

WINTHROP TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes

August 5, 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). Lee Bragg (Town Attorney)

The meeting opened at 7:04 p.m.

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

Approve minutes from July 1st, 8th, and 15th, 2013 meetings.

Motion by Fuller and seconded by Jenkins the minutes for these meetings were approved unanimously with the following corrections: July 1st – the cost for each town (Gardiner and Winthrop) would be \$600.00; July 8th, item #65 Municipal budget did not include raises; July 15th – Lee Bragg is the town, not county, attorney and correction in councilor's name to Fitzgerald.

Item #67 – Consider processing recyclable materials from outside Winthrop

Councilor Buck gave a brief overview on the two companies that are presently bringing processes cardboard that we are baling. He is in favor of this continuing as it is a good source of revenue.

Councilors, although in favor of adding revenue, requested that a general policy be drafted and submitted to the council at a later date. They added that the companies should obtain a permit from the town identifying them with a non residential sticker. The application process will be an efficient way to keep accurate records on who and what was brought and most importantly, how much. What the town would want to avoid is a long term capacity issue.

Motion by Fuller and seconded by Jenkins passing with a unanimous vote to allow the two companies that have been bringing the recyclable cardboard to the transfer station to continue to do so. These two companies would still be required to fill out the required documentation once it is available.

Item #68 – Consider Request for Undesignated Funds

The auditor has informed the town that it will cost up to \$10,000 to pay for the required man hours to review the various accounts that were created without the approval of the Treasurer.

Motion by Caprara and seconded by Buck passing with a vote of 6-1 (Jenkins) to approve up to \$10,000 to cover the ongoing special audit of accounts for the past two years. Note: the auditor will be at the September 9th meeting and report on the first batch of records that he has processed. There are a total of three sets of records.

Item #69 – Knights of Columbus Discussion

Councilor Ellis, a Knights of Columbus member, invited and introduced a few of the members. He explained that The Knights were formed to render financial aid to members and their families. Mutual aid and assistance are offered to sick, disabled and needy members and their families. Social and intellectual fellowship is promoted among members and their families through educational, charitable, religious, social welfare, war relief and public relief works. The Knights of Columbus has grown from several members in one council to more than 14,000 councils and 1.8 million members throughout the United States, Canada, the Philippines, Mexico, Poland, the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Panama, the Bahamas, the Virgin Islands, Cuba, Guatemala, Guam and Saipan.

Councilor Ellis wanted to bring to light the important works the Knights have done so far for residents in Winthrop and what they continue to do. The Knights will collaborate with the Lions, Rotarians and any entity that help people...their primary mission.

Councilor Fuller requested some volunteer assistance for the barbecue that is scheduled after the Art Show on August 17th and requested that anyone wanting to volunteer should contact Representative Craig Hickman.

Item #70 – Consider request for blinking light – South Road and Route 202

A request for a blinking light has been made due to the increasing number of accidents at this corner.

Motion by Buck and seconded by Caprara passing with a unanimous vote to have the town manager process this request to DOT and also request any other safety enhancing studies that might be completed at that location.

Item #71 – Public Hearing on Fire Department Response Fees

Public hearing opened up at 7:35 p.m.

Chief Brooks gave an overview of why and how this fee increase came into being. This increase would be for false alarms. Some facilities have problems in maintaining their fire alarms and this increase would help to enforce it. The two false alarms are free. The third would be \$50.00 and go up in those increments up to \$200.00.

The public hearing closed at 7:40 p.m.

Item #72 – Consider Fire Department Fees

Motion by Fuller and seconded by Fitzgerald passing with a unanimous vote to adopt the proposed fee schedule.

Item #72A – Public Hearing on the General Assistance rate change opened at 7:42 p.m. and closed at 7:43 p.m.

Item #73 – Consider General Assistance rate changes

Motion by Fuller and seconded by Jenkins passing with a unanimous vote to approve the rate changes as presented.

Item #74 – Recommitment of Taxes

This recommitment of taxes is done when Treasurers change. Motion by Caprara and seconded by Buck to acknowledge and recommit the current balances, and designate the town manager to collect taxes. The authorization to do this was signed by all councilors.

Motion by Fuller and seconded by Caprara passing with a unanimous vote to publish a formal order on how to apply tax payments, applying it to the oldest amount owed.

Item #74A Public Hearing on Special Entertainment Request for Pepper's

The public hearing opened at 7:48 p.m.

The date for the event is August 17th and the application states that the entertainments will be held outside on the parking lot under a tent. The Chief of Police stated that a liquor license needs to accompany the application and would require an inspection

from the Fire Marshal. He stated that the town should not be reviewing incomplete applications.

The Fire Chief also noted that in the overall picture the application needs to be amended to state that it needs to include the State's permit as well.

The public hearing closed 7:57 p.m.

Item #75 – Consider Special Entertainment Permit Request – Pepper's

Motion by Caprara and seconded by Fitzgerald to accept the special entertainment permit as presented on the condition that the applicant submit their liquor license from the State and that all State requirements are also met. And that future applications be amended to close these identified loop holes. This passed with a unanimous vote.

Other Business

Motion by Fuller and seconded by Caprara passing with a unanimous vote to approve the reappointment for the Hillandalers Snowmobile Club. The town manager will send a letter confirming this appointment.

Town Manager reported that the tax bills will be going out on September 1st.

Item #76 - Executive session in accordance with 1 MRSA

At 8:05 p.m., motion by Fuller and seconded by Jenkins to go into Executive session in accordance with 1 MRSA, Section 401- Personnel Action

The council came out of executive session at 9:02 pm. No motions were made.

The council adjourned at 9:02pm after motion by Fuller, second by Jenkins.

/jcw