

Town of Winhall Selectboard
Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, December 5, 2018

PRESENT: Bill Schwartz, Stuart Coleman; Julie Isaacs; Lissa Stark, (Town Administrator), Lucia Wing, (Secretary); Jeff Whitesell (Police), Trevor Dryden (Roads)

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

POLICE/FIRE/RESCUE REPORT & BUDGET DISCUSSION 19/20:

1) Chief Whitesell and the Selectboard discussed the November monthly police report including traffic tickets and warnings, alarms, property damage, citizen public assists, property watch, medical responses, public outreach, and law incidents in and around Winhall and the Stratton Mountain Resort. Whitesell reported there had been a large number of DUI arrests for the month of November along with increased traffic accidents due to extreme weather. He reported there was a drug seizure by canine Gunner and Police Officer Rogers. The new cruiser was ready but needed outfitting before putting it on the road. Stratton Corp. had scheduled an outdoor bluegrass festival for the following weekend in December.

2) Chief Whitesell submitted the police budget for the FY19/20. Discussion followed relative to the Police Equipment Reserve Fund; Whitesell stated no police cruiser purchase would be required for the following fiscal year, therefore, there was no need to put money into the Reserve Fund for the upcoming year; the overall police budget could be reduced. Whitesell and the Selectboard discussed **revenues** including offsetting grants. **Expenses** were approximately the same as the previous fiscal year and included line items such as animal control; court time; gas & oil; information systems; canine maintenance; mileage reimbursement; office equipment replacement; PD rescue training; postage; prisoner transport; radar equipment; repair & maintenance- cruisers; rescue supplies & equipment; snowmobile safety & education (grant offset); supplies & other expenses; and uniforms & equipment. The proposed police operating budget came in at \$818,800 and the reserve fund would be reduced by \$47,000 (see above). Grants and revenues offset operating expenses.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 5:25 PM the Selectboard voted to go into executive session to discuss police personnel matters; ***motion by Coleman; seconded by Isaacs; unanimous.*** At 5:40 PM the Selectboard came out of executive session; ***motion by Coleman; seconded by Isaacs; unanimous.*** No decisions were rendered.

ROAD & HIGHWAY REPORT:

1) Dryden came before the Selectboard to discuss increasing the sand budget for the following fiscal year. There was discussion of the new highway maintenance reserve fund and its uses. As a result of extreme weather in November, Dryden needed to order an additional 500 yards of sand from Chet McLellan Trucking for this fiscal year; ***motion by Coleman authorizing Dryden to order the sand; seconded by Isaacs; unanimous.*** The additional sand purchase would be funded by the general reserve fund. Dryden and the Selectboard also discussed decreasing the road improvement budget by \$100,000 by delaying replacement of the culvert on Cranberry Hill Road; agreed. The reduction helped reduce the overall highway budget for the upcoming year.

2) Discussion followed about replacing the bucket loader and getting demo models to try out this winter. The Selectboard agreed to put out an RFP now and see what bids were submitted as a result.

OLD TOWN HALL: UPDATE:

The Selectboard discussed the continuing lien against the Old Town Hall. Martello Brothers was responsible for payment to the elevator installer. The Selectboard discussed elevator service contracts for both the Town Hall and Old Town Hall before opening the Old Town Hall for community use. The Town Administrator had contacted several companies, but no one had responded positively to date. Schwartz stated he would contact New England

Lift, and the Town Administrator would contact Bay State, who currently services the elevator at the Town Offices. After further review, ***Coleman made the motion authorizing Bill Schwartz to make the contact with New England Lift Co.; seconded by Isaacs; unanimous.*** After discussion, the Selectboard agreed to schedule a special meeting at the Old Town Hall for 12/7/18 at 10:00 AM to review finalizing punch list items. They would invite Laura Gianotti. The community sign had been lowered, looked great, and was more visible.

BUDGETING FY19/20:

After review, the Selectboard agreed to reduce the Road Improvements budget by \$100,000 and the Police Equipment Reserve Fund by \$47,000 as discussed above. The overall municipal budget decreased as a result.

TRANSFER STATION REPORT: (No report)

FACILITIES REPORT: (No report)

EMPLOYEE HOLIDAY BONUSES: After review, the Selectboard approved the Winhall employee holiday bonus list as presented; ***motion by Isaacs; seconded by Schwartz; unanimous.***

ADMINISTRATIVE/CORRESPONDENCE:

1) The Selectboard discussed correspondence from a long-time Winhall resident questioning a tax penalty. The Delinquent Tax Collector was the authoritative entity and would decide whether or not to forgive the penalty. The Selectboard agreed they had no authority in the matter.

2) FYI: Personnel Policy (discussion tabled)

3) Facilities Use Policy; discussion followed; Laura Gianotti was researching creating a non-profit 501(3C) as a future possibility for the Community Arts Center. There had been discussion relative to benefits.

4) Neighborhood Connections was asking for a \$750 increase in their appropriation. The petition for the increase would be voted on by the Winhall voters at Town Meeting Day in March.

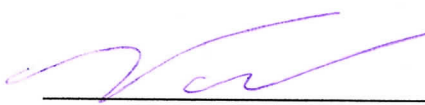
5) A VTrans hearing was scheduled for 12/20/18, starting with a site visit at 10AM on Route 30 near the Norse House relative to replacing the culvert under Route 30. Coleman would try to attend.

WARRANT: After review, the Selectboard approved warrant #12/05/18 as presented; ***motion by Isaacs; seconded by Schwartz; unanimous.***

APPROVAL OF PAST MEETING MINUTE(S): After review, the Selectboard approved the minutes of November 18, 2018 as presented; ***motion by Isaacs; seconded by Coleman; unanimous.***

As there was no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM; ***motion by Coleman; seconded by Isaacs; unanimous.***

Lucia Wing, Secretary
Winhall Selectboard



Bill Schwartz, Chair



E. Stuart Coleman, Vice-Chair



Julie Isaacs, Member