

Town of Winhall Selectboard
Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, August 17, 2022

PRESENT: Stuart Coleman; Bill Schwartz; Julie Isaacs; Lissa Stark (Absent); Lucia Wing (Secretary), Trevor Dryden (Highway), Scott Bushee (Facilities)

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Eric Hatch (Southern VT CUD), Beth Grant (Town Clerk), Adam Froelich (Resident)

CALL TO ORDER: Coleman opened the meeting at 5:30 PM at the Town Hall in Bondville.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Adam Froelich, a local Town resident, came before the Selectboard to discuss the opt-in cannabis voice vote taken at Town Meeting in April of 2021. The voice vote was not binding as Act 164 passed by the Vermont Legislature in October 2020 specifically required a vote by Australian Ballot. After review and further discussion, the Selectboard agreed to hold a Special Town Vote to be scheduled on Tuesday 9/27/22 from 10AM-7PM for voters to legally opt-in by Australian Ballot as required by law; *motion by Schwartz; seconded by Isaacs; unanimous.*

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT REPORT:

Dryden reported there was half a sand pile remaining; salt had gone out to bid; still waiting on the hydraulic study relative to the Access Road; Hunter Excavating planned to start the bank project on Kendall Farm Road the following week; 750 feet of pipe had been installed in the ground; ditching, culvert replacement, and mowing were currently underway; and Kenny Chase had come back to work fulltime. Dryden asked the Selectboard to consider restarting the Benson Fuller/Upper Taylor Hill Road intersection project; the Selectboard would discuss getting engineering work at the next meeting. Dryden reported he had reached out to a second auto company who had given him a trade-in value for the current Town Ram truck of \$40,000; the proposed new truck would cost approx. \$187,000; discussion followed about funding the new truck. After further discussion, the Selectboard authorized Dryden to negotiate the current deal and trade-in value of 25,000 with Craig Allen; *motion by Schwartz; seconded by Isaacs; unanimous.*

ACCESS PERMITS:

After review, the Selectboard approved an access permit with an 18" culvert for Alexis Kulash, #5 Stratton Garden Loop Road; approved replacement of an 18" culvert for Larry Marsiello, #8 Road to Millbrook; approved an access permit with an 18" culvert for Cheyanne Pugliese off River Road; and gave final approval for an access permit with an 18" culvert to Faye Jacobs, #74 Sylvan Ridge Road.

STRATTON ACCESS ROAD:

Dryden reported the paving project on a portion of the Access Road was complete with shoulders and middle of the road line striping.

FACILITIES REPORT:

Bushee reported the air conditioning units at the Town Hall had been cleaned; discussion followed. Bushee and the Selectboard discussed the current bill increase from Casella. A.S. Clark & Sons had replaced the pump chamber at the Fire Station; discussion followed. The screen door for the Library had been installed. 4-Bay repairs were on hold until spring.

COMPUTER SYSTEM UPDATE:

The Selectboard had awarded the computer bid to E-Enable Inc. Bennington, Vermont who had sent an invoice of \$14,991.89 for hardware mostly computer replacements. The invoice payment was put on hold until Ron was able to visit the Town Hall; meet with the individual departments; and assess with them what they needed.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING: DISCUSSION: FYI: affordable housing; discussion followed.

MUNICIPAL WASTERWATER: DISCUSSION:FYI: Schwartz had reached out to the State to find out what funding was potentially available for municipal wastewater projects.

SHORT-TERM RENTALS: The Planning Commission had formed a 3-person committee to draft language for an Ordinance relative to short-term rentals.

COMMUNITY CENTER & HEALTH UPDATE: FYI: status quo.

TOWN-WIDE REAPPRAISAL:

FYI: The RFP had gone out to bid; due August; no response. In the meantime, Doug Poulter, Lister Chair, had reached out to NEMRC to see if there was potential for the Town to contract with them in the future for a town-wide reappraisal. Poulter was waiting for a call-back to discuss. The Selectboard were in agreement.

COMMUNITY UNION DISTRICT

Fred Schwacke had submitted correspondence and questions to the Selectboard on 8/17/22 relative to joining Bennington versus Deer Valley re: expanded broadband in Winhall. Eric Hatch, from the Southern Vermont CUD, came before the Selectboard to talk about Consolidated's role in bringing fiber optics to Winhall sometime in 2023 and making broadband available to everyone. Hatch and the Selectboard reviewed Schwacke's submittal item by item for clarity.

ADMINISTRATIVE & CORRESPONDENCE: None

APPROVAL OF PAST MEETING MINUTE(S):

After review, the Selectboard approved the meeting minutes of 8/3/22 as presented; *motion by Isaacs; seconded by Schwartz; unanimous.*

WARRANTS:

After review, the Selectboard approved warrant #92878 as presented; *motion by Isaacs; seconded by Schwartz; unanimous.*

As there was no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM; *motion by Schwartz; seconded by Isaacs; unanimous.*

Lucia Wing, Secretary,
Winhall Selectboard



E. Stuart Coleman, Chair



William Schwartz, Vice-Chair



Julie Isaacs, Member