

Town of Winhall
Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, December 7, 2022

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Herbert Hewes, Ron Stark, Steve Avison (Fire Department), Deb Avison (Treasurer), Beth Grant (Town Clerk)

CALL TO ORDER: Schwartz called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM at the Town Hall in Bondville.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: (None)

ACCESS PERMIT(S): After review, the Selectboard approved a final access permit for Alexis Kulash, 5 Garden Loop Road and final access permit approval with culvert for Christopher Cassel, 3 Old Town Road; *motion by Schwartz; seconded by Isaacs; unanimous.*

EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 5:45 PM the Selectboard voted to go into executive session to discuss financial matters; *motion by Schwartz; seconded by Isaacs; unanimous.* At 6:15 PM the Selectboard voted to come out of executive session; *motion by Schwartz; seconded by Isaacs; unanimous.* Out of executive session, no decisions were rendered.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING: Isaacs and Schwartz had recently attended an affordable housing seminar in Wilmington, Vermont; much information was offered. Isaacs suggested putting together a local group made up of individuals interested in enhancing affordable opportunities in Winhall. After discussion *Schwartz made the motion authorizing Isaacs to submit a notice in the upcoming Winhall Newsletter asking for residents interested in forming a committee to study affordable housing matters; seconded by Coleman; unanimous.*

CANNABIS CONTROL COMMISSION: The Selectboard was currently the cannabis control commission in Winhall.

BENSON FULLER INTERSECTION PROJECT: FYI: No response from Flemings to date.

MUNICIPAL WASTEWATER SYSTEM: The Town Administrator reported grants for wastewater projects were available and in process; more information was required. The Town would apply for village center designation.

COMMUNICATIONS UNION DISTRICT UPDATE: FYI: Fred Schwacke extended his feedback to the Selectboard and would stay in touch with them relative to expanding broadband in Winhall.

SHORT-TERM RENTALS UPDATE: The STR Committee comprised of three (3) WPC members was making headway on a short-term rental ordinance.

TOWN-WIDE REAPPRAISAL: The Selectboard had signed the contract with NEMRC for a Town-Wide Reappraisal to commence in 2024.

TOWN OFFICE COMPUTER SYSTEM (IT) UPDATE:

The Town Clerk reported internet had been recently intermittent; lines were involved. Otherwise, all the new equipment was running smoothly.

ADMINISTRATIVE/CORRESPONDENCE: FYI: Included a letter of legal notice and audit update.

BUDGET DISCUSSION: With authorization from the Selectboard, the Town Treasurer would move several reserve fund accounts to bank CDs offering higher short-term interest rates for six months. The Selectboard agreed; discussion followed about which reserve accounts would be transferred.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: BUDGET & UPDATES:

Members of the Winhall Fire Department came before the Selectboard to discuss an increase in the Fire Department budget and other matters. Chief Avison gave the latest statistical information and added that five (5) new members had recently joined the department. Discussion followed relative to constructing a new facility which would include fire, rescue, and police all in the same building; a full-time fire department; and purchase of a new fire truck- estimated cost ~~\$1,900,000~~. Other discussion included cross training; current equipment and repairs; maintaining the current fire station building; and the police donating the old police cruiser for first response purposes.

→ ~~1,900,000~~ 1,133,555.00

CORRESPONDENCE: FYI: letter of legal notice and audit. FYI: Policy updates; discussion followed

TOWN MEETING WARNING: MARCH 7, 2023: Coleman read the Town Meeting Warning and associated Articles. The Selectboard delayed approval to see if the meeting could be moved from the Town Garage to the Mountain School.

EMPLOYEE HOLIDAY BONUSES: After review, the Selectboard approved the Employee Holiday Bonus list as presented; *motion by Schwartz; seconded by Isaacs; unanimous.*

CREDIT CARD DISCUSSION: After discussion relative to departments having their own credit cards, several departments already had them, a Staples credit card would be ordered and used by the Town Clerk to purchase equipment & supplies for the office.


PAST MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL: After review, the Selectboard approved the meeting minutes of 11/16/22 as presented; *motion by Schwartz; seconded by Isaacs; unanimous.*

WARRANTS: After review, the Selectboard approved warrant 12/07/22 as presented; *motion by Schwartz; seconded by Isaacs; unanimous.*

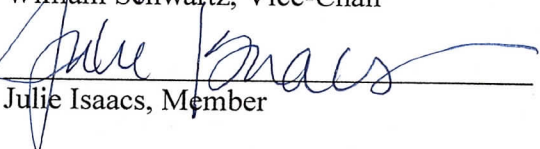
EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 7:30 PM the Selectboard voted to go into executive session to discuss personnel matters; *motion by Isaacs; seconded by Schwartz; unanimous.* At 7:50 PM, the Selectboard voted to come out of executive session; *motion by Schwartz; second by Isaacs; unanimous.* No decisions were made.

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


Stuart Coleman, Chair


William Schwartz, Vice-Chair


Julie Isaacs, Member