

**Town of Winhall Selectboard
Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, September 6, 2023**

PRESENT: Stuart Coleman; Bill Schwartz; Julie Isaacs; Lissa Stark (Town Administrator); Lucia Wing (Secretary); Trevor Dryden (Highway); Chief Tienken (Police); Elizabeth Grant (Town Clerk)

ALSO: Chris Miller (Police), Mike Cole (Winhall Resident); Becca Coleman (MT Towns Recreation)

CALL TO ORDER: Schwartz opened the Selectboard meeting at 5:30 PM at the Town Hall.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mike Cole, a local resident in Winhall, came before the Selectboard expressing his interest in joining or forming a Town Energy Committee with a focus on reducing energy costs in Winhall. Discussion included applying for a \$4,000 State grant- now available; setting goals for the Town to achieve lower costs; and meeting with Scott Bushee for his guidance and expertise. After further discussion, *Isaacs made the motion to reconvene the Energy Committee; seconded by Schwartz; unanimous.* In the meantime, Cole would look further into applying for the grant as well as recruiting members to join the Committee. Cole would get back to the Selectboard when he had more information to share.

MOUNTAIN TOWNS RECREATION DIRECTOR: DISCUSSION:

After discussion with Becca Coleman, Winhall representative to the above, the Selectboard approved and signed the Interlocal Agreement between the Town of Londonderry, Town of Winhall, Town of Landgrove, Town of Weston, and Town of Peru; *motion by Isaacs; seconded by Schwartz; unanimous.*

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT:

The Selectboard & Chief Tienken reviewed the monthly police report for August to include traffic tickets and warnings; false alarms; animal control issues; property watch matters; DUI arrests; motor vehicle incidents; and medical & pedestrian assists in and around Winhall and the Stratton Mountain Resort. Chief introduced Chris Miller, new fulltime Winhall police officer. After Miller described his background and years in law enforcement, *Schwartz made the motion approving the Town hiring Miller; seconded by Isaacs; unanimous.* Miller would start work for the WPD on 9/11/23. Chief reported there had been several serious motor vehicle accidents including an ATV crash and breaking into a parked vehicle. Chief reported the police survey went well; several officers, Tienken included, had attended a police education course in Michigan. Discussion followed about increased speeding in Winhall and the positive effects of speed carts. Grants were available for more speed carts. Coleman reported the Winhall Fire Alarm Ordinance was working; discussion followed about the benefits of installing knock boxes.

TOWN CLERK: REPORT:

The Town Clerk reported she and Al Bilka were attending a training course focused on handicap voting. She reminded everyone the Town Hall was closed the following week for a two-day education course for town clerks and assistant town clerks.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT: REPORT:

Dryden reported Hunter Excavating planned to replace the three culverts as discussed- Cranberry Hill, Winhall Hollow, Stoney Hill; the recent FEMA meeting had gone well; the "Park & Ride" sign was missing; and the new truck had been delivered. Discussion followed relative to the public using the police emergency exit even though "No Entry" signs were clearly visible. A suggestion was to put up a gate.

STRATTON ACCESS ROAD: UPDATE:

The Town Administrator reported the Army Corp of Engineers had approved culvert replacement on the Access Road; Weaver Excavating had received permission to proceed.

ACCESS PERMITS:

After review, the Selectboard approved a final access permit for Brian Whatley, #22 Road to Millbrook to replace two culverts; *motion by Schwartz; seconded by Isaacs; unanimous.*

BENSON FULLER INTERSECTION UPDATE:

Dryden reported he would meet with GMP regarding a utility survey for the above intersection.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING/WASTEWATER: UPDATE:

Before the Town could apply for a wastewater grant, the State specified the revised Town Plan was required to include a section on a village designation center.

SHORT-TERM RENTALS:

The Planning Commission was reviewing the draft of the completed Short-Term Rental Ordinance for approval by the Selectboard.

ADMINISTRATIVE & CORRESPONDENCE:

Schwartz reported he had made some minor revisions to the Conflict-of-Interest Policy; approval was tabled until the following meeting.

APPROVAL OF PAST MEETING MINUTE(S):


After review, the Selectboard approved the meeting minutes of 8/16/23 and as presented; *motion by Schwartz; seconded by Isaacs; unanimous.*

WARRANTS:


After review, the Selectboard approved warrant 9/6/23 as presented; *motion by Isaacs; seconded by Schwartz; unanimous.*

As there was no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 PM; *motion by Schwartz; seconded by Coleman; unanimous.*


Lucia Wing, Secretary,
Winhall Selectboard



E. Stuart Coleman, Chair



William Schwartz, Vice-Chair



Julie Isaacs, Member