

**Town of Winhall Selectboard  
Winhall, Vermont  
“Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, September 4, 2013”**

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**PRESENT:** Bob Oakes, Bill Schwartz, Steve Blanchard, Lucia Wing, Secretary, Lissa Stark, Town Administrator, Jeff Whitesell (Police)

**ABSENT:** Randy Kimball (Roads), Barbara Ferguson (Buildings)

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Dave Glabach (Health Officer), Ed Magee, Janna Carroll & Gary DiMaggio (Benson Fuller Road homeowners), John Guerin (EOS Ventures)

**CALL TO ORDER:** Oakes called the Selectboard meeting to order at 4:32 PM at the Town Hall, #115 Vermont Route 30.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

*Ed Magee, Janna Carroll, and Gary DiMaggio* who owned homes on Benson Fuller Road came before the Selectboard to ask the Selectboard to consider paving all of Benson Fuller Road for the upcoming budget year. Discussion included the pot holes from rain damage and other weather considerations; cost to pave the road; property values lowered as a result of no paving; and how paving might alter the character of the area. The Selectboard would look into it.

**HEALTH OFFICER REPORT:**

Glabach reported a failed septic system on the Access Road near North Branch Road was being replaced; the system would be hooked into the Stratton treatment center. Matthew Beck was the engineer. Glabach reported that another house in Lower Stratton Valley had no water. Glabach was investigating. Oakes asked if this was a potential health hazard. Glabach thought it might be; discussion followed.

**POLICE, FIRE & RESCUE REPORT:**

1) Next Chief Whitesell and the Selectboard discussed the Winhall Police Report for August including traffic tickets and warnings; animal control issues; false alarms; property watch; medical assists, and law incidents in and around Winhall and Stratton and the surrounding neighborhoods. Whitesell stated there was a burglary at the snowmaking shed at Stratton- still under investigation. Whitesell reported there was a DUI crash on Route 11/30; no one was badly injured.

2) Schwartz questioned Whitesell regarding the status of the Police Services Agreement with Stratton Corporation; discussion followed.

3) The Selectboard reviewed the letter from the Mountain School regarding the School Resources Officer program called “Teamwork.” Officer Greg Gould had developed “a wonderful relationship with the students and their families; he has made a positive contribution to the students’ growth.”

4) Whitesell reported that Officer Scott Legacy was doing well at the Police Academy. Whitesell and the Selectboard discussed where to store the speed cart this winter. The Selectboard signed appointment letters for part time Officer Craig Watrous and full time Officer Scott Legacy; *motion by Oakes; seconded by Schwartz; unanimous.*

5) From a safety perspective, Blanchard discussed the steep embankment at the bottom of the Access Road where two cars had recently gone off the road. Blanchard asked about potentially installing guard rails.

**SOLAR FARM PRESENTATION: JOHN GUERIN:**

John Guerin from EOS Ventures came before the Selectboard to discuss a potential solar site in Winhall. Guerin asked the Selectboard if the Town owned land which would be a suitable site for a solar farm; the site needed to be clear. He stated the site would also require access to three phase power. The Selectboard commented that Town-owned land included the Town Forest and land at the end of Kendall Farm Road. The Selectboard added that Guerin should look at land owned by Lynn Capen Estate as a possible site. The Selectboard asked Guerin how landowners would benefit from a solar farm on their property; Guerin answered lease payments. The Selectboard suggested that Guerin go to a Planning Commission meeting for further guidance. On another subject, Guerin asked if the Town burned oil. Guerin talked about the future economic benefits of an electrical heat storage unit to supercharge; the Fire Department potentially could benefit from this.

**COST OF LIVING RAISE:**

After review, the Selectboard authorized Bob Oakes to sign the 2013/2014 cost of living wage increase for Winhall employees as amended and revised; *motion by Schwartz; seconded by Blanchard; unanimous.*

**CULVERTS: FRENCH HOLLOW ROAD:**

After review, the Selectboard signed a special use permit from the Department of Agriculture giving permission to drive on their property temporarily while the culvert was being installed on French Hollow Road; *motion by Oakes; seconded by Schwartz; unanimous.*

**HIGHWAY & ROADS REPORT:** (No report)

**TRANSFER STATION REPORT:**

The Selectboard discussed removing the bottle shed from the Transfer Station and moving it to the school where it could be utilized better; the Transfer attendants felt it was also a safety issues; discussion followed relative to options. Oakes stated he would e-mail the headmaster of the Mountain School informing him that the Town was not interested in the bottle shed at the Transfer Station, and the school could have it.

**BUILDINGS & MAINTENANCE REPORT:** (No report)

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1) Schwartz reported the community board had been replaced at the Winhall Market; he submitted a set of keys to the Town Administrator who would make copies for appropriate personnel.

2) Blanchard reported that highway roadside mowing had involved a homeowner's property in Forest Farms. If there was any damage the Town would take care of it. Blanchard would speak with Randy Kimball.

**ERRORS & OMISSIONS REPORT:**

The Selectboard approved the errors & omissions report re: John & Lucy Zozzaro for a land adjustment; *motion by Oakes; seconded by Schwartz; unanimous.*

**TOWN ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT:**

1) *Financials:* The Selectboard reviewed several budget items to see where the Town stood financially year to date; discussion followed about balances in the reserve fund(s).

2) The Town Administrator reported that the Town had been awarded a Better Back Roads grant for \$14,000 to improve Old Snow Valley Road. Stark would schedule a meeting on October 15<sup>th</sup> with a State historian to discuss Winhall Museum items. She reported the plaque for the flagpole was ready to pick up. Stark reported that residents in Town had inquired about the status of the Old Town Hall for a yoga studio; the Selectboard would encourage them to make an offer on the building and take it to the voters.

3) The Selectboard reviewed a homeowner's letter on Old Snow Valley Road discussing where his taxes went to. Stark and the Selectboard discussed the current status of the Mountain School lease payments

**PAYORDER(S):**

After review, the Selectboard approved payorder #5 as presented; *motion by Oakes; seconded by Schwartz; unanimous.*

**PAYROLL:**

After review, the Selectboard approved payroll #38 & #34, #36 as presented; *motion by Oakes; seconded by Schwartz; unanimous.*

**APPROVAL OF PAST MEETING MINUTE(S):**

After review, the Selectboard approved the minutes of August 21, 2013 as presented; *motion by Oakes; seconded by Schwartz; unanimous.*

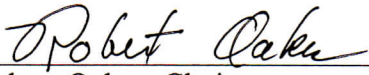
**ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE:**

- Draft- Agency of Natural Resources- General Permit for Indirect Discharge of Sewage
- District Environmental Commission Correspondence re: Stratton Corporation

As there was no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 PM; *motion by Oakes; seconded by Schwartz; unanimous.*

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by,

Lucia Wing, Secretary  
Winhall Selectboard

  
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Robert Oakes, Chair

  
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William Schwartz, Vice-Chair

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Steve Blanchard, Member