

WINTHROP TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes

June 10, 2013 7 P.M.

Attendance: Chairman Kevin Cookson: Priscilla Jenkins, Linda Caprara, Sarah Fuller, Larry Fitzgerald, Ken Buck Sr., Don Ellis, Jeffrey Woolston (Town Manager) and Julie Winberg (Secretary).

The meeting opened at 7:03 p.m.

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

Item #61 – Report from RHR Smith & Company on audit findings.

Ron Smith, RHR Smith & Company, was not in attendance but furnished the Council with a letter summarizing the recent audit findings for the town and school for FY 2013.

He reported that the school did not have enough money to pay employees over the summer and further cuts must be made. The deficit is more than reported. This deficit was due to revenue coming in under budget.

He concluded that the summer salaries will be funded at \$700,000 and the school deficit will go up to \$420,000 from \$314,000. The town has paid the school's summer salaries for years with money coming out of the town's surplus.

The Superintendent, in attendance, along with several others from the school board, stated that they have taken \$550,000 in cuts and can't go much more than that. He assured the Council that he is committed to a flat budget.

He proposed that the town and school board adopt a continuing resolution which would carry the FY2013 budget with an expiration date of September 30, 2013. Both the town and school board would have to adopt separate resolutions per town attorney Lee Bragg. This would mean spending on the current year budget for both the town and the school. Adopting these resolutions would prevent state violations.

The Council requested the date be changed from September 30th to July 31st keeping it to a shorter timeframe to maximize the savings from cuts in the draft municipal budget.

It was confirmed that by adopting these resolutions, it would not interfere with ongoing union contract negotiations.

The draft resolution was jointly reworded and a final version will be written by the town manager who will also obtain all the necessary signatures. The actual figures for FY2013 will be put in both resolutions.

Motion by Fuller and seconded by Fitzgerald passing with a unanimous vote approved the two continuing appropriation resolutions to fund the municipal government and school department at the same level as the FY2013 budget with the expiration date of July 31st, 2013.

Because Mr. Smith was not available to answer questions, a special meeting was scheduled for June 24th at 7:00 p.m.

At 7:40 p.m., motion by Fuller and seconded by Caprara which passed with a unanimous vote, went into executive session in accordance with 1 MRSA, Section 401- Personnel Action – Deferral of Taxes

Out of executive session at 8:47 pm; adjourn 8:47.

/jcw