

Winthrop Town Council
Regular Meeting
Monday January 3, 2011
Winthrop Town Office

Attendance: *Kevin Cookson, Chair: David Rheaume, James Lattin, Ken Buck, Sarah Fuller, Priscilla Jenkins Linda Caprara, Cornell Knight (Town Manager). Police Chief Joe Young, Jan Tewksbury, Finance Director, Greg Chabot, Auditor.*

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

Swearing in of elected officials:

Councilor Jenkins was sworn in as a member of the Town Council. Other officials who were previously sworn in:

Town Council

Kenneth Buck

School Committee

Dwight Doughty

Joseph Pietroski

Library Trustees

Mary Jane Auns

Amy Cookson

Susan Hanson

Election of Town Council Chair, Vice-Chair

Motion by Fuller Seconded by Jenkins to nominate Kevin Cookson as Chairman. No other nominations. Vote 7-0.

Motion by Jenkins Seconded by Cookson to nominate Sarah Fuller as Vice Chair.

Motion by Buck Seconded by Caprara to nominate David Rheaume as Vice Chair.

Vote Fuller- 3 votes, Rheaume- 4 votes.

Motion by Fuller Seconded by Rheaume to approve the minutes of December 13 and December 21, 2010 as printed. Vote 7-0.

Item # 01 Council Appointments

Chairman Cookson appointed Councilor Rheaume as chair of Appointments, and members Buck and Jenkins. Councilor Lattin was appointed chair of Finance, and members Fuller and Caprara.

Item #02 Councilor appointment to the Winthrop Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.

Chairman Cookson appointed Councilor Fuller to the Board.

Item #03 Town Manager Appointments

Motion by Fuller Seconded by Jenkins to approve the appointments and the election worker list as presented. Vote 7-0.

Item # 04 Municipal Audit 2010 Fiscal Year Review presentation- Greg Chabot, Runyon, Kersteen and Ouellette.

Greg Chabot reviewed his audit for the fiscal year. Property tax collections remained steady at 94.59%. The town's fund balance went up to \$1,382,279 from \$1,019,230 the

previous year, but the school's summer teacher wage liability brings the undesignated fund balance down to \$ 778,407 or 4.92% which is below the town's policy of 8.3% of the total budget. The school nutrition program deficit worsened from \$15,176 to \$37,230.

Item #05 Hold a public hearing on the liquor license renewal for Pepper's Restaurant. Hearing opened at 7:28 pm. The Chief had no issues. There was a discussion about ownership of the business and building.
Hearing closed at 7:31 pm.

Item #06 Consider the liquor license renewal for Pepper's Restaurant.
Motion by Rheume Seconded by Fuller to approve the license renewal. Vote 7-0.

Item # 07 Consider the Maine PayPort system to accept credit cards at the town office. There will be a 2.5% credit card fee added to each transaction, the town funds will be directly deposited into the town's account within 3 days. The town's costs will be for 2 swipe machines for \$170.

Motion by Rheume Seconded by Jenkins to approve the Maine PayPort credit card system at the Town Office only. Vote 6-1 (Lattin opposed).

Item # 08 Consider amendments to the flex benefits contract.

Motion by Fuller Seconded by Lattin to approve the benefits contract amendments. Vote 5-2 (Rheume, Caprara opposed).

Item # 09 Consider an abatement of personal property taxes from 2005.

The former Carriage House bakery went out of business, the taxes are uncollectable.

Motion by Caprara Seconded by Buck to abate the 2004 and 2005 Carriage House Bakery personal property taxes. Vote 7-0.

Item #10 Consider a contract with Assessor Don Cadwell.

Councilor Caprara recommended the indemnity language be changed from "save harmless" to "hold harmless".

The Assessor will work an average of 20 hours per week for 47 weeks for \$34,000 as an independent contractor.

Motion by Caprara Seconded by Fuller to approve the Assessors contract with the amended language. Vote 7-0.

Item #11 Consider the appointment of an interim Town Manager.

The town manager's last day is January 28th, he recommended that Joe Young the chief of Police be appointed interim manager. Councilor Buck said he has heard from some people who feel intimidated by the Chief being the town manager.

Motion by Fuller Seconded by Caprara to appoint Joe Young as interim Town Manager, Tax Collector and Treasurer beginning January 29th, and that the Chief will appoint an interim in his place at the police department. Vote 6-1 (Buck opposed).

Item #12 Consider a donation to the Ambulance Service.

Dr. Boyink has donated his \$4000 annual fee for Medical Services Director back to the Ambulance Service to be used for turnout gear or carbon monoxide monitors.
Motion by Fuller Seconded by Buck to accept the donation. Vote 7-0.

Manager's Report

The Town Manager said that he has enjoyed working for the Town and with the Council for the past 12 years and wishes the town the best.

Next meeting January 26, is a special meeting to review town manager applications with David Barrett.

Motion by Buck Seconded by Rheaume to adjourn at 8:08 pm. Vote 7-0.