



**Town of Whitingham
Office of the Selectboard**

MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 2, 2021

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 Tuesday, November 2, 2021.

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

Others present: Gig Zboray, Selectboard Office Administrator; Tyler Lederer of Deerfield Valley News.

Others attending remotely: Lynnette Claudon and Tom Brown of VT ANR. Michael Smith of Weston & Sampson Engineers; Elizabeth Walker and Wayne Graham of VT Rural Water Association. Dave DiCantio, Sewer Plant Chief Operator.

Call to Order. Additions or Changes to Agenda

Scott Reed called the meeting to order at 6:36pm. There were no changes to the agenda.

Hearing of visitors (for concerns not on the agenda)

None

Sewer

Discuss bidding Jacksonville with Whitingham as an “additive alternate”

Greg Brown noted that the board has been trying hard to crunch some numbers and get this project rolling again, they’d like to put Jacksonville out to bid this January with Whitingham as an additive alternate. The bottom line is we have a project that needs to be done, funding is up in the air. The board doesn’t feel there is a lot more to gain to wait on new ARPA funding. As it stands now, we have about \$2M in funding and a \$4.6M project leaving us nearly \$3M short. Scott Reed noted the need to make the project simpler.

The board noted it wants the bid to be for Jacksonville with Whitingham as an additive alternate. Mr. Smith said he would like to bid the whole project (both plants) with deductive alternate.

Discuss bid schedule

The board made it clear to everyone in attendance that they want the bid to go out in January.

Discuss value engineering before bid docs prepared to find some savings

Mr. Smith says this is a bare bones plan, there are no frills but there are safety related issues. Building improvements include ADA requirements. Depending on how much is fixed on the building(s) would determine how much ADA compliance is needed. Mr. Hammer asked how much more this will cost. Mr. Smith said it should be eligible for funding. The first bidding process cost \$19,000 for plan distribution and addenda, second bid should be similar.

The project needs to be rescoped to rebid. Greg Brown spoke with Aqua Aerobics, if we don't get moving soon the price provided will be null and void and shipping will increase astronomically. He would like the contractor, when chosen, to get the RBC here as soon as possible, start seeding it and use it as backup. It takes approximately 6 weeks to grow the biology.

James Weber requested that if something is not required or safety related to cut it from the project.

Discuss the published bid documents

The town would like the bid to go out in January. Bid needs to be simplified (less than 3 reams of paper) and the bid period needs to be longer to allow contractors time to look it over.

Determine bid publishing and opening dates

The board would like the bid to be published in early January, not the end of January as Mr. Smith suggested. When Mr. Smith comes to town, the board asked that he bring the Engineers Opinion of Probable Cost showing items that can be eliminated to reduce cost. Mr. Smith will need to talk to Waste Water Management at the state about that.

Discuss addendums

The original bid documents did not have to be as complicated as they were, "there is a story"; everyone agreed the next one should not be like that.

Other Business

Wayne Graham knows a machinist who can do a thorough inspection of the Jacksonville RBC shaft to make sure it can handle the load until the project moves forward. The machinist might as well look at both plants. The inspection should be eligible for funding.

Tom Brown spoke about funding that is percentage based, if we change our project, it could impact our funding in different ways, the Pollution Control grant is based at 28% of total project cost, the construction subsidy is based only on construction costs (not engineering).

James Weber would like to see the Engineer's Cost Estimate as the most trimmed down version possible before Mr. Smith arrives to look at the plant(s). He would ideally like to see 1/3 of the project chopped off.

Adjourn

A motion was made by James Weber to adjourn, seconded by Greg Brown, all in favor.

Scott Reed adjourned the meeting at 7:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

~Gig Zboray