

Winthrop Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 6, 2020
Town Office
17 Highland Avenue
7:00 PM Business Meeting

Call To Order – Pledge of Allegiance – Roll Call

☒ Chairperson Sarah Fuller, ☒ Vice-Chairperson Priscilla Jenkins,
☒ Councilor Linda Caprara, ☒ Councilor Rita Moran, ☒ Councilor Andy Wess,
☒ Councilor Scott Eldridge

Election of Town Council Chairperson

Councilor Jenkins nominates Sarah Fuller, Councilor Wess seconds. Vote 6-0, Fuller elected Chair.

Election of Town Council Vice-Chairperson

Councilor Wess nominates Councilor Caprara, Councilor Eldridge seconds.

Councilor Jenkins nominates Councilor Moran, Councilor Caprara seconds.

Vote 4-2 Caprara

Vote 2-4 Moran

Councilor Caprara is elected Vice Chair.

Item 1 Consideration of Council Committee Appointments – ratification of the Chairperson's appointments to the Finance and Appointment Committees.

Suggested Motion: Move to confirm the Chairpersons appointments to the Finance and Appointments Committees

Finance: Councilor Caprara Chair with Councilor Wess

Appointments: Councilor Wess Chair with Councilors Moran and Jenkins

Motion: Moran **Second:** Jenkins **Vote:** 6-0

Item 2 Consideration of approving minutes of the meeting held on December 2 and 16, 2019, and sign disbursement warrants

Suggested Motion: Move to approve council meeting minutes for December 2 and 16, 2019 as written

December 2 **Motion:** Wess **Second:** Caprara **Vote:** 4-0-2 (Jenkins, Eldridge)

December 16 **Motion:** Jenkins **Second:** Eldridge **Vote:** 6-0

Item 3 Consideration of Order 2020-1 Council appointments including Assessor, Town Attorney, Auditor and membership on certain Town Boards and Committees

Suggested Motion: Move to approve Order 2020-1

Motion: Caprara **Second:** Eldridge **Vote:** 6-0

Item 4 Consideration of Order 2020-2 Appointment of Election workers and Lauri Carson as Registrar of Voters

Suggested Motion: Move to approve Order 2020-2 Appointment of Election Workers and Lauri Carson as Registrar of Voters

Motion: Jenkins **Second:** Moran **Vote:** 5-0-1 (Caprara)

Item 5 Discussion of FY 2021 budget priorities to provide guidance to the manager and town staff for budget development.

The Council advised the Manager that a large increase in the mil rate, as was necessary for FY20, is not acceptable, but that an increase to keep pace with inflation, properly fund current services, and fixed expenses such as union contracts, insurances and utilities for example would be acceptable, while striving to maintain a stable tax rate over time.

Item 6 Consideration of Order 2020-3 authorizing Waivers of Foreclosure and authorize the manager to sign corresponding waivers.

Suggested Motion: Move to approve Order 2020-3 authorizing Waivers of Foreclosure and authorize the manager to sign corresponding waivers.

Motion by: Caprara **Second:** Wess **Vote:** 6-0

Other Business:

Appointments Chair reported the recommendation of the Appointments Committee: Ed Van Tassell and Timothy Wess to the Recreation Committee.

Motion by: Moran **Second:** Wess **Vote:** 6-0

Manager's Report:

Update – Maranacook Outlet Dam Project

Although some of the gate control equipment has arrived and has been installed, several key pieces of equipment still have not been received, nor has Obermeyer Manufacturing been forthcoming with shipping information. General Contractor H.E. Callahan has been extraordinarily helpful and responsive, operating the dam gate with their own equipment and personnel as needed.

Update – Personnel

We have hired Vernice Boyce as Finance Director. She is currently Finance Director in Wiscasset, has been Town Clerk and Treasurer previously in two Washington County towns and spent 14 years as an auditor and audit manager for RHR Smith & Co. The municipal job market is currently very tight and we feel fortunate to attract a highly qualified finance professional to our team.

Adjourn.

Suggested Motion: Move to adjourn meeting at 7:34 pm

Motion by: Wess

Second: Eldridge

Vote: 6-0