

**Winthrop Town Council
Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 2, 2011**

Attendance: Kevin Cookson, Chairman; David Rheume, Vice Chairman; James Lattin, Kenneth Buck, Sr., Priscilla Jenkins, Sarah Fuller and Linda Caprara (arrived at 7:10 p.m.). Secretary: Julie C. Winberg

Call to Order - Meeting was called to order at 7:05 P.M.

Ordered that the Winthrop Town Council meet to consider the following items:

Item #36 Consider the approval and swearing in of Town Manager, Jeff Woolston, by Lisa Gilliam, Town Clerk.

Motion by Fuller and seconded by Rheume with a vote of 6-0, to approve the hiring of the Town Manager.

Approve the Minutes of April 4, 2011

Motion by Fuller and seconded by Lattin with a unanimous vote, the minutes of the April 4, 2011 meeting were approved as presented.

Item #37 Town Council appointments to the Dam Committee and representative to the Cobbossee Watershed District – David Rheume, Appointments Committee Chairman.

Motion by Rheume and seconded by Jenkins, with a unanimous vote, the appointments were approved as presented:

Winthrop Utilities District, Board of Trustees for a 3-year term:
G. Douglas Whittier

Recreation Committee

Regular Member - Mark Gordon – 1/1/2012

Associate Member – Margy Knight – from 2nd Associate Member to 1st Associate Member
1/1/2012

Dam Committee

William Wing – 1/1/2014

Tom Heiss - 1/1/2014

At this point, the Councilors expressed their extreme gratitude for the excellent job done by both Chief Joseph Young as Interim Town Manager and to Captain Frost as acting Police Chief. Not a beat was missed and everything flowed quite smoothly.

Item #38 Short presentation by the Winthrop High School Art Class with regard to painting a mural on the Grade School building. (Margy Knight)

Margy Knight was in attendance and asked for approval from the Council to use the west wall of the Adult Education Building for the painting of a mural which will be done on June 4th to June 5th.

Motion by Jenkins and seconded by Fuller, with a unanimous vote, to approve this request.

Item #39 Update from Winthrop Unites, (Nancy Schenck)

Nancy Schenck was in attendance and gave a brief summary on the year's activities and programs. It has been two years since her last presentation. She asked the Council to feel free to call her should they have any questions about the programs.

Item #40 Presentation of the 2011-2012 School Budget – Briane Coulthard, Superintendent of Schools

John Mitchell, Chairman of the School Board, was in attendance and presented a briefing on the school's provisional budget proposal. As presented, it would necessitate an increase in Winthrop's property tax rate.

He identified the problem to be on the revenue side and not the spending side as the State's contribution to the operating revenue has fallen sharply. He explained that since the budget process started in March, the Board has eliminated five staff positions to reduce the projected spending for fiscal year 2011-2012 and that amounted to \$600,000 in savings. Of a significant help to this process was a downward revision in the health insurance costs for the coming year which contributed to \$50,000 in savings.

But, with all this said, there is still a budget gap and it is projected that there will be a shortfall of about \$722,000. That is where the proposed increase in Winthrop's property tax rate of \$1.00 for every \$1,000 in valuation stems from.

One area that was of concern to the public in attendance as well as to the Councilors was the increase next year in special education. The explanation given was that there was an increase in the number of students (from three to seven), that Winthrop enrolls at the Wayne Regional Autism Program. This program is housed at the Wayne Elementary School and offers an intensive one-on-one treatment and education for students diagnosed with the developmental disorder. This is a federally mandated program.

The Councilors voiced their opinions ranging from accepting a minimal tax increase to expressing their constituents' outrage to an increase. Councilor Lattin noted that the Council had found plenty of opportunities for savings in the Town's municipal budget and that it was his expectation and hope there would be no tax increase whatsoever.

No decision regarding the school budget was taken. The Town Council and the School Board will meet again on May 18th to continue working on the budget. The Town Council will vote on the entire town budget which includes the school budget – at its regular meeting on June 6th. On June 14th, the town residents will be asked to vote on the school budget.

Item #41 Hold a public hearing on the annual Victualer's License renewals.

The public hearing opened at 7:15 p.m. Chief Young and Captain Frost had no negative concerns about these applications.

The public hearing closed at 7:16 p.m.

Item #42 Consider the annual Victualer's license renewals.

Motion by Rheume and seconded by Caprara, with a unanimous vote, approved the victualer's license renewals for the following establishments:

American Legion Post #40
China Express
Cumberland Farms
Dead River Convenience Store
Fast Eddies
Full Court Deli
Kong's Village
Mia Lina's Italian Express
Moonshadow Farms
Hannaford Brothers
Old Colony Ice Cream
Peppers Restaurant
Pete's Roast Beef
Pond Town Tavern
The Roost Bed & Breakfast
RT Farms
Subway
Sully's Tavern
Tubby's Ice Cream
Wicked Bean
Winthrop House of Pizza

Item #43 Hold a public hearing on the Liquor license and special entertainment license for Pond Town Tavern, 7 Union Street.

The public hearing opened at 7:18 p.m. Chief Young and Captain Frost had no negative concerns about these applications.

The public hearing closed at 7:19 p.m.

Item #44 Consider the Liquor License and special entertainment license renewal for Pond Town Tavern.

Motion by Rheume and seconded by Caprara, with a unanimous vote, approved the liquor license and special entertainment license renewal for Pond Town Tavern.

Item #45 Consider the disposition of tax acquired properties.

Two campers have been acquired due to non-payment of taxes and foreclosures have issued. Both campers are currently on rented properties and now belong to the Town of Winthrop. The Council is being asked to authorize the sale of the campers and to direct the Town Clerk to take whatever steps are necessary and appropriate to dispose of these two campers. The agenda notices to the owners were included in the Councilors' packets.

Motion by Rheume and seconded by Fuller to approve the appropriate disposal of these two tax acquired properties. This passed with a unanimous vote.

Item #46

At 8:00 p.m., the Council went into Executive Session to consider a property abatement (poverty) application, Title 1 Section 405 6 (F).