

WINTHROP TOWN COUNCIL

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, June 7, 2010

Attendance: Kevin Cookson, Chair; David Rheame, Linda Caprara, Ken Buck, Sarah Fuller, Priscilla Jenkins, James Lattin. Cornell Knight, Town Manager, and Julie Winberg, Secretary.

Called to Order at 7:02 p.m. Meeting held at the Middle School Cafeteria.

Approve the Minutes of May 3 and May 10, 2010.

Motion made by Jenkins and seconded by Buck to approve the minutes of May 3 and May 10, 2010 with the following corrections:

On May 3rd, page 5, 2nd paragraph...change trial to train.

On May 3rd, page 2.....not all councilors 'felt strongly'. Vote 7-0.

Item #45 Hold a public hearing on the Budgets for the 2010-2011 Fiscal Year: Resolution #96 Part I – Municipal Budget

The public hearing opened at 7:05 p.m..

The Town Manager reviewed the budget proposal spending – down .58% - from last year along with revenues down by 7.4% which requires the town to require more in property taxes. Proposed was an estimate tax rate to increase from the present \$12.50 to \$13.28 which is a 6.24% increase.

Hearing was closed at 7:10 pm

Councilor Rheame recommended further reductions under contributions reducing the amount by \$2000 to \$3500 and only fund Senior Spectrum and Good Shepherd food bank. Councilor Jenkins recommended not to reduce these amounts as the town has supported these services faithfully and they meet the needs of the community.

Motion by Rheame and seconded by Buck to reduce Contributions budget to \$3,500. Vote 5-2, Jenkins and Fuller opposed.

Motion by Fuller and seconded by Cookson to approve Part I. Vote 5-2 Buck and Rheame opposed.

RESOLUTION NO. 96 - Part I .

TOWN COUNCIL

A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR:

passage of the Municipal Budget for the fiscal period **July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011** in the gross amount of **\$ 4,891,213** to which the following estimated incomes, totaling **\$ 2,752,096** has been applied to reduce the appropriation from taxes:

<u>\$ 909,000</u>	from Excise Taxes
<u>\$ 362,000</u>	from State Revenue Sharing
<u>\$ 1,481,096</u>	from various departmental incomes

providing a net total Municipal Budget to be raised from taxation of **\$2,139,117.**

Also providing for the following additional estimated assessments:

Kennebec County:	<u>\$ 618,000</u>
Cobbossee Watershed District	<u>\$ 76,324</u>
TIF Agreement	<u>\$ 57,500</u>

Public Hearing for Part II – School Budget opened at 7:25 p.m.

The Superintendent reviewed the budget proposal reflecting a 4% reduction in spending but aid to education funding from the state is down 15% reflecting a requested increase in property taxes of \$375,000. There have been 18 positions eliminated and no raises are included in the budget as presented, but negotiations are in mediation. The school budget will be on the ballot on June 8th.

Public hearing closed at 7:40 pm

RESOLUTION NO. 96 – Part II

TOWN COUNCIL

A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR passage of the following appropriations for support of the School Department for the fiscal period **July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011.**

ARTICLES 1 THROUGH 11 - AUTHORIZE EXPENDITURES IN COST CENTER CATEGORIES

ARTICLE 1: To see what sum the District will be authorized to expend for regular instruction. **BOARD OF**

EDUCATION RECOMMENDS: \$ 3,540,530

*Motion by Fuller and seconded by Jenkins to approve the article as read.
Vote 4-3, Buck, Rheaume and Caprara opposed.*

ARTICLE 2: To see what sum the District will be authorized to expend for special education.

BOARD OF EDUCATION RECOMMENDS:

\$ 936,852

*Motion by Fuller and seconded by Jenkins to approve the article as read.
Vote 4-3, Buck, Rheaume and Caprara opposed.*

ARTICLE 3: To see what sum the District will be authorized to expend for career and technical education.

BOARD OF EDUCATION RECOMMENDS:

\$ 64,800

*Motion by Fuller and seconded by Jenkins to approve the article as read.
Vote 4-3, Buck, Rheaume and Caprara opposed.*

ARTICLE 4: To see what sum the District will be authorized to expend for other instruction.

BOARD OF EDUCATION RECOMMENDS:

\$ 536,884

*Motion by Fuller and seconded by Jenkins to approve the article as read.
Vote 4-3, Buck, Rheaume and Caprara opposed.*

ARTICLE 5: To see what sum the District will be authorized to expend on student and staff support:

BOARD OF EDUCATION RECOMMENDS:

\$ 621,829

*Motion by Fuller and seconded by Jenkins to approve the article as read.
Vote 4-3, Buck, Rheaume and Caprara opposed.*

ARTICLE 6: To see what sum the District will be authorized to expend for system administration.

