

Winthrop Regular Town Council Meeting Minutes  
Monday, February 5, 2018 - Town Office  
17 Highland Avenue  
7:00 PM

7:00 PM Business Meeting: Call To Order – Pledge of Allegiance – Roll Call

**All Present** Chairperson Sarah Fuller, Vice-Chairperson Linda Caprara, Councilor Priscilla Jenkins,  
Councilor Barbara Buck, Councilor Rita Moran, Councilor Andy Wess,  
Councilor Scott Eldridge

Finance committee signed disbursement warrants

Council Chair Fuller opened the meeting with a statement about disparaging remarks made about the town's legal counsel at the January 8, 2018 council meeting. Councilor Fuller reminded the Council that it needs to conduct itself with a high level of civility and responsibility to the people that they serve and to the vendors that the town works with. Councilor Fuller continued and stated that the council should not be making allegations of illegality without evidence and if there are questions about billing or other procedural issues they can be brought up to the town manager or town council finance committee that views all expenditures. Councilor Fuller also stated that an accusation that some cannot do their job due to their age is discrimination and is not acceptable. She continued and stated that we are a community that is welcoming to all.

Council Jenkins stated that as she did on January 8, 2018, she does apologize and says that she was wrong. Council Jenkins did state that for the record she did not state that the town attorney was too old to do his job, only that he was not always available to do his job because of his age, but again stated that she was out of line and she does apologize.

**Item 12 To consider approving council meeting minutes for January 8, 2018**

**Motion:** Moved to table approval of January 8, 2018 council meeting minutes since they were not prepared

Motion: Jenkins                      Second: Moran                      Vote: 7-0

**Item 13 To consider recommendations from the council appointments committee**

**Motion:** Move to accept the recommendations of the appointments committee from an appointments list dated February 5, 2018

Motion: Jenkins                      Second: Buck/Moran                      Vote: 7-0

Appointments Committee Chair, Councilor Jenkins presented to the council the following list suggested appointments:

|                                                             |              |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Winthrop Utilities District Board of Trustees – 3 Year Term |              |
| Trustee                                                     | Term Through |
| Rodney Cumber                                               | 03/31/21     |

Conservation Commission – 3 Year Term

|                  |              |
|------------------|--------------|
| Regular Members: | Term Through |
| Charles Guerette | 12/31/20     |

Planning Board – 3 Year Term

|                  |              |
|------------------|--------------|
| Alternate Member | Term Through |
| Gerald Dawbin    | 12/31/20     |

Zoning Board of Appeals – 3 Year Term

|                  |              |
|------------------|--------------|
| Alternate Member | Term Through |
| Richard Dorey    | 12/31/20     |

Cobbossee Watershed District Board of Trustees – 3 Year Term

|                |              |
|----------------|--------------|
| Trustee        | Term Through |
| Christian Behr | 02/05/21     |

**Item 14 To hear from Transfer Station Supervisor, Larry Cole, on the condition of the transfer stations trailers**

**Motion:** No action

Ryan Frost advised that the transfer station is in need of a new Demo Trailer. Transfer Station Supervisor Larry Cole has been asked to determine if we actually need to purchase a trailer due to a move to a close facility. Sue Thomas requested that grants or single sort recycling be looked into at our transfer station. Councilor Moran has learned that if we go to a single sort we would get less revenue for our recyclables. Councilor Moran asked if we could get by with what we have for now. Ryan Frost stated that Larry Cole will be best suited to answer that question, but the trailer in question is a 1988 trailer and it has been taken out of service. Councilor Jenkins wanted to know if the trailer replacement has been in the capital plan. Councilor Fuller noted that trailers have been taken off the capital plan for many years.

**Item 15 To here from Elizabeth Peters (formerly Mckenney) on the 2018 Concerts at Norcross Point**

**Motion:** Move to approve the 2018 Concerts at Norcross Point plan as presented by Elizabeth Peters

Motion: Wess      Second: Moran      Vote: 7-0

Elizabeth Peters gave a presentation on the 2018 Concerts at Norcross Point. The concerts will start July 1, 2018 and run through August 26, 2018 every Sunday. This will be the ninth year of the concerts.

### **Item 16 To hear from Margy Knight for a Play Outside Update**

Motion: Wess     Second: Moran/Jenkins     Vote: 7-0

**Motion:** Move to thank Karen Toothaker and Margy Knight for the work they are doing in our community

Margy Knight and Karen Toothaker gave a review of programs. This winter they have indoor walking at the middle school in the morning and at night. Pickle Ball is still a very big activity and snow shoes at the Bailey Library is a great success. They plan a snowshoe art event with Jason Cote of Belgrade who will speak with middle school students next week. There is a Gaga Pit on the grade school playground. Steve Knight will be doing an edible Main Street at eight locations in town so one can take a walk and eat vegetables as you walk. Karen talked about Mary Poppins events and wants to get the word out about their events. She also talked about Playmakers Grant and events they have had in our community and work in the schools and are hoping to get to the police and ambulance stations.

Councilor Fuller thanked them.

