



**Town of Whitingham
Office of the Selectboard**

MINUTES OF DECEMBER 29, 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 regular meeting at 6:30pm in the Selectboard Office of the Whitingham Municipal Center on Wednesday, December 29, 2021.

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

Others present: Gig Zboray, Selectboard Office Administrator; Almira Aekus, Clerk/Treasurer; Stanley Janovsky, Road Commissioner; Tyler Lederer of Deerfield Valley News. Nate Stoddard of NEMRC attended remotely.

Call to Order. Additions or Changes to Agenda

Scott Reed called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. There were a few changes to the agenda since it was posted.

Hearing of visitors (for concerns not on the agenda)

None

Listers

Review 2021 equalization study results

The 2021 equalization study results indicate the necessity for a reappraisal. We can file an appeal, using some reclassification of some of the sales. Nate Stoddard of NEMRC gave the board a lot of information regarding property sales and he will work on some possible changes to the report which may correct our COD and he will help us file an appeal to avoid a reappraisal at this time.

Review/discuss parcel maps

We received an estimate of \$4,448.75 for parcel map conversion and update to get the system up and running. The board reviewed the proposal, they feel going with NEMRC for this function makes sense because we use NEMRC for other things. A decision will be made at a future meeting. Ms. Aekus will send a link to a town that uses these maps so the board members can see it in action. To update the mapping program we use now might be around \$3,000.

Highway

Old pickup update: needs a transmission. A new GMC transmission is about \$3,000, a Jasper brand is probably about \$2,000 with a warranty. Mr. Janovsky says it would be nice to have another small rig. The board agreed it's a good idea to fix the transmission.

The Mack truck driven by Mike Boyd needs injectors, will cost in the \$8,000 range.

Mr. Janovsky questioned how much money the board wants to put into the current town garage? It will need new garage doors soon. Mr. Janovsky would like bigger doors to allow easier access for the current trucks. The board told him to look into it. A new garage is a very large project that won't happen for at least a few years.

Fishing Derby temporary traffic changes

Change traffic patterns for annual fishing derby/limited atv use

Stanley Janovsky requested that the Selectboard allow a change in traffic patterns for the annual Fishing Derby. **A motion was made by Greg Brown to allow the following:**

Beginning at 8am on Friday morning, January 14, 2022 to 8pm on Saturday, January 15, 2022 (bad weather/ice dates Friday, January 21, 2022 to Saturday, January 22, 2022) the following will be in force:

Sadawga Lake Road from Town Hill Road to Kentfield Road will be One Way Vehicular Traffic (north to south).

The second lane of Sadawga Lake Road will be reserved for parking.

Head of Pond Road will be open to include Recreational Vehicle travel.

It is anticipated that Recreational Vehicles will be in use on Maple Drive, Sadawga Lake Road, Kentfield Road to Head of Pond Road and on Head of Pond Road.

Seconded by Chris Walling, all in favor.

Sewer

Charles Dix request: Gig reviewed the Sewer Ordinance and didn't find anything pertaining to disconnections. She suggested that she and Dave DiCantio go to Charles & Terry Dix house to inspect if the residence is really a single family or two-family dwelling. The board agreed.

Project update: The engineer has sent his contract amendment for the new bid work to his boss for review, waiting on approval. Once approved he will send it to us and the State for review and approval. Then he can line up his staff to modify the drawings, identify the different bid alternates, make sure the bid form reflects the drawings and rewrite electrical specs. He says we are still on track to go out to bid at the end of January.

Transfer Station: review and sign E-cycling contract extension

This is the annual contract extension to have recycled electronics picked up at the Transfer Station. **A motion was made by Craig Hammer to appoint Scott M. Reed to sign the contract extension, seconded by Chris Walling, all in favor.**

Budget-3rd draft review

The Parks Committee budget was finalized and added to this version of the proposed budget for 22/23 as well as adding FICA/Medi for the Fire Department stipend.

Warning for Town Meeting

Gig noted there is a chance that in person Town Meeting won't be required again this year, it could all be by Australian ballot as it was last year. We won't know until the legislature makes a decision

in early January. A taxpayer did tell Ms. Aekus that she would like an in-person meeting. There was discussion about holding elections in March and changing the business meeting to May, but Mr. Janovsky noted that he needs to know if his budget is approved before May so he can schedule projects.

Approval of Payables Warrant – December 30, 2021

A motion was made by Craig Hammer to approve Payables Warrant #W2228 dated December 30, 2021, seconded by Chris Walling, all in favor.

Approval of Payroll Warrant – December 30, 2021

A motion was made by Chris Walling to approve Payroll Warrant #W2227 dated December 30, 2021, seconded by Greg Brown, all in favor.

Approve Minutes of December 15, 2021

A motion was made by Greg Brown to accept the Minutes of December 15, 2021, as written, seconded by Chris Walling, all in favor.

Other Business

Review and approve January 2022 newsletter the board approved the newsletter as written. Gig will get it mailed out early in the new year.

Correspondence a thank you note and \$200 was received from TOPS for use of the Municipal Center for their meetings.

Discussion ensued around the Chamber of Commerce dues. It was decided to continue town membership in the Chamber.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Chris Walling to adjourn, seconded by Craig Hammer, all in favor.

Scott Reed adjourned the meeting at 7:27pm.

Respectfully submitted,
~Gig Zboray