Board of Education: \$31,938 and AOS Assessment: \$345,770:

BOARD OF EDUCATION RECOMMENDS:

\$ 377,708

*Motion by Fuller and seconded by Jenkins to approve the article as read.
Vote 4-3, Buck, Rheaume and Caprara opposed.*

ARTICLE 7: To see what sum the District will be authorized to expend for school administration.

BOARD OF EDUCATION RECOMMENDS:

\$ 517,141

*Motion by Fuller and seconded by Jenkins to approve the article as read.
Vote 4-3, Buck, Rheaume and Caprara opposed.*

ARTICLE 8: To see what sum the District will be authorized to expend for transportation and buses.

BOARD OF EDUCATION RECOMMENDS:

\$ 473,025

*Motion by Fuller and seconded by Jenkins to approve the article as read.
Vote 4-3, Buck, Rheaume and Caprara opposed.*

ARTICLE 9: To see what sum the District will be authorized to expend for facilities maintenance.

BOARD OF EDUCATION RECOMMENDS:

\$ 1,236,544

*Motion by Fuller and seconded by Jenkins to approve the article as read.
Vote 4-3, Buck, Rheaume and Caprara opposed.*

ARTICLE 10: To see what sum the District will be authorized to expend for debt service and other commitments

BOARD OF EDUCATION RECOMMENDS:

\$ 1,296,429

*Motion by Fuller and seconded by Jenkins to approve the article as read.
Vote 4-3, Buck, Rheaume and Caprara opposed.*

ARTICLE 11: To see what sum the District will be authorized to expend for all other expenditures.

BOARD OF EDUCATION RECOMMENDS:

\$ 23,001

*Motion by Fuller and seconded by Jenkins to approve the article as read.
Vote 4-3, Buck, Rheaume and Caprara opposed.*

**ARTICLES 12 THROUGH 14 – RAISE FUNDS FOR PROPOSED SCHOOL
BUDGET**

ARTICLE 12: To see what sum the District will appropriate for the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act and to see what sum the town will raise and assess as the municipality's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15688.

Recommended amount set forth below:

**Total EPS appropriation
Town of Winthrop**

**Total EPS raised assessment
Town of Winthrop**

\$8,300,431

\$4,243,860

Explanation: The District's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described by the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act is the amount of money determined by state law to be the minimum amount that the District must raise and assess in order to receive the full amount of state dollars.

Motion by Fuller and seconded by Jenkins to approve the article as read.

Vote 4-3, Buck, Rheame and Caprara opposed.

ARTICLE 13: To see what sum the district will raise and appropriate for annual payments on local debt service previously approved by the legislative body for non-state-funded school construction projects, non-state-funded portions of school construction projects and minor capital projects in addition to the funds appropriated as local share of the school administrative unit's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12:

BOARD OF EDUCATION RECOMMENDS: **\$ 210,271**

Explanation: Non-state-funded debt service is the amount of money needed for the annual payment on the district's long-term debt for major capital school construction projects and minor capital renovation projects that are not approved for state subsidy. The bonding of the long-term debt was previously approved by the voters or other legislative body.

Motion by Fuller and seconded by Jenkins to approve the article as read. Vote 4-3, Buck, Rheame and Caprara opposed.

ARTICLE 14: To see what sum the District will raise and appropriate in additional local funds **RECOMMEND \$711,222** which exceeds the state's Essential Programs and Services model by **\$486,000** as required to fund the budget recommended by the Board of Education.

Explanation: The additional local funds are those locally raised funds over and above the school administrative unit's local contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act and local amounts raised for the annual payment on non-state funded debt service that will help achieve the District's budget for educational programs.

Motion by Fuller and seconded by Jenkins to approve the article as read.

Vote 4-3, Buck, Rheame and Caprara opposed.

ARTICLE 15- SUMMARIZES THE PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET

ARTICLE 15: To see the sum the District will authorize the Board of Education to expend for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2010 and ending June 30, 2011 from the District's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act, non-state

funded school construction projects, additional local funds for school purposes under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-1, section 15690, unexpended balances, tuition receipts, state subsidy and other receipts for the support of schools.

BOARD OF EDUCATION RECOMMENDS: \$ 9,624,743

*Motion by Fuller and seconded by Jenkins to approve the article as read.
Vote 4-3, Buck, Rheaume and Caprara opposed.*

**ARTICLE 16- AUTHORIZES THE SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAM AND
RAISES THE LOCAL SHARE**

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town of Winthrop will authorize to expend \$440,000 for School Nutrition Program and raise **\$82,000** as the local share.

