

Town of Winhall Selectboard
Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, May 20, 2020

PRESENT: Julie Isaacs; Stuart Coleman; Bill Schwartz; Lucia Wing (Secretary); Lissa Stark (Town Administrator); Trevor Dryden (Roads); Scott Bushee (Facilities); Chief Whitesell & Derrick Tienken (Police); Reece Millington (new police officer)

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: None

CALL TO ORDER: Isaacs called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM at the Town Hall.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

HIGHWAY REPORT:

1) Dryden reported currently all was well with members of the Highway crew relative to the coronavirus; all safety protocols were being followed. Dryden reported they were underway with ditching and grading Town roads. One of the Highway crew had been injured and was recuperating at home temporarily. Discussion followed about the possibility of hiring a fourth crew member. The Selectboard would put it on the agenda for the following meeting. Lawrence Grant had constructed a burn pile across from the Transfer Station; guard rail installation on the Access Road was still in the queue. Dryden reported they had done ditching and road work on Upper Stratton Valley Road; culvert installation on Cranberry Hill Road would move forward shortly; residents in the area would be notified in writing.

2) Dryden and the Selectboard discussed a Mailbox Protocol Policy for next winter re: plowing. Dryden would help out by informing mailbox owners of the protocol; homeowners could get info from Post Office. Outdoor mailbox location, etc. was mandated by the Federal government. Discussion followed re: road striping.

Access permits: After review, the Selectboard approved access permit(s) for Alexander Juhaz, #24 Wall Street for a new driveway; Brian Weiner, Lot 11- #9 Bethy Lane; no culvert required; Collin Brooks, #10 Deer Yard Road for two separate curb cuts to replace two- 18" culverts; *motion by Coleman; seconded by Schwartz; unanimous.*

TRANSFER STATION & FACILITIES REPORT:

Bushee reported all was going well at the Transfer Station. Tempered protective glass would be installed in the Town Clerk's office. Sparky was still working on LED lighting in the Town Hall; all other municipal buildings were finished. Bushee reported the Transfer Station was currently very business due to Covid-19 and way more people in Town. He reported the crew was busy with brush pile burning. The Transfer Station attendants had taken a safety course relative to sand pile stocking, etc. The Swap Shop was still closed until the State allowed non-essential businesses to open. Bushee would stay on top of it the restrictions. The Transfer Station was not collecting clothes or electronics. The Town Administrator and Bushee would review the Casella bill; discussion followed. Bushee reported disposal and trucking fees had dramatically increased; discussion followed relative to increasing bottle returns to offset fees.

WINHALL POLICE OFFICER APPOINTMENT:

Chief Whitesell introduced Reece Millington (new Winhall police officer) to the Selectboard. Discussion followed about getting him enrolled into the Police Academy this summer either part-time or full-time when spots became available. Millington would be required to receive his Level 2 Certification prior to being officially hired by the Town of Winhall. In the meantime, Millington would go through a two-week orientation program to get familiar with Winhall and the surrounding community. The Selectboard questioned Millington about why he wanted to be a police officer; discussion followed relative to community policing; Millington was totally onboard with the concept. He would meet with the Town Administrator to get all the paperwork underway. The Selectboard welcomed Millington to the Winhall Police Department.

2) Tienken, Chief Whitesell, and the Selectboard discussed the continued illegal garbage dumping at #6 Old Snow Valley Road. The Town Administrator had contacted the Agency of Natural Resources environmental enforcement and was in the queue. A suggestion was to hire an attorney. The Selectboard agreed to wait until they had a response from ANR.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 6:00 PM the Selectboard voted to go into executive session to discuss police personnel matters; *motion by Coleman; seconded by Schwartz; unanimous.* At 6:15 PM the Selectboard voted to come out of executive session; *motion by Coleman; seconded by Schwartz; unanimous.* Out of executive session, the Selectboard approved Chief Whitesell's retirement proposal as presented and agreed to appoint Derrick Tienken as Interim Chief for a six-month period; *motion by Coleman; seconded by Schwartz; unanimous.*

COMMUNITY HEALTH DISCUSSION:

Whitesell reported generally it was status quo in Winhall relative to the virus. The WPD had answered a couple of calls relative to Covid-19. Whitesell reported food distribution in the Bromley parking lot had been overwhelming. The National Guard was in attendance to facilitate the event.

GREEN-UP DAY: Isaacs updated the Selectboard on Green-Up Day scheduled for May 30th. The Town Administrator would order food; some volunteers had already been out picking up garbage along Town roads.

ADMINISTRATIVE: FYI: Financial updated by the Town Administrator; discussion followed. FYI: Municipal Property Tax temporary provisions; discussion followed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 6:45 PM the Selectboard voted to go into executive session to discuss employee payroll matters; *motion by Schwartz; seconded by Coleman; unanimous.* At 7:10 PM the Selectboard voted to come out of executive session; *motion by Schwartz; seconded by Coleman; unanimous.* Out of executive session, the Selectboard agreed to COVID equalization pay for full-time Winhall employees who had not been able to take paid leave at the onset of the COVID response; *motion by Schwartz; seconded by Coleman; unanimous.*

APPROVAL OF PAST MEETING MINUTES:

After review, the meeting minutes of March 18th were approved as presented; April 15th (via Zoom) were approved as amended; April 18th Emergency Meeting- Town Hall opening protocol were approved as presented; and May 6th 2020 were approved as presented; *motion by Isaacs; seconded by Schwartz; unanimous.*

The Selectboard was aware of the dog situation at Stratton West and agreed it was an animal control issue.


WARRANTS:

After review, the Selectboard approved warrant 05/20/20 as presented. The Selectboard signed and approved the GIS mapping contact and annual bill of \$2400; *motion by Schwartz; seconded by Coleman; unanimous.*

As there was no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM; *motion by Schwartz; seconded by Isaacs; unanimous.*

Lucia Wing, Secretary
Winhall Selectboard


Julie Isaacs, Chair


Stuart Coleman, Vice-Chair


William Schwartz, Member