

**Town of Whitingham**

**Office of the Selectboard**

**MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 28, 2018**

*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, February 28, 2018 at 7:30pm in the Selectboard Office of the Municipal Center, 2948 VT Route 100, Jacksonville, VT.

Selectboard members present: Vice Chair, Allan Twitchell; members Greg Brown and Karl Twitchell.

Others present: Gig Zboray, Selectboard Office Administrator; Almira Aekus, Town Clerk; Stanley Janovsky, Road Commissioner; Richard Lemaire and Seth Boyd, residents.

**Call to Order. Additions or Changes to Agenda**

Allan Twitchell called the meeting to order at 7:30pm. There were no additions or changes to the agenda.

**Hearing of visitors** none

**Address questions related to annual Town Report**

Seth Boyd had a question about the Eames Fund, can it be used for any matter? The fund can only be used under the discretion of the Selectboard and the principal cannot be touched.

Mr. Boyd also questioned if the municipal facilities fund covered just the buildings that the town owns or would it cover improvements of land. He mentioned Town Hill (he is a member of the Town Hill Committee), that maintenance needs to be addressed; some of the playground equipment needs service, some bbq grilles need to be replaced or removed, some trees need to come down. The budget for Town Hill improvements is $1,500. Some of the items mentioned can be taken care of by the highway crew. Mr. Boyd is most concerned about the playground equipment that needs safety repairs done. There should be sufficient funds available in the budget to cover the safety repairs.

The last question Mr. Boyd had was regarding the litigation fund, whether it referred to the current lawsuit against the state regarding Education Funding. Answer - no Education Funding litigation is a separate line item.

Richard Lemaire suggested that a fund should be created to start saving money for a new highway garage that will be needed in the future.

**Prepare for Town Meeting**

The board reviewed the prepared cheat sheet, the only change is that Stanley Janovsky will read Article 10. Mr. Brown attended the School Board meeting on February 27th and was questioned about the removal of the School User Fee from the budget. Mr. Brown had a well-prepared response, which Gig will type up for Town Meeting.

**Education Funding Litigation, if any**

Review of forms needing Allan Twitchell’s signature to have the state request the information they require from the Schools and the WSSU. A signature is also required on the “Plaintiffs’ Answers and Responses to Defendant’s First Set of Interrogatories and Request to Produce”. **Karl Twitchell made a motion for Allen Twitchell to sign the litigation documents as presented, seconded by Greg Brown, all in favor.**

**Transfer Station/WSWMD**

Consider membership in the NRRA (cost of less than $100 per year) after we terminate membership with WSWMD. **Greg Brown made a motion to join the NRRA for one year to see what they can do for us, seconded by Karl Twitchell, all in favor.** Gig provided the Board with copies of the SWIP and new Waste Ordinance as submitted to ANR for approval. Town Attorney, Bob Fisher, is reviewing the new waste ordinance. A 3-year cost comparison spreadsheet was reviewed.

**Approval of Payables Warrant – March 1, 2018**

**A motion was made by Greg Brown to approve Payables Warrant W1836 dated March 1, 2018, seconded by Karl Twitchell, all in favor.**

**Approval of Payroll Warrant – March 1, 2018**

**A motion was made by Greg Brown to approve Payroll Warrant W1835 dated March 1, 2018, seconded by Karl Twitchell, all in favor.**

**Approval of Minutes of February 14, 2018**

**A motion was made by Karl Twitchell to approve the Minutes of February 14, 2018 as written, seconded by Greg Brown, all in favor.**

**Other business / Office Administrator – as needed**

Gig noted that some progress has been made cleaning up the junk yard on Fuller Hill Road. More vehicles should start being removed as the weather clears.

Gig informed the Board of a phone call received from Dan Hollister, Animal Control Officer, a child and pet dog were bit by a probable rapid fox in the center of Jacksonville today. Dan is setting up traps. The game warden has been notified. The child is currently at the Bennington Hospital. Dan will be checking on the dog.

**Adjourn**

**A motion to adjourn was made by Greg Brown, seconded by Karl Twitchell, all in favor.**

Allan Twitchell adjourned the meeting at 8:16pm.

Respectfully submitted, ~Gig Zboray