

**Town of Winhall Selectboard  
Winhall, Vermont  
"Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, December 4, 2013"**

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**PRESENT:** Bob Oakes, Bill Schwartz, Steve Blanchard, Lucia Wing, Secretary, Lissa Stark, Town Administrator

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Dave Glabach (Health Officer), Gary Ameden (Manchester Rescue)

**CALL TO ORDER:** Oakes called the Selectboard meeting to order at 4:33 PM at the Town Hall, #115 Vermont Route 30.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS: MANCHESTER RESCUE:**

1) *Gary Ameden*, representing the Manchester Rescue Squad, came before the Selectboard to ask for the yearly appropriation of \$1,500. He commented that Manchester Rescue served approximately 381 residents in Winhall and that in the coming year, Manchester would need to replace an ambulance; they would create a reserve fund and would ask adjoining towns to help fund the ambulance. Ameden explained that the shared yearly amount for Winhall was approximately \$3,000 which would be transferred to the reserve fund for a total of \$4,500 appropriated by Winhall. The Selectboard agreed.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS: STUART COLEMAN: ANCIENT ROAD:**

2) *Stuart Coleman* came before the Selectboard to discuss a portion of an ancient Winhall Town road (old Rt. 138) which had not been used for a very long time. Coleman stated he had been unable to find anything about the road in any deed, record, or map. Coleman was asking the Selectboard if they would be willing to formally throw up the road as his mother's house was now offered for sale, and he wanted to clean up the issue. Discussion included the process of throwing up a Town road and ancient road rulings; Coleman stated the process did not include a State highway. Stark would investigate and get back to the Selectboard with the information required to move forward.

**HEALTH OFFICER REPORT:**

*Dave Glabach* reported that he was testing springs in Stratton View to make sure they were not contaminated. He would keep the Selectboard updated.

**POLICE, FIRE & RESCUE REPORT:**

The Selectboard briefly discussed revisions to the Winhall Traffic Ordinance. They had discussed a "Stop" sign at the top of Stoney Hill Road and Old Town Road but agreed to leave a "Yield" sign because of the steepness of the intersection. They concluded many Town roads that should have "Stop" signs did not. Discussion followed about budgeting money for signs and State mandates relative to signs. The Selectboard agreed to budget \$15,000 for signs. Stark suggested the VLCT might review the Ordinance as well as the Town attorney. The Selectboard agreed to have the Town attorney review it and not the VLCT. They would continue discussion of the Traffic Ordinance once Chief Whitesell returned from his trip out west.

**CONTINUED BUDGET DISCUSSION 14/15:**

Oakes commented- delete "Green Up Day" appropriation from the budget and put it under Town service recognition- \$3,000. They also discussed what amount of money was in the Equipment Reserve Fund and Emergency Equipment Fund relative to finding the funds to purchase a roadside mower (approximate cost



\$50,000) for this budget year. Next they discussed the Municipal Buildings Reserve Fund; the Selectboard agreed to leave the \$175,000 in the fund. On another subject, Schwartz suggested establishing a "fees report," not considered a budget item, to disclose fee information to the voters; the Selectboard would ask for advice from the Town accountant as to how that might work. The Selectboard estimated \$200,000 for health insurance cost(s)- increased from last year. They discussed reducing the sand budget from \$15,000 to \$10,000. The Selectboard also discussed Town employee salaries and wages re: budget 14/15.

**HIGHWAY & ROADS REPORT:**

After review, the Selectboard approved an access permit for Ravenwood Development; *motion by Oakes; seconded by Schwartz; unanimous.*

**TRANSFER STATION REPORT:** No Report.

**BUILDINGS & MAINTENANCE REPORT:** No Report.

**NEW BUSINESS: TOWN FOREST TIMBER SALES:**

Stark reported that revenue from the Winhall Town Forest would be \$62,951.90 total for timber sales and would be paid out in three installments to the Town. The Selectboard would budget \$30,000 from \$5,000 for timber sales. After further review, *Schwartz made the motion to award the logging contract to Cersosimo Lumber the highest bidder based on the above amount; seconded by Blanchard; unanimous.*

**SCHWARTZ REPORT: PRAKLET & CHAPIN LOTS:**

Schwartz reported on the Praklet and Chapin lots. He stated he had reviewed the Praklet deed consisting of the 1.4 acre lot which Praklet wanted to donate to the Town. Schwartz stated the lot had been subdivided in 1986 under a homestead exemption. The real issue was whether or not the lot was developable or was it too wet. The Selectboard talked about the potential benefits to the Town if any. Schwartz recommended the Selectboard draft a letter to Praklet thanking him for the offer of the 1.4 acre parcel with a suggestion that he contact the adjoining landowners to see if they would be interested in the land. The Selectboard agreed they were not in the real estate business and therefore, not interested in Praklet's offer. Schwartz also reported that the two Chapin lots which were owned by the Town were also under deferral permits. They were steep; access would be difficult; and septic systems complicated but maybe not impossible. The Selectboard agreed they needed to do some engineering work to see if the lots were developable and could eventually be sold. Schwartz would contact Beck Engineering. The Selectboard also discussed two lots on Signal Hill Road re: tax sales.

**ADMINISTRATIVE: REPORT:**

The Selectboard discussed the newly formulated Winhall Winter Operations Policy requested by the Highway Foreman and based on the Town of Brandon's model (they also looked at the Town of Hero which they liked better); discussion followed relative to the content and "winter call out procedures." The Selectboard also talked about the revised Personnel Policy relative to overtime and paid time off along with other changes; discussion followed. The Selectboard would revisit the Policy at another meeting.

**PAYORDER(S):**

After review, the Selectboard approved payorder #11 as presented; *motion by Oakes; seconded by Schwartz; unanimous.*

**PAYROLL:**

(No payroll)

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

After review, the Selectboard approved the minutes of November 20, 2013 as amended; *motion by Oakes; seconded by Blanchard; unanimous*. The Selectboard tabled the minutes of 11/23/13.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

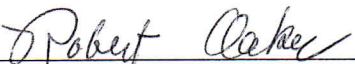
At 9:20 PM the Selectboard voted to go into executive session to discuss personnel matters; *motion by Oakes; seconded by Blanchard; unanimous*. At 9:45 PM, the Selectboard voted to come out of executive session; *motion by Schwartz; seconded by Blanchard; unanimous*. No decisions were rendered.

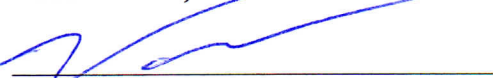
**ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE:** (None)

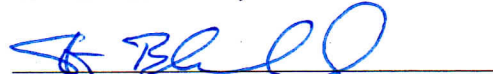
As there was no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 PM; *motion by Oakes; seconded by Schwartz; unanimous*.

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