



**Town of Whitingham
Office of the Selectboard**

MINUTES OF JULY 27, 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, July 27, 2022.

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

Others attending: Gig Zboray, Selectboard Office Administrator; Alex Rodriguez, MSK Engineers; John Bennett, WRC; Stanley Janovsky, Jr., Road Commissioner; Almira Aekus, Clerk/Treasurer; John Smith, resident. Bart Howes and Joe Berard of Jack Pines Pirates. Dan Hollister, ACO.

Call to Order. Additions or Changes to Agenda

Scott M. Reed called the meeting to order at 6:31pm. Changes to the agenda were noted on the meeting copy.

Hearing of Visitors

None.

Hazard Mitigation: final public information meeting to address Scoping Study of River Corridor in Jacksonville, Municipal Center Access, Flood Resiliency

Andrew Rodriguez presented the final Scoping Study for the municipal center which addresses replacing the culvert access to the Municipal Center/Fire House and removing the undersized cement bridge. They estimate the entire project at \$780,114.45 including a 20% contingency; with the high cost of everything these days they felt that was safe amount. Design is included. Potential construction in spring of 2024. Next step is seeking grant funding for design/construction.

Jack Pines Pirates ATV Club to share their plans

They have a developed a plan to connect Readsboro with the Village of Jacksonville and are asking the Selectboard to allow ATV use on the following sections of roads:

- Nate Flynn Road from Lone Pine Road to Kentfield Road
- Kentfield Road from Nate Flynn Road to Burrington Hill Road
- Burrington Hill Road from Kentfield Road to Green Road
- Green Road from Burrington Hill Road to Legal Trail 2 (LT2)
- LT2 from Green Road to Burrington Hill Road (landowner permission to get from LT2 to Houghton Road)

- Burrington Hill Road from LT2 to Houghton Road
- Houghton Road from Burrington Hill Road to Maple Hill Lane
- Maple Hill Lane from Houghton Road to Abbie Morse Road
- Abbie Morse Road from Maple Hill Lane to Holbrook Road
- Holbrook Road from Abbie Morse Road to VT Route 112

The state process takes quite a while, and they need town approval before they go to the state. ATV Trails are open 6am to 10pm May 15th to October 31st.

The board is considering the request, the topic will be on the August 24th agenda again.

Animal Control Officer: Cross Roads issue

Dan Hollister, Animal Control Officer, informed the board of an issue with dogs owned by John Smith on the Wilmington Cross Road. The dogs are constantly barking and getting loose often. The neighbors are fed up. One dog is currently unlicensed. Mr. Hollister should issue fines in accordance with our Dog Ordinance.

The issue of 3 stray dogs in the area was brought up. The Selectboard suggested that Mr. Hollister bring these stray dogs to the Humane Society in accordance with the contract with have with them.

Highway:

Parsons Road speed limit: The traffic count summary of Parsons Road showed that the 85th percentile of speed on the dirt portion of the road was 37mph and on the newly paved portion was 44mph. When originally discussed, the board thought 35mph is reasonable speed for that road. Windham Regional says that setting the limit is often based on the 85th percentile which shows what the average drivers are traveling on the road. They went on to say that because our proposed speed limit is 9mph less than the 85th percentile on the paved portion, it would be good to document that the counter was on the newly paved straight-away but is otherwise a reasonable speed on the road.

To change the speed limit, we will need to update our Traffic Ordinance, Gig provided a draft to the board to review. They suggested having the town attorney review it as well.

A motion was made by Greg Brown to set the speed limit on Parson Road at 35mph, seconded by Scott M. Reed, all in favor. Gig will send the draft Ordinance to the town attorney to review.

Transfer Station

Applicant for attendant position

Michael Bates is interested in the position; he is willing to take the HAZWOPER class for HHW collection. Technically this is a temporary position based on when/if our regular attendant can come back.

A motion was made by James Weber to offer Mr. Bates \$18 per hour for the Transfer Station Attendant position, with the condition that he take the HAZWOPER certification class as soon as possible, (then offer \$20 per hour), seconded by Scott M. Reed, all in favor.

Gig will write a letter to Mr. Bates with the offer and mention the possible temporary nature of the job.

Bags / fees We received a sample of an orange trash bag that can be customized for us to sell, it was only 1.5 mil thickness. They had a 3mil version and Gig is awaiting a price quote on those.

There was much discussion again on use of bags versus punch cards and what the price increases should be. Everyone agrees that unfortunately the prices must increase.

A motion was made by Greg Brown to set the sticker price of \$50 per year and the bag price at \$3 per bag, punch cards will transition to bags as soon as they are available, seconded Robin Kingsley, four in favor, Mr. Weber abstained.

A note will be included in tax bills going out August 1st that the Transfer Station sticker/permit MUST be purchased at the Town Clerk's office, cost of bag disposal going up to \$3 per bag and we will likely be transitioning from punch cards to bags in the near future.

Approval of Payables Warrant – July 28, 2022

A motion was made by Greg Brown to approve Payables Warrant #2304, dated July 28, 2022, seconded by James Weber, all in favor.

Approval of Payroll Warrant – July 14, 2022

A motion was made by Greg Brown to approve Payroll Warrant #2303 dated July 28, 2022, seconded by James Weber, all in favor.

Review and approve Minutes of July 13, 2022

Correction: after executive session for the Sewer Department the Minutes do not reflect that the board discussed creating a 30-hour per week assistant position because the Chief Operator is looking to change from a 40-hour week to a 30-hour week and it is difficult to find anyone to apply for small part time positions. We are unclear how the creation of a new position will affect the return of the current assistant who is out on long-term sick leave. The ad for the new position will be in the July 28th edition of the Valley News. **A motion was made by Greg Brown to accept the Minutes of July 13, 2022, with correction noted, seconded by James Weber, all in favor.** Gig noted that the posted version of the July 13th Minutes will not be changed, the correction is noted in these Minutes.

Other business

We received \$107.50 for traffic fines for June.

Mr. Weber mentioned a business owner's request that the town install a trash barrel at the Eames Village Park. With bears and raccoons in the area the board felt that inadvisable. They asked Gig to order a sign stating, "Please take your trash with you".

Homestead Penalty Ms. Aekus questioned if the board was OK with forgiving the penalty on late filing of the Homestead Declaration. Yes, they are.

Town Hill Parking Craig Hammer requested that Seth Boyd come to the next meeting to discuss the parking plan.

Order to reappraise Gig hasn't heard back from anyone at NEMRC yet about when our reappraisal will start. **A motion was made by Greg Brown to appoint Scott Reed to sign the Municipal Response to Reappraisal Order, seconded by James Weber, all in favor.**

Abandoned Vehicles We received a complaint about 4 abandoned vehicles on a town trail off of Fuller Hill Road. A letter was written to an abutter under the assumption the vehicles belong to them. The letter says the vehicles must be removed within 30 days or they will be towed at owner's expense. **A motion was made by Craig Hammer to appoint Scott M. Reed to sign the letter, seconded by Greg Brown, all in favor.**

Next meeting The August 10th meeting is cancelled. The next Selectboard meeting will be August 24th.

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by all.

Scott M. Reed adjourned the meeting at 9:12pm.

Respectfully submitted,
~Gig Zboray