

**Town of Winhall**  
**Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, January 4, 2023**

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**PRESENT:** Stuart Coleman; Bill Schwartz; Julie Isaacs; Lissa Stark (Town Administrator); Derrick Tienken (Police).

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Herbert Hewes, Ron Stark, Steve Avison (Fire Department), Deb Avison (Treasurer), Beth Grant (Town Clerk), Fred Schwacke (CUD).

**CALL TO ORDER:** Coleman called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** (None)

**POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT:** Chief Tienken reported on monthly call statistics and trends. He had applied for a grant to replace several AEDs. Tienken, acting as Emergency Management Director, updated the Board on the flood/water damage in the Town Office basement; Coleman reported on the water in the elevator shaft and the need for new shelving in the basement. There had been no apparent structural damage, though some files had been lost.

**LIQUOR BOARD:** At 5:46 PM, *Isaacs motioned to recess the Select Board meeting and open the Liquor Board; seconded by Schwartz; unanimous.* Grant had previously sent the applications for Red Fox Inn & Tavern, seeking a 1<sup>st</sup> Class and 2<sup>nd</sup> Class license under new ownership (Brazis/Myatt). *Isaacs made the motion to approve both licenses; seconded by Schwartz; unanimous.* At 5:49 PM, *Schwartz motioned to close the Liquor Board and reopen the Select Board meeting; seconded by Isaacs; unanimous.*

**MISCELLANEOUS:** Grant reported that she had ordered a new copier and would be donating the old copier to the Mountain School.

**BUDGET FY23-24:** The Board reviewed the final draft of the budget and made changes to the fire truck (equipment) reserve fund based on discussion with the Fire Department. The budget was finalized and ready for Town Meeting vote.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** Avison reported on the proposed new fire truck costs and timeline for building the new truck. Isaacs noted that she had received input from residents that Peru had recently purchased a new fire truck for substantially less (roughly \$400,000) and residents were inquiring why Winhall was purchasing a \$1.2 million truck. Avison explained that the new Winhall truck would hold 3,000 gallons of water and carry six people. He was still looking into the cost of the extended warranty, which would be an additional cost. There would be a discount of \$48,000 for signing the contract by January 15; *Isaacs motioned to authorize Coleman to sign the contract by January 15 to ensure the discount is received; seconded by Schwartz; unanimous.*

**FINANCIALS / TAXES:** Avison reported on the financials and the funds in CDs. There was discussion about residents having difficulty reaching the Delinquent Tax Collector; residents are instructed to contact her directly via email or phone.

**TOWN MEETING:** Grant reported that the Mountain School would be ready for Town Meeting and would bill the Town for the cost of custodial/cleaning services afterward. January 19 is the deadline for petitions. Isaacs noted that a newsletter should go out at the end of February or March 1 with the Town Meeting Warning included.

**BENSON FULLER INTERSECTION:** Schwartz had sent a priority mail letter to the Flemings.

**TOWN-WIDE REAPPRAISAL:** The Select Board had signed the contract with NEMRC for a reappraisal to commence in 2024. The CLA was now at 78%, which requires a townwide reappraisal.

**MUNICIPAL WASTEWATER SYSTEM:** The Town would apply for village center designation with assistance from the Windham Regional Commission; RFQ for engineering was in-process.

**COMMUNICATIONS UNION DISTRICT:** Fred Schwacke provided an update on his work on broadband. He asked that the Select Board write a letter to the Vermont Community Broadband Board and the Southern Vermont CUD to ask where the Town stands; his requests for information under the freedom of information act had gone unanswered. There was discussion about the new fiber going in by Consolidated Communications. Deerfield Valley CUD was 50 months out. Schwacke would put together a list of resources for residents for the Town Report or newsletter/email.

**TOWN OFFICE COMPUTER SYSTEM:** Coleman reported that fiber was in, but not hooked up yet. Stark had sent an update from Consolidated showing a connection date of February 6.


**MEETING MINUTES:** After review, *Isaacs motioned to approve the meeting minutes of 12/21/22; seconded by Coleman; unanimous.*

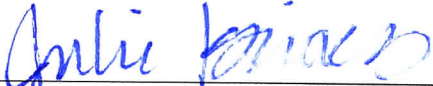
**WARRANTS:** After review, *Schwartz motioned to approve warrant 01/04/2023; seconded by Isaacs; unanimous.*

As there was no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 PM; *motion by Isaacs; seconded by Schwartz; unanimous.*

Lissa Stark  
Town Administrator

  
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Stuart Coleman, Chair

  
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William Schwartz, Vice-Chair

  
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Julie Isaacs, Member