

# WINTHROP TOWN COUNCIL

## Minutes

June 3, 2013 7 P.M.

Attendance: Chairman Kevin Cookson: Priscilla Jenkins (arrived at 7:15 p.m.), Sarah Fuller, Larry Fitzgerald, Ken Buck Sr., Don Ellis, Jeffrey Woolston (Town Manager) and Julie Winberg (Secretary) and Lee Bragg. Absent: Linda Caprara

The meeting opened at 7:01 p.m.

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

### **Approve the May 6, 2013 Meeting Minutes**

Motion by Fuller and seconded by Fitzgerald, the minutes for this meeting were approved with a vote of 5-0.

### **Item #53 - Hold a public hearing on the Budgets for the 2013-2014 Fiscal Year: Resolution #100 Parts I - Municipal Budget Part II - School Budget**

The Town Council informed the audience that the hearing on these two budgets would be postponed.

An earlier meeting with the town's auditor indicated that there may be potential problems with the school budget. Ron Smith, who holds a managing position at RHR Smith & Company, would be arriving for this meeting at 7:30 p.m. and will inform the group what his findings revealed.

The Council proceeded to address the other items on the agenda.

### **Item #54 - Determine the dates when property taxes committed during the 2013-2014 fiscal year shall become due and payable.**

Motion by Fuller and seconded by Fitzgerald approved October 1<sup>st</sup> and April 1<sup>st</sup>. The vote was unanimous 5-0.

**Item #55 - Determine the rate of interest that shall apply to delinquent taxes committed during the 2013-2014 fiscal year until those taxes are paid in full.**

Motion by Fuller and seconded by Fitzgerald that 7% would be the rate of interest. The vote was 4-1 (Buck).

**Item #56 - Consider the rate of interest that shall be applied for overpayment of taxes.**

Motion by Fitzgerald and seconded by Ellis that 3% would be the rate of interest. The vote was 5-0.

**Item #57 - Consider the Capital Improvement Budget.**

This item was tabled until the auditor's report.

**Item #58 - "We Play Outside" logo introduction**

The official slogan will be coupled with a newly created logo created by the Recreation Committee. This logo will be on facebook, the website and around town.

**Other Business**

The Chamber of Commerce will be hosting Governor LePage on June 6, 2013 at 7:00 a.m.

**Manager's Report**

The Town Manager recommended that the interest on unpaid property tax be abated on accounts that have less than \$4.00 in totality. Motion by Fuller and seconded by Buck that this be adopted passed with a vote of 6-0.

The bank bids have been received and the Town Manager recommended that the town should choose Androscoggin Bank as their monthly fee is zero and they participate in remote deposits. In addition, the town will continue to use Kennebec Savings Bank as their primary bank for clearing cash. This passed with a unanimous vote with a motion by Fuller and seconded by Fitzgerald.

**Item #59 - Consider an executive session to discuss a property tax abatement application, pursuant to Title 1 MRSA Section 405(6) (F)**

Motion by Fuller and seconded by Buck, the Council went into Executive Session. This motion passed with a unanimous vote at 7:20 p.m.

**At 7:35 p.m., the Council returned from Executive Session.**

Motion by Fuller and seconded by Jenkins, passing with a unanimous vote, the tax referral passed (the amount will be the difference between last year and the current year).

Motion by Fuller and seconded by Jenkins, the property tax abatement application was denied. This motion passed with a unanimous vote.

*At 7:40 p.m.,* Ron Smith addressed the group and informed them that the Winthrop Public Schools may not have all the money that officials are counting on in the 2013-2014 budget that was approved by them last week. He went on to say that he did not think it was in the town's best interest to move forward with any proposed municipal or school budget. His firm is still "trying to understand" and that he will need about one week to complete his investigations and report back with his findings.

Motion by Fuller and seconded by Fitzgerald, passing with a unanimous vote, the Town Council will meet on June 10<sup>th</sup> with the auditor and the school board to discuss those findings. The school district will need one week to make any necessary changes and the public hearing will be held on June 17<sup>th</sup> for both budgets.

Motion by Fuller and seconded by Jenkins, the Council returned into Executive Session for Item #60 – Executive session in accordance with 1 MRSA, Section 401- Personnel Action – at 7:55 p.m.. This passed with a unanimous vote.