

Winthrop Town Council
Regular Meeting
Monday, January 5, 2015 at 7 P.M.
Winthrop Town Office

Call to Order at 7:05 P.M.

Roll Call

Councilors Kevin Cookson, Sarah Fuller, Linda Caprara, Ken Buck Sr., Larry Fitzgerald, Richard Henry, Linda MacDonald, Town Manager Jeff Woolston, Carl Swanson, Joyce Tillson

Swearing in of elected officials if needed. None needed.

Election of Town Council Chair, Vice-Chair

Motion: Buck – Sarah Fuller for Chair

Second: Caprara

Discussion: None

Vote -7-0

Motion: Fitzgerald for Cookson as Vice-Chair

Second: Henry

Discussion: None

Vote: 7-0

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

Approval of December 1, 2014 Council Meeting Minutes

Motion: Cookson

Second: Henry

Discussion: None

Vote: 7-0

Item #1 –Council Appointments

Motion: Buck to accept applications for zoning board, assessment review

Second: Fitzgerald

Discussion: Cookson asked that name and board be read aloud.

Judith Stebbins – Assessment

Jill Ippoliti – Conservation Commission

Dennis Harnish, Roger Hanson, Ron Taylor, and Andy Weiss - Zoning Board of Appeals

Vote: 7-0

Item #2 – Chairman Appointments

Finance Committee appointing, Fitzgerald – Chair, Caprara, Henry

Appointments Committee appointing, Cookson -Chair, MacDonald, Buck

Vote 7-0

Item #3 – Approval of the Town's Elections Workers for the 2015 year

Motion: Cookson to approve the election worker list as submitted

Second: Henry
Discussion:
Vote: -6-0-1 Caprara (Abstained)

Green Committee
Motion: Cookson to allow position to remain with Priscilla Jenkins
Second: Fitzgerald
Discussion: None

Item #4 – Receive June 2014 Audit Presentation

Ron Smith presented report covering report. School made \$17,000 more in the lunch program than last year. An error in computing the tax commitment previously has happened a couple times. The problem caused \$150,000 less property tax collected than projected during the budget building process. Ron met with the Assessor and Finance and this should not happen again. Councilor Cookson asked if the conversion could have been the issue. Mr. Smith explained that excel spreadsheets from assessing and finance get married together; during manipulation of numbers didn't need to be manipulated. Mr. Smith is confident that 2015 will not be an issue. Councilor Caprara are numbers being checked manually as well? Mr. Smith explained what needs and does not need to be done. Councilor Cookson asked Jeff Woolston if he was satisfied with results; Jeff is satisfied.

Item #5 – Consider Quit Claim Deeds

Motion: Cookson as presented (Map 27-Lot 22, 2009 and 2011 tax lien)
Second: Buck
Discussion: None
Vote 7-0

Item #6 – Receive school update from Superintendent

Gary and Ginny presented materials and briefed the Council on contents.

All schools are off school improvement; enrollment is up. A number of initiatives in place. Asked for a tech last year; over the last year despite the budget issues, the School has done a lot of work and will continue. Carl asked what has been accomplished with the energy bonds. It is in the book handed out. Gary noted that when he first started and asked for dollars in the budget; he was told to make a plan. He handed out the plan to Council members and briefed them on the contents. Councilor Cookson thanked Gary for the plan; have been asking for years and he appreciates Gary coming in to the School system and completing that task. Chairman Fuller thanked the school and all the staff for hard work and the strong new programs.

Item #7 – Consider Meeting Date for Town Manager Replacement Process Discussion

Cookson had asked Jeff to get hold of Dave Barrett; Dave says it would be in the Councils best interest to have a special meeting on January 16, 2015 or/and January 26, 2015 at 7:00 P.M. Councilor Caprara suggested 6:30; Council agrees. Jeff will let Council know date and time.

Other Business

Caprara asked Earle McCormick to sponsor the legislation she has been working. The bill would allow towns to refund any excess in funds to the previous owner that was collected during the sale of foreclosed property.

Manager's Report

Jeff explained that the Councilors received a think binder. The binder has a significant amount of information on for foreclosures and what other towns are doing with them, section 2 – laws on foreclosures; third section is the current list of property foreclosures that will be coming before councilor for guidance. By the time of meeting, one property owner had paid \$38,000 to take their property off the foreclosure list. The Councilors discussed the foreclosure process and the pros and cons. Councilors have asked for a meeting prior to foreclosure meeting and to have Lee Bragg in attendance.

Jeff explained that AOS 97 does not exist any longer. Before disbandment; the IRS sent a tax bill for misfiled employment paperwork for \$1,207.62. Jeff asked to take the funds out of undesignated surplus.

Motion: Henry

Second: Fitzgerald

Discussion: None

Vote: 7-0

Adjourn

Motion: Fitzgerald to adjourn at 8:30