

Winthrop Town Council  
Meeting Minutes  
**Monday, November 4, 2013**  
Town Office

Call to Order at 7 pm

Roll Call - Chairman Kevin Cookson, Councilors Sarah Fuller, Linda Caprara, Larry Fitzgerald, Don Ellis Jr, and Ken Buck Sr. were in attendance with the Town Attorney Lee Bragg, and Manager Jeff Woolston. Councilor Priscilla Jenkins arrived after the Oct Meeting Minutes were approved.

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

**Approve minutes from October 7, 2013 meeting.**

Motion by Councilor Fuller, Second by Councilor Fitzgerald to approve the October 7, 2013 council meeting minutes as presented passed unanimously (6,0).

**Item #95 – Update on Cobbossee Watershed District activities –**

During the presentation, Mr Bill Monagle and Ms Wendy Dennis recounted the projects and efforts of the Cobbossee Watershed District to keep the water in the immediate Winthrop area as clean and viable as possible. They were thanked by the council for the presentation.

Among other remarks, Mr Monagle explained the Annabessacook restoration grant for \$68k was a part of a \$110 k project to reduce erosion and phosphorus in run off. The storm basin filters, installed along Highland Ave up to the Narrows Pond Road and Highland Heights, were going to be removed between October and April to avoid getting filled with the winter sand. The filters should last about 2 years before reaching the point of needing replacement with new filters. The filters are removing phosphorus and other contaminants that might move into Annabessacook Lake.

The CWD has also focused on 7-8 camp road upgrades on the Monmouth end of Annabessacook which cost about \$16k and involved 400-500- feet of road surface. They just completed a \$20k project on Briezie Lane. The CWD will see how Annabessacook trends to gauge grant opportunities in the future. The CWD is also doing projects involving camp roads on Cobbossee Lake. The CWD canvassed the road system from S. Road to Manchester outlet to collect data that can be used to prioritize the top 10 roads that need attention given the next expected grant award. Ms Dennis gave an overview of lake clarity. Most importantly, lake water quality has improved during the past 40 years. The lake water clarity projects will continue.

**Item #96 – Consider Revised Bids – Public Address System**

Originally there were three bids. The third bid was more than \$5,000 two years ago; so the manager didn't ask to have it updated.

The updated bids presented to the council were:

Sweetwater quote: \$4,400

Musician's Friend quote: \$4,493

Both appear to offer the same package so, the manager recommended the Sweetwater quote be accepted.

Councilor Caprara made a motion, seconded by Councilor Fuller to accept the Sweetwater bid with the amendment that the manager would consult with another person to further tailor the required equipment and reduce the cost if possible. The motion passed (7, 0).

**Item #97 – Consider forming Winthrop Investment Committee**

Councilor Buck made a motion, seconded by Councilor Fitzgerald to form a town investment committee. The motion passed (7, 0). More discussion will take place during the December council meeting to decide on the committee composition and where the council might want it to move in the future.

**Item #98 – Consider Recreation Committee Appointment – Jessica Folsom**

Councilor Fuller made a motion, seconded by Councilor Jenkins to appoint Ms Folsom to the Recreation Committee. The motion was approved (7, 0).

**Item #99 – Update from combined finance committee**

Councilor Caprara remarked that the committee met on 15<sup>th</sup> and reviewed activity accounts under each school to learn why they were there.

During the second meeting Oct 22nd the committee discussed more of the accounts like the sunshine funds and association funds to see what the value might be for keeping them within the activity accounts. Councilor Fitzgerald posed the question, "If not either tax payer raised or student raised funds, does it belong?" He had a feeling if an activity does not meet the student/tax payer raised activity, then it might not take place if moved out of the current management structure. Quicken seems like the right software for managing the activity accounts in an automated fashion. They also discussed whether the paper forms and ledgers in the draft management procedures could be automated to make it easier on the people who actually had to do the day to day management.

