

**Winthrop Town Council
Meeting Minutes
November 5, 2012**

Attendance: Chairman Kevin Cookson: Priscilla Jenkins, Sarah Fuller, Ken Buck Sr., Larry Fitzgerald, Jeffrey Woolston (Town Manager) and Julie Winberg (Secretary). Absent: Linda Caprara. The Chairman stated that Councilor Jennifer Currier had resigned.

The meeting opened at 7:00 p.m.

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

Approve the October 1, 2012 Meeting Minutes:

Motion by Fuller and seconded by Jenkins, passing with a unanimous vote, the meeting minutes were approved.

Item #82 Play Outside Sign Project Presentation

Students from the Middle School presented their program to the audience. This project started in Winthrop in June 2011. The program has been quite successful, so much so that South Portland has adopted their model.

They shared their ideas among which was to have sturdier signs for the winter, fund raising to include bottle drives, applying for grants when available and perhaps a facebook page. More signs will be made for next year and to be placed on more roads.

Item #90 Grant Possibilities for Winthrop - KVCOG

Gail M. Chase, Community Development Manager of the Kennebec Valley Council of Governments (KVCOG), was in attendance and presented to the audience information on applying for grants from the KVCOG.

The national objectives of the CDBG grant are that the grant must benefit 51% or greater low or moderate income persons, and that the project must prevent or eliminate slum or blighting conditions. The town of Winthrop has 31.3% low or moderate income.

The business being considered should have five or fewer employees, one of which would be the owner, be a small business, articulate a need, illustrate the structure, apply with a detailed application, and get the funds. The KVCOG would work hand in hand with the applicant.

Item #87 Discuss Community Development Block Grant, Community Enterprise Grant Program and Letter of Intent.

The programs that the town is eligible for are housing assistance, public facilities, public infrastructure, downtown revitalization, workforce development, economic development, and micro enterprise assistance.

Community Development Grants focus also on revolving loans (Readfield is exploring this and may be used as an example). It takes up to a year to process. It is a draw down account with the State Commission setting up the ground rules.

Amy Lawson, Western Kennebec Economic Development Alliance also spoke. She will deliver a draft letter of intent for the grant proposal to the council at an upcoming meeting.

Item #83 Discussion of Town Manager Request to ME Dot for Rumble Strips on Route 202

Discussion and review of the town's proposed request and history of the reasons why were again presented for those attendees who did not participate in the original discussion or that had additional input.

After the town discussed this with town attorney, Lee Bragg, it was determined that the Council could reconsider this but if they decide to do this, anything previously voted on will be void.

The consensus of the group, with a few exceptions which were not the majority, was to compromise and install rumble strips in the center line only. This compromise weighs public safety and noise and is the most reasonable option.

Material received from DOT was full of information that rumble strips definitely work and saves lives. This is no cost to the town but totally funded by DOT. The towns of Woolwich and Turner are good examples.

DOT will come back to the Council when their plan is complete which will detail exactly where the strips will be placed.

Item #84 Possible reconsideration of vote adopted on October 1, 2012 regarding rumble strips on Route 202

Motion by Fuller and seconded by Jenkins passing with a unanimous vote to send the letter of intent to the DOT requesting them to install the rumble strips in the center line on Route 202 after the presentation of the completed plan by the DOT to the Council and the public.

Item #85 Public Hearing for an Ordinance to Restrict Engine or Transmission Braking Noise

The public hearing opened at 8:40 p.m.

Discussion centered on the times that this would be enforced as well as adding other areas along Route 202. This proposed amendment would be added to the traffic and parking in Section 22.

Discussion also centered on the need, enforcement, and potential hurdles that such an amendment may present. It does not apply to emergency vehicles or in emergency situations.

As written, it would cover locations on Route 133 from Squire Court to Summer and Birch Streets, as well as Route 202 from the Carlton Mill Building and Squire Hill Village to Royal Street. The Council felt that additional areas should be added and those should be identified by with the help of the Police Chief.

The Town Manager noted that Hampton, Maine has a comprehensive noise ordinance and he is presently working with the Police Chief on the town's comprehensive noise ordinance.

