information about the local options tax, it would affect all retail sales, not just pot, and it can't be imposed on cultivation.

Gig will provide the board with the sewer rate schedule for them to think about and discuss at the June 29th meeting.

Adjourn

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

Scott M. Reed adjourned the meeting at 7:42pm. Respectfully submitted, ~Gig Zboray