



**Town of Whitingham
Office of the Selectboard**

MINUTES OF JULY 28, 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, July 28, 2021.

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

Others present: Gig Zboray, Selectboard Office Administrator; Almira Aekus, Clerk/Treasurer; Stan Janovsky, Jr., Road Commissioner; Seth Boyd, and Keith Bronson, residents; James Valente and Adam Waite, attorneys.

Call to Order. Additions or Changes to Agenda

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

Hearing of visitors (for concerns not on the agenda)

Mr. Boyd spoke about the cost of upgrading the ballfield at Town Hill, it exceeds the Parks Committee budget and asked if there was any other funding available. It is doubtful that the full job could be done before the scheduled softball tournaments. Ms. Aekus noted there are some funds available in the Eames Fund. The board told Mr. Boyd that if field work can be done before the tournaments, then do it; if not wait until next spring. Whenever it is done it will need to be maintained annually and the Parks Committee budget should reflect that. Karl Brown who built the addition to the war memorial will provide an estimate to rebuild the stonewall and add a new addition to the war memorial to balance it out visually. Mr. Hammer asked what sort of plaque holder would be placed on the new monument because some plaques are not removable. The board will determine how best to pay for the stonework when we get an estimate. **A motion was made by James Weber to appropriate \$3,500 from Economic Development Fund to fix the ballfield, seconded by Craig Hammer, all in favor.**

Accept resignation of Phil Edelstein, sign Notice of Vacancy

Phil Edelstein submitted an email dated July 26, 2021, resigning from the Selectboard effective immediately; he offered to stay on the Deerfield Valley CUD committee. His resignation was accepted. Mr. Hammer would rather use the cost of an election towards policing, Mr. Weber agrees. **A motion was made by Scott Reed to accept the resignation of Phil Edelstein from the Selectboard effective July 26, 2021 with regret, seconded by Craig Hammer, all in favor.**

A motion was made by Craig Hammer to post a Notice of Vacancy asking interested persons to submit a letter of interest before August 24, 2021, for potential appointment

on August 25th and to appoint Scott Reed to sign the Notice of Vacancy, seconded by James Weber, all in favor.

Policing: sign contract renewal:

The board reviewed the contract for a one-year renewal of patrol coverage by the Wilmington Police Department for a total amount not to exceed \$9,000 for the fiscal year. **A motion was made by James Weber to appoint Scott M. Reed to sign the policing contract with the Wilmington Police Department for the fiscal year July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022, seconded by Craig Hammer , all in favor.**

We received another email complaint about speeding on Gates Pond Road. Gig will notify Chief Murano. Otherwise, the board feels things are working well with the patrol coverage and Wilmington Police are working within the budget we have.

Sewer: media status

The board received a report from Dave DiCantio, Sewer Plant Chief Operator. There was some confusion as to the removal of media at the Jacksonville Plant. Originally, in 2018 a complete “section” of media had been removed and replaced; the engineers had provided a cost estimate to do the same thing with another section; however, Mr. DiCantio has been cutting off pieces of the “sheets” of media as they deteriorate. The state recently came down to inspect the plant and verbally approved of Mr. DiCantio’s process; we haven’t received written approval yet. The engineers now understand this change of procedure and will not need to charge an additional fee. If the state’s ok with it, the board agrees that we should continue in that fashion until it becomes untenable.

Highway

nothing

Junk:

The board has seen progress with the most troublesome properties and will continue to monitor.

7:30pm Executive Session with Education Funding Attorneys

The State of Vermont was granted their Motion for Summary Judgement as to all claims of all of the plaintiffs in the Education Funding Litigation case. The attorneys arrived to discuss the next steps. **A motion was made by Craig Hammer to find that premature general public knowledge regarding the town’s education funding litigation would clearly place the town at a substantial disadvantage if its legal strategy was made public, seconded by Scott Reed, all in favor.**

A motion was made by Craig Hammer to enter into executive session to discuss education funding litigation under the provisions of Title 1, Section 313(a)(1)(A) of the Vermont Statutes to include Adam Waite, James Valente, Gig Zboray, Keith Bronson and Seth Boyd, seconded by Scott Reed, all in favor.

Executive session was exited at 7:30pm

Approval of Payables Warrant – July 29, 2021

A motion was made by Craig Hammer to approve Payables Warrant #W2206 dated July 29, 2021, seconded by James Weber, all in favor.

Approval of Payroll Warrant – July 29, 2021

A motion was made by Craig Hammer to approve Payroll Warrant #W2205 dated July 29, 2021, seconded by James Weber, all in favor.

Approve Minutes of July 14, 2021

A motion was made by Craig Hammer to accept the Minutes of July 14, 2021, as written, seconded by James Weber, all in favor.

Other Business

Review and sign several thank you letters Letters of gratitude were reviewed and signed to:

- Rod Bemis for the hydraulic press he provided to the highway department which is useful to straighten steel.
- Ken Bernard for many years of providing his expertise of building as well as donating the usage of tools and staging for many projects.
- Craig Hammer for donating oil to heat the highway garage.
- Phil Edelstein for time served on the Selectboard and continuing to represent the town on the Deerfield Valley CUD.
- Gregory Brown for donating fencing to hide/protect the generator on Town Hill.

Jacksonville Village Center Designation approval The renewal application for village center designation of Jacksonville was approved by the Downtown Development Board. The designation is good for 8 years and will need to be renewed in July of 2029.

COVID-19 Memorial Service will be held Sunday, September 19, 2021, at 3pm on the Statehouse lawn in Montpelier.

Transfer Station

The board reviewed and signed the contract to haul away Household Hazardous Waste after our October event. **A motion was made by James Weber to approve and sign the contract with Clean Management Environmental Group, Inc. for removal of Household Hazardous Waste in October or November, 2021, seconded by Scott Reed, all in favor.**

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by James Weber, seconded by Scott Reed, all in favor.

Scott Reed adjourned the meeting at 7:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

~Gig Zboray