

**Town of Winhall Selectboard
Bondville, Vermont 05340
Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, October 7, 2015**

PRESENT: Bob Oakes, Bill Schwartz, Stuart Coleman, Lucia Wing (Secretary); Lissa Stark (Town Administrator); Jeff Whitesell (Police); Trevor Dryden (Roads)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Marty Nadler, Laura Gianotti, Christie Mackenzie

CALL TO ORDER: Oakes called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM at the Town Hall.

PUBLIC COMMENTS & DISCUSSION:

1) *Christy Mackenzie* came before the Selectboard to discuss her current property tax situation which included a penalty which Mackenzie was asking the Selectboard to forgive; she stated she was trying to do the right thing. The Town Administrator would contact the State and find out answers. ***Coleman made the motion that when the tax questions were resolved, the Selectboard would forgive the penalty of \$2,039.62 billed by the State to Mackenzie; seconded by Schwartz; unanimous.***

2) *Laura Gianotti* came before the Selectboard to update them relative to happenings at the Music & Art Community Center at the former Town Hall. She asked about internet service and yoga classes; discussion followed about insurance, using the upstairs, tutoring, maintaining a non-profit status, and making donations toward classes. ***Coleman made the motion to install internet service at the former Town Hall after the Town Administrator had had a chance to speak with Fair Point Communications; seconded by Schwartz; unanimous.***

3) *Marty Nadler* (Winhall School Board) came before the Selectboard to talk about State legislation to merge existing school districts to reduce cost and save money. Nadler had recently received information to combine all towns (north to south) with non-operating schools to form one school district; it seemed very complicated; school choice, however, would not be affected. He also discussed the Town of Stratton moving into the Bennington/Rutland Supervisory Union. Nadler explained that Sandgate, Stratton, and Winhall would likely form one school district; he submitted a printout which included a 2010 census, education spending, and equalized pupils. Further discussion followed regarding ways to save including streamlining; costs, assets, new tax rates; becoming more financially efficient; formulating new districts; and combining municipalities to form new districts. Nadler and the Selectboard discussed the Town buying the existing school versus the benefits of leasing the building; this matter seemed the most immediate and important for Winhall.

POLICE/FIRE/RESCUE REPORT:

Whitesell and the Selectboard discussed the police report for September including traffic tickets and warnings, animal control issues, property watch, false alarms, medical assists, and law incidents in and around Winhall and the Stratton Mountain Resort. Whitesell reported a flagger had been hit by a vehicle in a construction zone on Route 30, and a minor car incident had taken place at another construction site also on Route 30. Whitesell reported dispatch consolidation to save cost(s) was underway; he explained there were multiple difficulties as a result; discussion followed. Whitesell reported the new radios in the cruisers were having electrical issues. Taser training was scheduled for November 1st at the school. Londonderry was still interested in its own police service or the potential of combining forces with Winhall; discussion followed about other options for Londonderry.

HIGHWAY & ROADS REPORT:

Oakes reported that Gisquet had scheduled a meeting/inspection at the Town garage for Friday at 10:00 PM. Oakes would like to schedule an open house, announcing the new Town garage to all Winhall residents, on Sunday, November 1st. Dryden asked about the aprons; they would discuss with VMS on Friday. Dryden had some prices for culvert repair on Winhall Hollow Road; discussion followed to see who could repair them the soonest. Dryden brought up work benches in the new garage; metal benches were an option. Fire alarm lines were in question because of State mandates; phone lines were being installed. Dryden asked about using the 550 to go to the Town Fair in Killington and then stopping in Weston for a soccer game on the way back; the Selectboard responded they had no problem with him using the 550. The Selectboard and Dryden also discussed winter sidewalk maintenance in Bondville; discussion followed. Dryden would contact Homestead to see what they would charge. Coleman asked Dryden about the status of the new truck.

TOWN GARAGE UPDATE: (No report)

TRANSFER STATION REPORT: (No report)

FACILITIES REPORT: (No report)

OLD BUSINESS: MOUNTAIN SCHOOL LEASE: The lease was still in the negotiating phase.

ADMINISTRATIVE: UPDATE: No financials. The Town Administrator reported she was reviewing contracts. The Town audit would begin on October 19th.

CORRESPONDENCE: The Selectboard received a letter in which a Winhall resident stated he was unable to pay his property taxes; discussion followed. The Selectboard recommended he go to the Board of Abatement/Board of Civil Authority to seek relief.

PAYORDERS: After review, the Selectboard approved payorder #9/28/15 & 10/7/15 as presented; *motion by Oakes; seconded by Coleman; unanimous.*

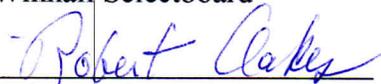
PAYROLL: No payroll

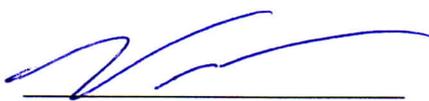
APPROVAL OF PAST MEETING MINUTE(S): After review, the Selectboard approved the minutes of September 16, 2015 as presented; *motion by Oakes; seconded by Coleman; unanimous.*

EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 7:40 PM the Selectboard voted to go into executive session to discuss personnel matters; *motion by Schwartz; seconded by Oakes; unanimous.* At 8:00 PM the Selectboard came out of executive session; *motion by Schwartz; seconded by Oakes; unanimous.* Out of executive session, the Selectboard agreed to send the matter to the Town attorney.

As there was no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM; *motion by Oakes; seconded by Coleman; unanimous.*

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by,
Lucia Wing, Secretary
Winhall Selectboard


Robert Oakes, Chair


Bill Schwartz, Vice-Chair

Stuart Coleman, Member