

Town of Winhall Selectboard
Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, September 18, 2024

PRESENT: Stuart Coleman; Bill Schwartz; Julie Isaacs; Lucia Wing (Secretary); Lissa Stark (Absent); Trevor Dryden (Roads); Scott Bushee (Facilities); Elizabeth Grant (Town Clerk); Deb Avison (Town Treasurer)

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Michael & Sheri Lindner, Hunter Excavating, Riley Young, Erik Moses (WRC Rep)

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

LIQUOR BOARD:

At 5:31 PM the Selectboard voted to close its meeting and open the Liquor Board hearing. After review, the Liquor Board approved a 1st & 3rd license for outside consumption at the Red Fox (RIFT LLC); *motion by Isaacs; seconded by Schwartz; unanimous.* The Selectboard reopened its meeting at 5:35 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Riley Young, High Tower Consulting, came before the Selectboard to discuss the potential for EV Charging Stations in Winhall. Discussion included charging tiers and how much time it took to charge; cost to the Town; cost to private citizens; parking limitations; Phase II versus Phase III power; potential locations; and payback time 2-4 yrs. The Selectboard thanked Young for his presentation and asked him to send more information about his company.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT: (No report)

TRANSFER STATION & FACILITIES REPORT:

Bushee reported currently all bottles brought to the Transfer Station would now go into the recycling bin, no exceptions. Bushee added he was reviewing pricing for items brought to the Transfer Station and reported the camera system needed software upgrades; discussion followed. The Community Center and Library windows had been installed; he had signed a new contract with Mac Brothers for elevator service at a much lower cost of \$3,960 per year; had issued a “no trespassing” violation to an individual who left debris outside the back door at the Community Center; the Library needed a new sign; and he was investigating facility projects based on the upcoming budget.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 6:00 PM the Selectboard voted to go into executive session to discuss personnel matters; *motion by Schwartz; seconded by Isaacs; unanimous.* At 6:10 PM the Selectboard voted to come out of executive session; *motion by Isaacs; seconded by Schwartz; unanimous.* Out of executive session the Selectboard voted to create a temporary, part-time Transfer Station position; *motion by Isaacs; seconded by Schwartz; unanimous.*

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT REPORT:

1) Dryden, Selectboard, and Hunter Excavating met to discuss a timeline for installing the new culvert on South Road. After review, it was agreed to apply for a permit from the Army Corps of Engineers immediately to allow Hunter to proceed right away if possible. If the permit got delayed, then the Selectboard would reimburse Hunter for the cost of the culvert, store it at a suitable Town location, and reapply for a permit from the Corp of Engineers in the spring; *motion by Schwartz; seconded by Isaacs; unanimous.* Discussion followed about the current condition of the culvert on South Road.

2) Dryden reported the salt shed was full; gravel good; trees cut along Kendall Farm as required; and the Highway crew planned to clean-up the gravel left in the fields along Kendall Farm. Discussion followed.

STRATTON ACCESS ROAD: UPDATE:

Dryden reported Fuller Sand & Gravel hoped to finish paving the upper portion of the Access Road by the end of the month; shoulders and aprons as well. Dryden reported Fuller might have to return for final paving as Stratton was still finishing up repairing snowmaking lines. It would require additional funds to Fuller. Discussion followed about the sink hole on the lower portion of the Access Road and guard rails.

ACCESS PERMITS: (None)

FIRE HOUSE PRE-BID MEETING:

Based on the RFP for the Fire Station review, the Selectboard set the pre-bid meeting for Tuesday, October 1st at 10:00 AM.

MEETING WITH STATE: VILLAGE CENTER DESIGNATION:

Coleman reported he, Jeff Yates, and Lucia Wing (WPC) had met with Richard Amore from the State to walk the proposed Designation boundary lines within the Village Center. After the walk, it was decided to expand the boundary lines to include the Bondville Bloomist, Norse House purple barn and farmhouse, and property owned by the Hatt's along River Road. The group discussed the benefits of being approved which included technical assistance, grant priorities, and tax credits to encourage redevelopment, incentivize housing, and make rebuilding possible after a disaster. Amore concluded the Village Center Designation could not include the Fire House and Town Hall as suggested because of the distance from the Village Center. Matt Bachler (WRC) would help the Planning Commission with the application to the State for designation approval,

WEBSITE UPDATE:

FYI: The Town Administrator had been emailed an updated time frame. The website was now in the "Quality Control" stage.

SHORT-TERM TERM RENTAL ORDINANCE: QUESTION:

Sheri & Michael Lindner questioned the Selectboard relative to garbage concerns. Schwartz responded garbage was part of the proposed STR Ordinance.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING/WASTEWATER UPDATE:

A meeting with affordable housing designers focused on Winhall was scheduled for 9/24/24 at 2:45 PM at the Town Hall; Isaacs planned to attend. A 4-Town Affordable Housing seminar was scheduled at Flood Brook School on Sept. 24 & 26. Erik Moses (WRC Rep) asked to put up flyers around Town as well as putting a notice on the website.

ARPA/SLFRF & OTHER GRANT FUNDING:

The Selectboard discussed using ARPA funding for windows and trim at the Town Hall. Use must be decided by December, 2024. Coleman reported the Fire Department had applied for an emergency services grant to replace emergency equipment used in the National Forest especially in the winter. Funding would go through the Town of Winhall.

TOWN TREASURER REPORT: FYI

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 7:05 PM the Selectboard voted to go into executive session to discuss contractual (tax) matters; *motion by Schwartz; seconded by Isaacs; unanimous.* At 7:15 PM the Selectboard voted to come out of executive session; *motion by Isaacs; seconded by Schwartz; unanimous.* Out of executive session, the Selectboard voted to correct an administrative error upholding the Delinquent Tax Collector's decision to bill interest with no penalty accruing per a tax payment; *motion by Isaacs; seconded by Schwartz; unanimous.*

POLICIES, PROCEDURES, CORRESPONDENCE:

1) The Selectboard noted Alex Bilka's distinguished Certificate as a "Certified Vermont Town Clerk." "Good job Al!"

2) Coleman reported on the series of rat photos sent by Ernie Salo. Coleman had contacted the State as a result and talked about using Town resources for rat extermination; the Selectboard stated negative. Pat Salo, Animal Control Officer, had also been notified by Coleman; discussion followed.

APPROVAL OF PAST MEETING MINUTES:

The meeting minutes of 8/21/24 was approved as amended; 9/4/24 as presented; *motion by Isaacs; seconded by Schwartz; unanimous.*

WARRANTS:

After review, the Selectboard approved warrant 9/18/24 as presented which included a refund for tax overpayment; *motion by Schwartz; seconded by Isaacs; unanimous.*

As there was no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM; *motion by Schwartz; seconded by Isaacs; unanimous.*

Lucia Wing,
Secretary Winhall Selectboard



Stuart Coleman, Chair

William Schwartz, Vice-Chair



Julie Isaacs, Member