### **Item 6 (holdover and taken out of order) To hear a presentation from the South Shore Outboard Association on holding Hydro-plane Racing on Maranacook Lake**

The group gave a presentation on how they operate and that they are considering Maranacook Lake in Readfield and Winthrop as they used to hold races in both locations back in the 1960's. Lynn Reed of the Maranacook Lake association was present. They would require dedicated use of Norcross Point and open it up every hour or so for other boaters. The race track would be about 1000 feet and would be marked. They would require and hire an ambulance to stand by the event and law enforcement if needed. They would leave the site just as it was found and any fueling takes place out of the water. The group will continue reviewing their sites and make a determination which site in Maine they select for 2019.

### **Item 17 To hear the town managers update on the Assessing Office**

**Motion:** Move to authorize the manager to sign a contract with RJD Appraisal for assessing services

Motion: Buck     Second: Caprara     Vote: 7-0

The manager gave a report on assessing and suggests that the town use RJD Appraisal as our assessor. They have been working with our former assessor for 16 months and have a great working knowledge of the office. RJD President, Rob Duplisea, would be named as the town's assessor. Councilor Wess asked for the impact on the assessing budget. The manager stated that the assessing line is already over since the former assessor was working more hours to get the work done as well as the work in general assistance. The manager stated that the hours in the assessing office will be reduced by a day to two and we will not be paying an employee any

longer. This setup will be close on whether or not that budget line goes over budget because of field work after April 1<sup>st</sup>. The manager does feel that assessing will go over budget. Council Jenkins states that since the former assessor was also handling general assistance requests that the assessor was probably only available two days a week. Councilor Eldridge asked what the term of the contract was for. The manager it would go through November 1, 2018 which is the deadline for town tax information to be submitted to the State of Maine.

**Item 18 To consider Town council appointments**

**Motion:** Move to approve Trustee and Committee Appointments and Reappointments from a list dated February 5, 2018;

Motion: Jenkins            Second: Caprara            Vote: 7-0

Town Assessor: Rob Duplisea, RJD Appraisal

**Winthrop Utilities District Board of Trustees – 3 Year Term**

|                   |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| <i>Trustees</i>   | <i>Term Through</i> |
| Richard Coleman   | 03/31/21            |
| Donald Ellis, Jr. | 03/31/21            |

**Conservation Commission – 3 Year Term**

|                         |                     |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| <i>Regular Members:</i> | <i>Term Through</i> |
| Jill Ippoliti           | 12/31/20            |

**Item 19 To hear the town managers update on the General Assistance Office**

The town manager reported that he, Town Clerk Lauri Carson and Codes Officer Mark Arsenault were sharing the duties in General Assistance. This setup is only a trial to see how we can incorporate these duties into another department. Other communities and the Maine Welfare Directors Association have assisted the town and staff will all attend training in Topsham on Basic General Assistance.

**Item 5 (previously tabled) To consider a property tax abatement from Tax Year 2015 and to sign a Certificate of Abatement for the tax collector**

**Motion:** Move to authorize the Abatement of 2015 Property Taxes from a list dated February 5, 2018, of property now owned by the Winthrop Public Library Foundation, 40 Bowdoin Street, Map 31, Lot 13 in the amount of \$1707.84

Motion: Moran            Second: Wess            Vote: 7-0

The town manager advised that this stems from the sale of 40 Bowdoin Street to the Library Foundation and the prorated taxes owed because of the sale were never paid. The Library Foundation has since paid the prorated portion of the taxes in the amount of \$308.00.

## **Item 20 To discuss the intersection at Main Street and Route 202**

The town manager advised that he could draft a letter on behalf of the council asking the Maine Department of Transportation to conduct a safety review of the intersection. Councilor Jenkins advised that she has heard that some people like the intersection but stated that some have told her that the intersection is confusing. Councilor Fuller stated that the intersection is confusing and during multiple meetings with MDOT they had assured us the changes would be an improvement and feels a letter should be drafted. Councilor Caprara feels the new design of the intersection is a disaster and she is surprised that there have not been more accidents. Councilor Wess states that there is confusion at the stop signs on who goes first. Carl Swanson suggested some signage to alternate the traffic. Councilor Jenkins asked how many crashes and the manager felt there were about seven crashes. Ambulance Chief Dovinsky believes there have been more than seven crashes. Councilor Wess feels where Route 202 meets Peck Farm Road is also an issue where East bound traffic merges.

## **Item 21 To hear information on being an Age-Friendly Community – Councilor Jenkins**

Councilor Jenkins expressed concern about elderly walker's downtown. She advised she has met with officials from AARP and she will encourage the town council to seek an age friendly community's designation from AARP.

### **Other Business:**

Councilor Moran asked on the status of the Spirit of America Awards. Councilor Fuller advised for anyone nominating a person that we would need a short paragraph on why they are worthy of the award. All submissions can go to the town manager.

Councilor Moran asked who was responsible for clearing sidewalks because people want to get out and walk. The town manager advised that it was the property owner's responsibility along with the town clearing certain sidewalks. Councilor Wess advised that Charles Street always seems to be clear.

Councilor Wess wants to be sure that our citizen volunteers on our town boards get recognized when they complete their duties. All agreed that the town must do a better job with this.

Councilor Fuller advised that the downtown development committee of the Chamber is working on some community visioning forums for downtown. Forums could start as early as March 2018.

### **Manager's Report:**

1. Heads-up on letter of intent for a Community Development Grant for possible façade grant and micro business grants for two local businesses.
2. Audit Presentation – discuss date for special meeting prior to February 15, 2018. The town council decided on February 12, 2018 at 6:30 PM to hear the audit presentation.

Adjourn – Moran/Eldridge