

Town of Winhall Selectboard
Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, February 3, 2021 (via Zoom)

PRESENT: Julie Isaacs, Stuart Coleman, Bill Schwartz; Lissa Stark, (Town Administrator); Lucia Wing, (Secretary); Derrick Tienken & Jake Lacasse (Police);

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Fred Schwacke, Jeff Such

CALL TO ORDER: Isaacs opened the meeting (via Zoom) at 5:00 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Fred Schwacke and Jeff Such joined the Zoom meeting to discuss broadband in Winhall. Schwacke commented wireless communication was okay but bringing fiber optics to the community at large would be a “game changer” for many Vermonters. Jeff Such who represented Southern Vermont Communications Union District gave an overview; he stated that currently (13) municipalities including Dorset, Manchester, Londonderry, Peru, and others participated in discussion relative to broadband. Discussion included benefits of fiber optics; cable versus fiber optics; fund raising and other options; municipalities banding together; and no tax dollars used to bring in broadband to Winhall. After further discussion, the Selectboard agreed to discuss the subject again at the following meeting in February; in the meantime, Schwacke would email additional material to the Town Administrator; he also stated he was willing to serve as Winhall’s representative on the Communications Union District.

POLICE/FIRE/RESCUE REPORT:

1) Chief Tienken and the Selectboard reviewed the monthly police report for January including traffic tickets and warnings, false alarms, animal control matters, property watch, medical assists, and law incidents in and around Winhall and the Stratton Mountain resort. Tienken reported traffic studies had been completed with the State to justify installing (2) speed carts- one at each end of the Village of Bondville. The next step was site preparation and State funding; Tienken would keep the Selectboard posted. He reported January was mostly quiet with a few arrests including a DUI.

2) Chief Tienken commended Jake Lacasse of the Winhall Police Department for going above and beyond with a recent medical assist, resulting in saving a life. Tienken presented Lacasse with a Lifesaving Award. The Selectboard and the community at large thanked Lacasse for his extraordinary effort.

COMMUNITY HEALTH DISCUSSION:

Chief Tienken reported the Winhall police as well as first responders had received their second vaccinations. Covid-19 cases in Bennington County were on the uptick along with increased hospitalizations. There was a covid-19 virtual meeting scheduled for the following morning at 8:30 AM to discuss the matter; Chief, Isaacs, and Schwartz would try to attend.

TOWN REPORT:

The Town Administrator reported she was still waiting for the School Board to submit its information. The Town Report needed to be at the printer by February 12th.

ADMINISTRATIVE/CORRESPONDENCE:

FYI: Financials. FYI broadband correspondence sent by Fred Schwacke to the Selectboard for review.

APPROVAL OF PAST MEETING MINUTE(S):

After review, the Selectboard virtually approved the meeting minutes of January 20, 2021 as presented; *motion by Isaacs; seconded by Schwartz; unanimous.*

WARRANT:

After review, the Selectboard approved warrant #02/03/21 as presented; *motion by Schwartz; seconded by Coleman; unanimous.*

As there was no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:43 PM; *motion by Schwartz; seconded by Coleman; unanimous.*

Lucia Wing, Secretary,
Winhall Selectboard

Approved Virtually on 02/17/2021

Julie Isaacs, Chair

E. Stuart Coleman, Vice-Chair

William Schwartz, Member