

**Town of Winhall Selectboard**  
**Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, December 20, 2023**

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**PRESENT:** Stuart Coleman; Bill Schwartz; Julie Isaacs; Lucia Wing (Secretary); Lissa Stark (Town Administrator); Trevor Dryden (Roads); Scott Bushee (Facilities), Al Bilka (Ass. Town Clerk); Beth Grant (Town Clerk)

**ALSO:** Liam Elio (MT Recreation Director), Mike Cole & Andrea Ameden (Energy Committee)

**CALL TO ORDER:** Coleman called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM at the Town Hall.

*Added to the agenda: sign Municipal Planning Grant*

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** *Liam Elio*, recently hired as the mountain recreation director- Londonderry, introduced himself to the Selectboard who welcomed him to the position.

**POLICE REPORT:** Chief and the Selectboard reviewed the police report for November to include: Traffic tickets & warnings; animal control matters; property watch; alarm calls; DUI's; and agency, motor & medical assists in and around Winhall and the Stratton Mountain Resort. Chief reported the police department had purchased a new Chevy Tahoe cruiser to replace the "canine vehicle"; discussion followed relative to positive Chevy reviews. Chief reported on updated AUD support in all police vehicles. The Selectboard discussed purchasing several more speed carts to replace those that did not function properly. The Police Dept. was at full manpower; Christmas was likely to be very busy; and several excessive speed arrests had been made.

**TRANSFER STATION & FACILITIES REPORT:**

**Transfer Station:** Bushee reported he planned to reorganize signage at the Transfer Station to help users understand the new paper/cardboard protocol; he would also handout flyers. Bushee added speeding within the Transfer Station was a real problem; he recommended coming up with a reprimand system. Further, he suggested methods to slow cars down as speed bumps froze during the cold months.

**Library:** Bushee suggested moving the hot water heater and pressure tank from the basement area to another location because of continual basement flooding.

**Community Center:** Bushee reported the fire alarm system was not operating and would have to be fixed or replaced.

**Town Hall:** The alarm system at the Town Hall most likely needed a total overhaul costing \$20,000. Bushee reported he was trying to find a less expensive alternative. The elevator was another issue relative to the existing service contract; he was looking into finding a new company; discussion followed.

**ENERGY COMMITTEE REPORT:** Mike Cole and Andrea Ameden (Energy Committee) came before the Selectboard recommending purchasing an Energy Dashboard for the Town of Winhall which would efficiently track monthly energy, fuel and electrical use in the (5) municipal buildings: Town Hall/Police; Fire Station; Town Garage/Transfer Station; Library; and Community Center. Cole explained the Dashboard would allow the Selectboard to observe which buildings needed upgrades; the Dashboard would be linked to the Town website for viewing. After further review, the Selectboard gave their approval to spend \$2953.01 yearly for the Energy Dashboard which was covered by the \$4,000 grant; in addition, they gave their permission to accept the \$4,000 grant money; *motion by Isaacs; seconded by Schwartz; unanimous.* The Town Administrator would monitor the expenditures.

**HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT REPORT:** 1) Dryden reported the resident living at the end of Deep Woods Road had put large stones in the Town cul-de-sac ROW. The Highway Dept had to move one of them for the purpose

of snow removal; discussion followed. The Town Administrator would follow up with a letter from the Selectboard to the resident clarifying the need to remove the large stones from the Town ROW so as not to obstruct winter snowplowing and move them to another location on his property. Dryden reported he planned to install a Dashcam in his plow truck for recording incidents; discussion followed about writing a policy per VLCT's recommendation.

2) Dryden and the Selectboard discussed an RFP which would be required for an engineer study for road redesign on Winhall Hollow Road near John Spencer's property; approx. cost \$10,000. Dryden reported on the heavy, recent rain impacts on local driveways, mud on Town roads, and culverts.

**ACCESS PERMITS:** After review the Selectboard approval a final access permits for Chris Casiraghi, #45 Rogues Ridge Road to bury electrical services under the road and Andrew Healy, # 58 River Road; ***motion by Isaacs; seconded by Schwartz; unanimous.***

**SHORT-TERM RENTAL: AMINISTRATOR POSITION:** After review, the Selectboard approved creating a STR Administrator position for the Town of Winhall; ***motion by Isaacs; seconded by Schwartz; unanimous.*** The position would be advertised as required.

**MUNICIPAL PLANNING GRANT APPROVAL:** After review the Selectboard approved and signed acceptance of the \$21,015 planning grant awarded to the Winhall Planning Commission to update the Town Plan to allow for formation of a Village Center Designation; ***motion by Schwartz; seconded by Isaacs; unanimous.***

**BENSON FULLER INTERSECTION UPDATE:** FYI

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING/WASTEWATER UPDATE:** FYI

**BUDGETING FY24-25:** The 24/25/ Budget would be finalized and approved at the 1/3/24 SB meeting. Discussion included adding an Energy Committee line item; discussion followed.

**DOG LICENSE FEES:** The Town Clerk explained all fees were included when dog owners paid their annual license fees which included spaying, neutering, and rabies vaccinations. This would be included in the annual Town Report.

**TOWN MEETING WARNING:** The Selectboard discussed adding a Town Article for Town Meeting in March relative to appointing the Delinquent Tax Collector versus electing them; discussion followed. Town Meeting Warning & Articles would be approved at the next SB meeting on 1/3/24.

**WINHALL NEWSLETTER:** The Winhall Newsletter would come out after the New Year as requested.

**POLICIES & PROCEDURES/AUDIT: UPDATE:** FYI: Conflict of Interest Policy on hold.

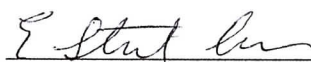
**CORRESPONDENCE:** FYI: County Tax information.


**PAST MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL:** (Tabled)

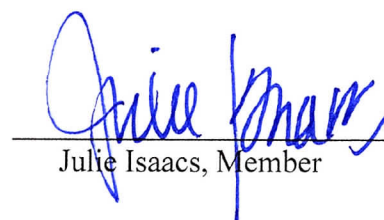
**WARRANTS:** After review, the Selectboard approved warrant 12/20/23 as presented; ***motion by Schwartz; seconded by Isaacs; unanimous.***

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

  
Stuart Coleman, Chair

  
William Schwartz, Vice-Chair

  
Julie Isaacs, Member