

**Winthrop Town Council
Meeting Minutes
May 7, 2012**

Attendance: Chairman Kevin Cookson; Jennifer Currier, Linda Caprara, Priscilla Jenkins (arrived at 7:08 p.m.), Sarah Fuller, Ken Buck Sr., Larry Fitzgerald, Jeffrey Woolston (Town Manager) and Julie Winberg (Secretary)

Approve the Minutes of April 23, 2012

Motion by Fuller and seconded by Currier, the minutes were approved by a vote of 6-0.

Item #42 Public Hearing on Victualer's license application for the following:

***American Legion Post #40
China Empress
Circle K Convenience Store
Cumberland Farms
Fast Eddies
Flaky Tart
Full Court Deli
Kong's Village
Mia Lina's Italian Express
Moonshadow Farms
Hannaford Brothers
Old Colony Ice Cream
Peppers Restaurant
Pete's Roast Beef
Pond Town Tavern
RT Farms
Subway
Sully's Tavern
Tubby's Ice Cream
Wicked Bean
Winthrop House of Pizza***

Public Hearing opened at 7:08 p.m. and closed at 7:09 p.m.

Item #43 ***Consider Victualer's license applications.***

Motion by Buck and seconded by Jenkins, the victualer's license for the nineteen establishments as presented were approved with a unanimous vote.

Item #44 ***Public Hearing on liquor license applications for the following:***

***Sully's Restaurant & Tavern
Pond Town Tavern***

Public Hearing opened at 7:10 p.m. and closed at 7:11 p.m.

Item #45 ***Consider liquor license application***

Motion by Jenkins and seconded by Fitzgerald, the liquor licenses were approved with a unanimous vote for Sully's and Pond Town Taverns.

Item #46 ***Public Hearing on Special Entertainment License:
More to Life Campground***

Public Hearing opened at 7:12 p.m. and closed at 7:13 p.m.

Item #47 ***Consider Special Entertainment License***

More to Life Campground

Motion by Fuller and seconded by Caprara, the special entertainment license was approved with a unanimous vote pending the completion of the license application and meeting all the town requirements. Note: More to Life Campground is a seasonal campground and this license is allowing a Christian Gospel Group to sing two or three times per month.

Item #48 ***FY2012-2013 School Budget Presentation***

The Superintendant of Schools, Gary Rosenthal, was in attendance along with other school representatives to present the FY 2012/2013 budget to the Council. This fifteen minute presentation covered many issues that the School Board was confronted with and reasons that justified the proposed \$10.2 million budget that is about \$650,000 over current spending.

The school officials are asking the town for an additional \$365,000 for the 2012-2013 school budgets. The increase in cost of special education accounts for the increase. About 13% of Winthrop's students are identified as special needs.

The new budget also reinstates a 4% pay increase for teachers, two education technicians, a behavioral specialist, a physical education teacher and a half-time English teacher. Mr. Rosenthal also noted that school enrollment was up by 40 students this year and an additional 30 are expected next year.

Note: with the pending negative impact of LD849 (an act to provide tax relief for Maine's citizens by reducing income taxes, sponsored by Senator A. Trahan), the Council was asked about what their role should be to keep on top of this and to demonstrate to the powers to be how negatively this will impact towns and their budgets as the shift will obviously be onto the schools and the towns. There is a federal mandate that towns cover the financial obligations for special education needs but there is no financial support forthcoming.

A suggestion was made by Councilor Jenkins that a joint resolution between the town and the school demonstrating the need they both have for financial support for special education from both the federal government and the state. A long term strategy is needed. This suggestion was well received.

The next meeting on the budget will be held on May 17th at 6:00 p.m.. Should the council need the assistance of the superintendant for that meeting, he will be informed.

Item #49 *Consider Quitclaim Deed (Named very literally, a quitclaim deed is a means of "quitting," or transferring, any interest in real property.*

The town manager explained that the lien was discharged inappropriately (a mistake made by the municipality). Motion by Fuller and seconded by Jenkins to approve and sign off on this quitclaim deed passed unanimously.

Manager's Report

The sound system used for tonight's meeting is borrowed from the high school. He will have someone come by to look at our amplifier.

Provided the Council with a list of excess things the town could keep or sell. The items for sale will all go out to bid. Motion made by Fuller and seconded by Fitzgerald to approve the items as discussed passed with a unanimous vote.

The Art Show is planned for August 18th from 6:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.. The Chamber is asking that Main Street be closed. A plan however, has not been provided as to the rerouting and parking issues. The Chamber feels that the Art Show has grown and there are safety issues. They have proposed to close from Green Street to Morton Street. The Council did not vote on this, but several of the Councilors were not in favor of this closure as they felt it would negatively impact the current business owners. As

far as the 'cost' of this closure, the entire cost would be paid for by the Chamber, i.e. police officers etc.. The Council decided to table this, exploring more options, taking into account that this is revenue neutral for the town. The Police Chief and Councilor Fuller will meet with the Chamber and report back to the Council.

The 1,000 lb. granite watering trough (approximately 5' long) that sat by of Winthrop Fuel will be moved. The council said it did not have a real preference and that the manager could move it by the town office next to the Highland Ave sidewalk.

A question was raised on the mailing of the tax bill. In the past, two bills were mailed - one in October and one in April. To save \$5,000, the town is now mailing one bill in October and a post card in April. As a good faith effort, the town will put a notice in the Advertiser a few weeks prior to the post card mailing in April.

In response to opening the town office laboratories during the Farmers Market on Saturdays (monitored by Councilor Currier), the Council decided that this would remain as status quo. A motion made by Councilor Jenkins to open the laboratories died with no second.

Adjourn

Motion by Buck and seconded by Fitzgerald, the meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m. with a unanimous vote.

Note: the next meeting of the Council to discuss the budget is scheduled for May 15th at 6:00 p.m., and on May 21st at 6:00 p.m..