

Town of Winhall Selectboard
Meeting Minutes for Monday, December 23, 2024

PRESENT: Stuart Coleman; Bill Schwartz; Julie Isaacs; Lucia Wing (Secretary); Lissa Stark (Absent); Trevor Dryden (Roads); Scott Bushee (Facilities)

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Nancy Yates, Meg Staloff (SeVEDS), Steve Avison, Mike Cole

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS: (None)

SEVEDS ANNUAL REPORT:

Meg Staloff, SeVEDS representative, came before the Selectboard to present their Annual Report. The Town of Winhall appropriates funds each year to support SeVEDS (Southeastern Vermont Economic Development Strategies) and BDCC (Brattleboro Dev. Credit Corp.). SeVEDS/BDCC supports economic & small business development; offers lending services; supports municipal community projects; offers guidance; raises funds; and supports the business community across the region. The Board thanked Staloff for her presentation.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT: (No report)

LIQUOR BOARD: (No report)

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT REPORT:

Dryden reported an owner residing on the cul-de-sac at the top of Highwood Road had emailed the Town. He was concerned that snow plowed by the Highway crew was blocking his driveway. The Town Administrator would respond to the email explaining snow removal protocol. After review ***Schwartz made the motion to go forward with the purchase of a new plow truck for the Town with an \$80,000 trade-in value for the used truck; seconded by Isaacs; unanimous.***

ACCESS PERMITS: (None)

TRANSFER STATION REPORT:

Bushee reported the Selectboard would receive an access permit for a new road off the Access Road called Syde Slade Road serving three structures; it would not have a 911 number attached; that would be assigned later. The Winhall Library had installed a new sign replacing the old one; First Line Security had been sold to "Tasco;" discussion followed relative to what constituted cardboard at the Transfer Station; and Bushee planned to keep the extra boxes as backup. After discussion ***Schwartz made the motion authorizing Bushee to set Transfer Station fees as necessary; seconded by Isaacs; unanimous.*** The Transfer Station would be closed for Christmas but opened the day after. Town employees had received their Christmas bonuses.

PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY UPDATE:

Isaacs reported the recent meeting with Goldstone for an architectural study of the Fire Station was very informative. Discussion followed.

WINHALL HOUSING COMMITTEE:

Isaacs reported there were now (7) members of the newly formed Housing Committee; she wanted to make it official. After review, ***Schwartz made the motion to officially recognize the Housing Committee; seconded by Coleman; unanimous.*** Isaacs would keep the Selectboard posted.

ENERGY COMMITTEE UPDATE:

Mike Cole, Energy Committee chair, came before the Selectboard to discuss upcoming invoices; he asked the Board to take no action at this time. He would review an energy audit of the Library and Community Center as windows had been recently replaced.

BUDGETING 2025/2026:

Isaacs reported the municipal tax had decreased from the previous year. Coleman asked to take funds out of the Fire Equipment Reserve Fund for wilderness equipment replacing an outdated snowmobile and ATV's. Coleman added it was very likely the Fire Department would receive a grant for the equipment; he also asked to the sell old stuff. The Selectboard agreed to move forward.

ARPA FUNDING: As approved at the previous meeting on 12/4/24.

TOWN MEETING WARNING/ARTICLES:

After discussion, *Schwartz made the motion to strike Article 3 which covered expanding the Selectboard from three (3) to five (5) members; seconded by Coleman; passed. Isaacs voted "no."*

WEBSITE UPDATE: No progress

AFFORDABLE HOUSING/WASTEWATER UPDATE: FYI

ADMINISTRATIVE/ CORRESPONDENCE: FYI

APPROVAL OF PAST MEETING MINUTES: The meeting minutes of 12/4/24 were approved as amended; *motion by Isaacs; seconded by Schwartz; unanimous.*


WARRANTS: After review, the Selectboard approved warrant 12/23/24 as presented; *motion by Schwartz; seconded by Isaacs; unanimous.*

As there was no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM; *motion by Schwartz; seconded by Isaacs; unanimous.* Merry Christmas!

Lucia Wing,
Secretary Winhall Selectboard



Stuart Coleman, Chair



William Schwartz, Vice-Chair



Julie Isaacs, Member