The committee would have another meeting two weeks from tonight's council meeting and might have another meeting prior to that depending on what happens at the next school boards meeting. School Board Member Ginny Geyer said the administrators need some additional training on Quicken to incorporate all the procedures listed in the draft management practices pamphlet. Darlene Beaulieu will be sending the current spreadsheet, which lists revenue and charges, to all members of the committee.

**Item #100 – Consider accepting donation from Norcross Point Summer Concert Organizer**

Councilor Fuller made a motion, seconded by Councilor Jenkins to accept the \$200 donation from the Norcross Point Summer Concert Organizer for needed work at Norcross Point. The motion was approved (7, 0).

#### **Item #101 – Review Draft Inter-Local Agreement of Maranacook Dam Committee**

The council thanked the members of the dam committee for their efforts and will discuss the draft agreement in detail during the December Council meeting.

#### **Item #102 – Consider Quitclaim Deeds Without Covenants**

Councilor Caprara made a motion, seconded by Councilor Fuller to approve both QuitClaim deeds. The motion was approved (7, 0)

#### **Other Business –**

Councilor Jenkins asked the manager on the status on the school budget audit. Chairman Cookson said he received the results and that he e-mailed his instructions to Mr Rosenthal and the council. Councilor Fuller asked about the \$200,000 talked about in his e-mail. Chairman Cookson said that the actual figure has not been voted on by the council but that \$200,000 potential decrease in employer healthcare contributions from the town had been informally talked about.

#### **Manager's report**

#### **Notes from Meeting w/Monmouth**

The Monmouth Town Manager and a member of the Board of selectmen visited briefly with the Town Manager and EMS Chief Dovinsky. Chief Dovinsky outlined what the Winthrop EMS capacity was and that if needed; we would be glad to enter a contract with the Town of Monmouth.

#### **Recommend the council accept the only bid on the 2003 Ambulance for \$2,188.88 by Scott Lepeshko of New Jersey. The Winthrop EMS also wanted to donate three old wheels to the Boothbay Regional Ambulance service.**

Councilor Fuller made a motion, seconded by Councilor Jenkins to accept the Scott Lepeshko bid and donate the excess wheels to the Boothbay Regional Ambulance service. The motion was approved (7, 0).

#### **DOT Road Safety Projects Update**

- Speed Study – Should be completed by the end of the year
- Rumble Strips – the Maine DOT representative said the DOT would like to get them installed next summer
- Signal Light – Right now, it looks like 2016 will be the projected date to install the light.

## **Excise Tax Return Ordinance**

Several years ago, around the 2006-2007 time frame, the Maine State legislature said if municipalities had customers that met certain requirements, there might be a chance they could get a refund of their excise tax from the town if the town had an ordinance approving the refund. The council would have to vote to approve an ordinance for the refund. If they voted to approve an ordinance; then everyone who qualified and wanted a refund would get one. However, if the council did not take any action on the question, no refunds would be paid and the issue would be considered closed. Councilor Buck made a motion, seconded by Councilor Caprara to take no action. The motion was approved (7.0).

**The manager requested moving \$4,000 from Fire Department Reserve accounts to the fire department Main Operating Account to pay for extra gravel needed to finish the Fire Station asphalt project.**

Councilor Fuller made a motion, seconded by Councilor Jenkins to approve moving the money from the reserve account to pay the \$4,000 gravel bill. The motion passed (7, 0).

**Item # 103 -- Consider going into executive session in accordance with 1 MRSA, Section 405.6.E – Consult with legal counsel regarding union negotiations.**

8:31 pm Chairman Cookson made the motion, seconded by Councilor Fuller to go into executive session in accordance with 1 MRSA, Section 405.6.E – Consult with legal counsel regarding union negotiations. The motion was approved (7,0).

8:58 pm Councilor Fuller made a motion to exit the executive session.

Councilor Fuller made the motion, seconded by Councilor Fitzgerald to enter into mediation with the current police union and to notify the newly approved union's representative that the secondary union unit negotiations will commence as soon as a date is found.

**Councilor Buck motioned for adjournment at 8:59pm.**