

Winthrop Town Council  
FY 14-15 Budget Workshop Minutes  
Monday May 29, 2014 6 p.m.  
Winthrop Town Office

Roll Call – Attendance: Chairman Kevin Cookson, Sara Fuller, Linda Caprara, Lawrence Fitzgerald, Kenneth Buck, Donald Ellis, Richard Henry, Town Manager Jeffrey Woolston, Attorney Lee Bragg, Recording Secretary Joyce Tillson, Carl Swanson

Chairman Kevin Cookson called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

Ordered that the Winthrop Town Council meet to consider the following FY 14-15 Budget items:

Ellis – Have heard a lot of feed back from Councilors, citizens and staff. What would the mil rate be if we had been cutting the budget in the last five years. Last year due to budget constraints; we asked the employees to sacrifice and they are still here. If we cut any benefit or wage increase he will not vote for budget.

**Motion;** Caprara to enter executive session;

**Second:** Buck

**Discussion:** Cookson – sent out report from the arbitrators, understanding is not confidential it is a public document. Wondering why executive session if people want to talk about arbitrageurs rule. Doesn't see where executive session would be legal. Lee Bragg – has other thoughts he can pass on to council in executive session as it has in the past. The proposed new unit and at some point discussion to be made about steps to be taken now that this report has been received. Can give some thoughts on the pros and cons of this and prefer it be done in executive. Cookson asked Caprara what is it in report that you want executive session. Caprara – exactly what Lee said he is going to discuss. Cookson – to let audience know whether or not the retirement is to be changed. Wages for people; council made motion to have Lee based on cola 1.5. Arbitrator could be changed based on cola . Council previously cut \$100,000 out of heath. The arbitrators felt the town hadn't opposed to change health benefits to non union employees and felt the current policy that has been in effect should stay the same. Not sure what some councilors feel or want to do. Cookson – want to make his point; has dealt with unions and in management he always had a gentleman's agreement. Stands with Ellis will not support any reduction in benefits and/or healthcare. Buck – are you talking the \$100,000 goes back in. Cookson – it has been put back in or there would be a grievance. You have the schools budget in front of you and there have been no cuts in heath care as yet. Fuller – agrees; give the decision and the dedication the town employees have give, until we come up with some different benefits down the road working together. Fitzgerald- looks like; the record includes no evidence, etc. Wondering – last year we cut the municipal health by \$100,000 asked school to do the same they said no. Looks like thy may be moving that way so if they do, we are looking at a 13% tax increase. We have good employees and a generous health insurance plan. Have hard time telling someone on social security they have to pay full benefits and would like to hear from Lee, not sure where he is on this. Henry also would like to hear what Lee has to say.

**Vote: 4-3 (Buck, Cookson, Ellis)**

End executive session. Pm

Cookson- The purpose of this meeting is the budget with the current presentation from the superintendent makes a 1.9 increase. Most of the council didn't like the 1.9 increase in one year and

decided to go back into budget to see if cuts could be made to bring that down. Realizing there had to be an increase in municipal as well as school due to no increases in previous years. Most Council members comfortable with a 1.5 increase. Went through budgets again and would like to present some options. Went into this thought with getting mil rate down to 1.5 and trying to not eliminate any positions. Previously discussed taking out a bond to do some major road repairs; the council has realized the roads in town are getting to a point going to lose them if we don't do something. Talked about a 1.3 bond a while back and was going to pay for this by making cuts in the budget that had paving at 390,000; Cookson proposes to increase the bond from 1.3 to 1.5; the first payment not do until may 2015 and payment would be 12,360. What is left in paving line; from \$390,000 to \$190,000 out of that the \$12,360 would be moved to debt service leaving \$177,640 for Matt to start doing some pre work on the roads. Also 70,000 for the infer red patching of cracks for roads, the real cost is \$76,000. Ten years ago Matt hired local contractors to help and why not do it this time. So cut \$177,640 and norcross point cut the \$10,000 for reshingle of gazebo roof, now brings us to \$227,640. If take the sheet Jeff passed out tonight and also in budget we had approved a new server for PD for \$36,000 and now it is at \$40,000. If take out \$4,000 to still fund server also \$10,000 in capitol improvement for cemetery truck, put this in the bond. Took the \$880,000 to do roads and increased to \$900,000. Left in \$35,000 for international body left in money for stormwater and \$500,000 for Kodiak and put in \$10,000 for gazebo roof and \$300,000 for library expansion. Total allows to put the infra red in. Bond now at 1.66. Third option eliminates the infra red and put in the \$40,000 for the server. If go this way it will make bond \$1,430,000. If take the \$40,000 appropriation at \$1,145,714.20, less the \$227,640 puts it at \$918,074.20; which is 1.5 mil.

Fuller – Thank you for doing all those calculations. Also one thing we talked about putting in the bond the concrete at norcross, this may put it up a bit; is comfortable with any of those options. Fitzgerald – good job to Cookson; you mentioned the first payment, what are the over all and the payback. Cookson – 7 year bond; interest rate starts at 1.3% in 2015 and will be 1.9% last year. Total payback is \$1,602,000 for 1.5 million.

John asked about increase in payment affecting next year; Cookson – some of the expenses will not be in budget next year- like paving.

1.5 mil would be an increase of 10.7%.

Fuller – wWill be a number of places that need repair that will get the attention

**Motion:** Fuller Option 2 as presented by Chair Cookson

**Second:** Fitzgerald

**Discussion:**

**Vote:** 6-0 (Ellis absent after executive session)

Cookson talked to Superintendent and the superintendent put proper revenues in the correct columns. Gary explained this document is old school and his revenue sheet is the way the state does them; all figures are correct. Had previously asked about 26, which was the bus and not going to do.. Bottom line his figure at this point. \$10,264801 local share being 5,286,528; there are some errors that need to be addressed. Jeff and Darlene are aware of this. If there is something that is earth shattering Jeff will contact Cookson.

**Motion:** Fuller to adjourn at 7:30

**Second:** Fitzgerald