The public hearing closed at 8:55 p.m.

Item #86 Consider an Ordinance to Restrict Engine or Transmission Braking Noise

Motion by Jenkins and seconded by Fuller to table this and work on a more comprehensive noise ordinance. This passed with a vote of 4-1 (Buck).

Item #88 Discuss Parliamentary Procedure Workshop

Councilor Fuller discussed the parliamentary procedure workshop which cost \$500.00 for 30 participants and \$9 for additional participants each.

The workshop reviews Roberts Rules of Order which would be especially beneficial for new members on the council as well as a good review for all.

Motion by Jenkins and seconded by Fuller to have the Town Manager send emails to the school board, as well as the town boards informing them of this workshop opening it up for anyone interested and submit the head count to the Town Manager.

Item #89 New Committee Appointments

Motion by Jenkins and seconded by Fuller which passed with a vote of 5-0 to appoint Jeffrey Toothacker to the Conservation Commission.

Item #91 Public Hearing for a General Assistance Ordinance, Appendices C

The public hearing opened at 9:05 p.m.

The public hearing closed at 9:06 p.m.

Item #92 Consider General Assistance Ordinance, Appendices C

Motion by Fuller and seconded by Jenkins to adopt this Ordinance as presented passed with a unanimous vote. It is effective October 1, 2012. These are the new housing maximums. A public hearing notice was put on the bulletin board in the town office. Overall maximums were reduced by 10% effective July 1, 2012 and the food allowance is not being increased at this time.

Other Business

Councilor Currier has resigned for personal reasons effective October 26, 2012. Council rules indicate the Council has sixty days to take action. The Town Manager will advertise for a special election. Discussion centered on having a full council in place before the officers are sworn in on January 7th, 2013. The nominations should be received by December 11th and the special election will be held on January 3rd, 2013.

Councilor Fuller informed the group that the Conservation Commission meets regularly and has gone over the Mt. Piscah Management Plan.

Manager's Report

Winthrop has been redesignated a Maine Heartsafe Community for 2012. Winthrop ambulance originally achieved this designation in 2006 and is now one of 65 EMS services in the State that have been so designated.

Motion by Fuller and seconded by Jenkins passing with a unanimous vote to accept the donation of a universal gym. This was a donation by Nancy Schenk of Longfellow Lane, East Winthrop and has a value of approximately \$600.00.

The lease purchase of defibrillators was discussed and the following was read into the record:

ORDER #145

TOWN COUNCIL

AN ORDER PROVIDING FOR: The lease/purchase of monitor/defibrillators and related equipment.

BE IT ORDERED, by the Town Council of the Town of Winthrop, as follows:

VOTED: (1) That a Capital Acquisition Project (the "Project") consisting of the lease of 4 monitor/defibrillator units and related equipment, with purchase option, all as more fully set forth in a Municipal Lease Purchase Agreement with Androscoggin Bank, is hereby approved; and

- (2) That the financing for the Project in the amount of \$76,718 is awarded to Androscoggin Bank at an interest rate of 2.79%, with \$5,000 being appropriated for a down payment for a total acquisition cost of \$81,718; and
- (3) That the Town Manager is hereby authorized to execute the Lease Purchase Agreement and all other documents reasonably necessary to accomplish the purpose of this vote in his capacity as Town Manager or in his capacity as Town Treasurer, as the documents may require; and
- (4) That said Lease is hereby designated a qualified tax-exempt obligation of the Town for the 2012 calendar year pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

IN THE TOWN COUNCIL

WINTHROP TOWN COUNCIL

Read and Adopted:

Kevin Cookson

Linda Caprara

Lawrence Fitzgerald

Kenneth Buck, Sr.

Priscilla Jenkins

Sarah Fuller

Jennifer Currier

The Jennings' family mortgage was discussed. This goes back to 1990's. The home is located at 20 Central Street. There is no official record but there is no indication of a lien or foreclosure. It is clear of all encumbrances and the mortgage should be discharged. Motion by Fuller and seconded by Jenkins to discharge this mortgage passed with a unanimous vote.

Motion by Fuller and seconded by Jenkins, passing with a unanimous vote, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.