**Minutes of regular meeting of the Whitingham Selectboard**

**January 4, 2017**

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, January 4, 2017 at 7:30pm in the Selectboard Office of the Municipal Center, 2948 VT Route 100, Jacksonville, VT.

Selectboard members present: Chair, Keith Bronson; Vice Chair, Allan Twitchell; Members Greg Brown, Karl Twitchell and Robin Kingsley.

Others present: Gig Zboray, Selectboard Administrative Assistant; Almira Aekus, Treasurer; Terrie Dumaine, Senior Meals.

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

Chair, Keith Bronson, called the meeting to order at 7:30pm. There were several additions to the agenda including: conference call with TAM, review and sign letter to School Board, review and sign addendum to Fairpoint contract and discuss Town Nurse position.

**Senior Meals, Terrie Dumaine**

Terrie Dumaine came to the table. The Senior Meals program is running very smoothly although on a slim budget. She has filed a petition requesting the town waive the rent payment of $300 per month to be voted on at Town Meeting. The Selectboard feels that this request, which totals $3,600 per year, is a large amount of money for Whitingham when Ms. Dumaine has only requested $1,000 from Wilmington and Readsboro (volunteers did not get petitions signed for Dover, Halifax or Marlboro). The Selectboard also informed Ms. Dumaine that with no rental income there will be no money available to offset any future repairs that might be needed to the equipment, creating an even larger burden on the taxpayers. Also, waiving the rent sets a bad precedent for other entities seeking to rent the hall in the future.

The Selectboard suggested that Ms. Dumaine draw up another petition requesting a dollar amount of support (for example $1,000 or $1,500) rather than waive the rent. Gig will find out the legal procedure for withdrawal of a submitted petition, if it must remain on the Warning then Ms. Dumaine will stand at Town Meeting and request that it be passed over.

When Ms. Dumaine submits the new petition she was asked to provide the Selectboard with her budget and information about how many seniors from each town attend meals at the Jacksonville meal site. The Selectboard reiterated to Ms. Dumaine their support of this program and that they are willing to work with her to keep it going, however, the Board must be responsible to ALL the taxpayers, not just the 15 or so Whitingham residents who attend meals.

**Hearing of Visitors**:

No visitors.

**Conference Call with TAM:**

Trevor Manse of TAM discussed the different options available for containers to collect the recycling. Containers are somewhat customized per location. It really comes down to cost and convenience. Everyone agreed that remaining duel stream is the best option for the Town. Greg Brown asked for suggestions as to the best way to pack the containers. Mr. Manse indicated that it can be difficult to pack a walk-in container with cardboard and paper. Karl Twitchell expressed his concern about the stacks falling on a resident. He then asked about compactor fees. Rental fees for a 40-yard container for fibers (papers) with a compactor (15 horse, 3 phase motor) would be about $250 a month. Preventative maintenance and repairs are included. Compacting the papers makes for heavier hauls less frequently. The rental cost should be about equal or lesser than hauling costs with no compactor.

It was decided that we will continue with the walk-in box for paper until the weather improves. In the near future Mr. Manse will conduct a site visit with Stanley Janovsky, Clyde Twitchell, Jr., and available Selectboard members. This visit will determine the best location and layout for the Transfer Station and whether the electrical capacity is available for a second compactor. In the spring the site work needed can be done. In the meantime, by sheer volume we have an extra 10 yards of space to lower the number of hauls required. Mr. Manse will order a box for the containers (plastics, glass and cans). The fiber/paper box will be the same that we will now be using when a compactor is installed in the spring. Due to the age and condition of the solid waste compactor the Board determined that renting a new compactor at about $250 per month is a good deal. That change over will probably take place in the spring also.

**Vote on budget for 2017/18**

Final review of budget, due to resignation of Town Nurse the budget was lowered by $19,630. **A motion was made by Greg Brown to approve the budget of $569,681 of which $242,031 to be raised in taxes, $191,079 from anticipated revenue and appropriate $136,571 from prior years fund balance, seconded by Allan Twitchell, all in favor.**

**Review and approval of Selectboard Annual Report**

**A motion was made by Greg Brown to accept the Selectboard Annual Report, as written, for inclusion in the Town Report, seconded by Robin Kingsley, all in favor.**

**Approval of Payables Warrant – January 5, 2017**

**A motion was made by Robin Kingsley to approve Payables Warrant W1728 dated January 5, 2017, seconded by Karl Twitchell, all in favor.**

**Approval of Payroll Warrant – January 5, 2017**

**A motion was made by Robin Kingsley to approve the Payroll Warrant W1727 dated January 5, 2017, seconded by Allan Twitchell, all in favor.**

**Approval of Minutes of December 21, 2016; December 28, 2016 and December 29, 2016**

**A motion was made by Greg Brown to approve the Minutes of December 21, 28 and 29, 2016, as written, seconded by Robin Kingsley, all in favor.**

**Other business / Administrative Assistant – as needed**

1. Review and sign letter to School Board after some discussion the letter expressing concern about heat and emergency power at the school, which is a designated Civil Defense Shelter, was edited and signed by the board.
2. Fairpoint contract addendum Because the sewer and highway telephone lines ring in two locations an additional fee is required. Keith Bronson signed the contract for an additional $20 per month per line.
3. Town Nurse position Jane Boyd submitted a letter of resignation effective March 31, 2017. The Selectboard accepted her resignation with regret. After discussion, it was decided that the Town would not seek to refill the position.

**Adjourn**

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

Keith Bronson adjourned the meeting at 9:31pm.

Respectfully submitted, ~Gig Zboray