

Regular Meeting Minutes  
Monday, December 1, 2014 at 7 p.m.  
Winthrop Town Office

Call to Order at 7:00 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Chairman Kevin Cookson, Councilors, Sarah Fuller, Linda Caprara (Absent), Ken Buck Sr.(Absent), Larry Fitzgerald, Don Ellis Jr., Richard Henry, Town Manager Jeff Woolston, Carl Swanson, Joyce Tillson

The Council recognized Donald Ellis for his time he has given as a Councilor for the Town of Winthrop.

That the Winthrop Town Council meet to consider the following items:

**Approval of November 3, 2014 Council meeting minutes**

Motion: Fuller

Second: Ellis

Discussion: None

Vote: 4-0 (Chairman Cookson abstained was not a meeting referenced)

**Item #90 – Cobbossee Watershed District Update**

Bill updated the Council. \$62,000 grant, camp road related, erosion problems, shoreline erosion; Cobbossee Watershed will focus on youth next year. Watershed surveys deadline is near. They got two camp road projects done. Did phase one a couple years ago. Council asked how determination is made to fix a camp road. Bill explained that it was hard for them to get associations to participate in as they have to pay 40% match. If not water quality related, it cannot be fixed with this grant. Councilor Fitzgerald explained he was President of the South Birchwood Road Association and asked if issues there. Bill said there are no real problems there. Fitzgerald stated that they put money in every year; how much outreach are you putting out there? Fitzgerald suggested that if a couple issues in the Community Advertiser. Bill already does this and has found that come the second year he is advertising “Last Chance”. Wendy updated on Annabessacook Lake and milfoil. Sue had told of the survey a few months ago. Two hot spots on her report; one spot turned out to be invasive milfoil. These plants have been removed. It was suspected as invasive plant; DEP pulled these plants and sent them for testing, the test results confirmed it as invasive. The following week a look was taken again and more plants were identified and pulled. After several hours of work, had to end due to high winds. 65 gallons of plant material was removed. In the spring, will return to finish looking for additional plants. The location of where these plants are is in the direct line of the stream and where boats cross. Working with DEP on how to control this, and look for a channel or redirection for folks so they don't keep crossing over and hitting plants with propellers. Will be meeting with all agencies. Wendy also noted that North Star has surveyed the dam.

**Item #91 – Consider request for additional signage on High Street  
Not considered; person not in attendance to present issue.**

**Item #92 – Public Hearing to consider Liquor Licenses – Sully's and Pepper's**

Open public hearing at 7:30

Comments: Chairman Cookson reported on behalf of the Police Chief, no problems with either establishment.

Closed hearing at 7:31

**Item #93 – Consider Liquor Licenses – Sully's and Pepper's**

Motion: **Ellis**

Second: **Henry**

Discussion: None

Vote: 5-0

**Item #94 – Public Hearing to consider newest General Assistance Rates**

Open public hearing at 7:32

Comments: None

Closed public hearing at 7:33

**Item #95 – Consider New General Assistance Rates**

Motion: Fuller

Second: Fitzgerald

Discussion:

Vote: 5-0

Manager's Report - None

**Other Business**

Quit Claim Deeds, old accounts now up to date.

Motion: Fuller to approve quit claim deeds for: Map 5 Lot 48 and Map 29 and Lot 13-A

Second: Fitzgerald

Discussion

Vote: 5-0

Councilor Fitzgerald would like to know how many properties are outstanding that will need decisions made. Jeff said roughly 40 or so. Fitzgerald just would like enough lead time before budget meetings. Fitzgerald would like, map and lot, account number; amount owed and how many years back. Chairman Cookson asked if there are any cash payments and can't find receipts kind of things outstanding. Jeff said there is and he would like to get individual accounts and not a TRIO dump. Back taxes from 2011, 2010, 2009 and 2008 add up to about \$200,000. Henry asked if the severity of now is it trending up or down. Jeff explained that the two quitclaims approved tonight; repeatedly behind are now up to date; he believes due to the fact that the Council and Town are up to date on the happenings. Many reasons; Errors in the Clerk's office; managers that didn't follow through. Jeff and Darlene have a handle on it and now the Council is up to date. Ellis mentioned that Linda Caprara is working on a bill that when a town forecloses and gets past due taxes; the bill would allow the return of excess monies to the home owner. Currently the town must keep all money gained from selling a foreclosed property.

Fitzgerald suggested that since Jeff has given his notice to leave sometime next summer, should the Council start the interview process now. Chair Cookson explained that MMA will advertise and screen and bring the town the top applicants. The Council would like to have an overlap of Jeff and new Manager for a couple weeks. Council agrees that March may be a better time to start this process. Cookson will pass this on to MMA.

Adjourn at 7:46

Motion: Ellis

Second: Fuller