



**Town of Whitingham
Office of the Selectboard**

MINUTES OF JULY 17, 2019

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 regular meeting on Wednesday, July 17, 2019 at 6:30pm in the Selectboard Office of the Municipal Center, 2948 VT Route 100, Jacksonville, VT.

Selectboard members present: Wayne Wood, Vice Chair and members: Wayne Corse, Craig Hammer, and Scott Reed.

Others present: Gig Zboray, Selectboard Office Administrator; Linda Donaghue, Deerfield Valley News; Dan Hollister, ACO; Almira Aekus, Town Clerk; Stanley Janovsky, Road Commissioner; Linda and Larry Brown, Haley Twitchell, and Laurie Dix, residents.

Call to Order. Additions or Changes to Agenda.

Wayne Wood called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. It was noted that in discussion of Animal Licensing the Town Clerk might have pertinent information, she is not available to meet with the Selectboard until after 7pm so the agenda order might need to change slightly.

Hearing of visitors (for concerns not on the agenda) none

Discuss security cameras

Gig Zboray, Scott Reed and Wayne Wood met with Justin Corey of JC Electric at the Whitingham Highway Garage at 5:30pm to discuss security cameras. Mr. Corey will adjust his original proposal to incorporate the new plan with the highway garage.

Adopt updated Purchasing Policy

The Purchasing Policy was updated and reviewed by the town attorney. **A motion was made by Craig Hammer to adopt the new Purchasing Policy effective immediately, seconded by Scott Reed, all in favor.** Mr. Corse requested that Gig distribute the new policy to all purchasing agents and that they sign a letter acknowledging receipt.

Approval of Payables Warrant – July 18, 2019

A motion was made by Scott Reed to approve Payables Warrant W2004 dated July 18, 2019 including the addition of a check payable to Teddy Hopkins in the amount of \$40,400.00 for tax sale redemption, seconded by Craig Hammer, all in favor.

Approval of Payroll Warrant – July 18, 2019

A motion was made by Craig Hammer to approve Payroll Warrant W2003 dated July 18, 2019, seconded by Wayne Corse, all in favor.

Approval of Minutes of July 3, 2019

A motion was made by Wayne Corse to approve the Minutes of the regular meeting and Minutes of Potentially Vicious Dog Hearing on July 3, 2019 as written, seconded by Craig Hammer, all in favor.

Other business / Office Administrator – as needed

Gig will be on vacation July 18 through 29th. She will be checking emails and, as long as internet is available, she can make updates to the town website if needed while she is away.

Almira wasn't able to get the floors refinished in July. The job is scheduled for September 5-9.

The auditors will be here in late July.

Gig provided the Selectboard with copies of the draft 20-year Evaluation Report from the sewer engineers. The board should review this report within the next month or so and we will have to schedule a meeting with the engineers first and then with state officials.

The Town Hill Committee met on July 11th and their Minutes indicate that they discussed scheduling of events at Town Hill and concluded that it would remain as "first come, first serve" as it has traditionally been.

Craig Hammer questioned if Gig knew what the Town Hill Committee will be doing with the extra wood chips. Gig wasn't aware of the issue.

Wayne Wood provided a little more information about law enforcement, he will invite the State Troopers to a Selectboard meeting and the Sheriff to a different meeting.

Stanley Janovsky noted that he heard from VTrans about paving of Route 100, they plan to mill 2 inches and replace with 1.5 inches of pavement. They will start and the Welcome to Jacksonville sign and go as far as they can go (projected within 1,000 feet of where they ended the last project towards the Readsboro town line).

Stanley Janovsky received a call from the new principal at the school, the drop inlet behind the science wing is collapsing. Stan asked the Selectboard if he should notify school to contact the contractor who did the work at the school? The board agreed that those repairs should be handled by the school board.

Animal Control Officer

Citation #106255 was issued on June 14, 2019 on a dog that had been euthanized. A letter to the Vermont Judiciary to request voiding that ticket was reviewed and signed by the Selectboard. **A motion to sign the letter to Vermont Judiciary requesting they void citation #106255 was made by Craig Hammer, seconded by Scott Reed, all in favor.**

Dan Hollister, ACO, came to the table to continue discussion of a resident wanting a Breeders License for his dogs. He indicated that he had been talking with Stephen Dix for 4 or 5 years. Currently there are 3 types of licenses available – kennel, breeders and individual. Mr. Dix currently has many dogs, and Mr. Doug Dix has 20-30 dogs at various times. A breeder's license is more affordable to someone with many dogs.

Almira and Dan both agree that Mr. Dix does qualify for a breeder's license. Mr. Wood read a portion of Almira's memo to the Selectboard. Ms. Haley Twitchell questioned if prior individual licensing fees and late penalties can be reimbursed? Prior years cost was \$21 per dog.

A breeders license fee is \$45 for the first 10 dogs, including the late fee. Ms. Twitchell says he only has 10 dogs. Mr. Hollister will need to inspect the premises to make sure they have a "proper enclosure" as noted in State Statute. Other fees were discussed and how the money was divided between the state and the town and the town clerk.

The Selectboard agreed to allow Stephen Dix to apply for a Breeders License at a cost of \$45 including this year's late fees, for 10 dogs. They are sorry if there were mistakes made in the past, they cannot correct the past.

Set Tax Rates – municipal and local agreement

Almira Aekus came to the table and suggested the Municipal Tax Rate to be set at \$.667 per \$100 and the local agreement rate at \$.003. **A motion was made by Wayne Corse to set the 2019/20 municipal tax rate at \$.667 per \$100 and the local agreement tax rate at \$.003, for a combined tax rate of \$.67 per \$100 as recommended by the Town Treasurer, seconded by Craig Hammer, all in favor.**

Last year the residential combined rate was 2.5843. The projected 2019 rate would be 2.6567, an increase of .0724.

Last year the non-residential combined rate was 2.1707. The projected 2019 rate would be \$2.2297 an increase of .059.

The Vermont Department of Taxes provided the Education Tax Rates for Fiscal Year 2020 – the Non-Homestead Tax Rate is \$1.5597 and the Homestead Tax Rate is \$1,9867.

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by Wayne Corse, seconded by Craig Hammer, all in favor.

Wayne Wood adjourned the meeting at 8:01pm.

Respectfully submitted,
~Gig Zboray