Motion by Fuller and seconded by Jenkins to approve the article as read. Vote 4-3, Buck, Rheaume and Caprara opposed.

**ARTICLE 17 - AUTHORIZES THE ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM AND
RAISE THE LOCAL SHARE**

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town of Winthrop will authorize to expend \$114,050 for Adult Education and raise **\$25,000** as the local share; with authorization to expend any additional, incidental or miscellaneous receipts in the interest and for the well-being of the Adult Education Program.

*Motion by Fuller and seconded by Jenkins to approve the article as read.
Vote 4-3, Buck, Rheaume and Caprara opposed.*

**ARTICLE 18 - AUTHORIZES EXPENDITURE OF GRANTS AND OTHER
RECEIPTS**

ARTICLE 18: Shall the Board of Education be authorized to expend such other sums as may be received from federal and state grants or programs or other sources during the fiscal year for school purposes provided that such grants, programs or other sources do not require the expenditures of other funds not previously appropriated?

*Motion by Fuller and seconded by Jenkins to approve the article as read.
Vote 4-3, Buck, Rheaume and Caprara opposed.*

Motion by Fuller and seconded by Cookson to waive the second readings of Part I and Part II. Vote 5-2, Caprara and Rheaume opposed.

Councilor Jenkins commented that ‘this is a very hard budget’. “Next year will be even harder”.

Councilor Caprara asked that the town make an effort to publicize the state's Property Tax and Rent Refund program – also known as the “circuit breaker” refund.

Item #46 Determine the dates when property taxes committed during the 2010-11 fiscal year shall become due and payable.

Motion by Rheaume and seconded by Jenkins to make the due dates April 1st and October 1st. Vote 7-0.

Item #47 Determine the rate of interest that shall apply to delinquent taxes committed during the 2010-11 fiscal year until those taxes are paid in full.

Motion by Fuller and seconded by Jenkins, to charge 7% for delinquent taxes committed during the 2010-11 fiscal year. Vote 7-0.

Item #48 Consider the rate of interest that shall be applied for overpayment of taxes.

Motion by Fuller and seconded by Lattin, the rate of interest that shall be applied for overpayment of taxes will be 3%. Vote 7-0.

Item #49 Consider approval of the Capital Improvements Budget.

As noted, this budget includes existing lease payments and tennis court resurfacing.

Motion by Fuller and seconded by Cookson to approve the Capital Improvements Budget. Vote 4-3, Caprara, Rheaume, Buck opposed.

Item #50 Hold a public hearing on a liquor license renewal for Pepper's Garden & Grill, 357A Main Street

The public hearing opened at 8:10 p.m. and closed at 8:12 p.m.

There was no opposition, and the Chief of Police stated that he will correct the DOB on the application.

Item #51 Consider the liquor license application for Pepper's Garden & Grill

Motion by Caprara and seconded by Jenkins to approve the liquor license application for Pepper's Garden and Grill. Vote 6-1, Lattin opposed.

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Item #52 Consider the replacement of the culvert on Turtle Run Road

The town manager informed the Council that he has met with the DEP. The proposal is to install two – 30” plastic culvers which will improve the flow of water. The pipe will be lowered, thus reducing the size of the pond. The final report from DEP will be presented to the Council at their July 12th regular meeting. The estimated cost for this project to date is \$6,400 which repairs the granite block culvert. The Cobbossee Watershed District has offered to pay \$3,000 toward the repair costs if the flow can be increased, thus lowering levels in Little Cobbossee Lake and a swampy area near the culvert.

Motion by Caprara and seconded by Fuller to table this item until the final report from DEP is reviewed. The town manager will notify the residents of the DEP report when received. The town manager will contact DEP and request that in making their determination, to incorporate other options as well. Vote 7-0.

Item #53 Consider amendments to the contract with AFSCME #93

The amendments to the union contract covering police and dispatchers were reviewed and as noted, the union agreed to no raises this year. The contract will expire June 2012.

Motion by Rheume and seconded by Caprara to approve the amendments. Vote 7-0. .

Item #54 Consider an easement with Fairpoint Communications at the Middle School.

Fairpoint Communications plans to run new phone and fiber optic lines to the Middle School.

Motion by Caprara and seconded by Lattin, to table for more information until July 12th meeting. Vote 7-0.

Item #55 Consider appointments – Library Trustees and Board of Registration Appeals.

Motion by Rheume and seconded by Jenkins to approve Mary Jane Auns to the Library Board of Trustees. Vote 7-0.

Motion by Fuller and seconded by Rheume to approve Carol Caprara to the Board of Voter Registration Appeal. Vote 6-0-1, Councilor Caprara abstained.

Item #56 Consider a Victualer's license for Tubby's Ice Cream, 41 Main Street

Motion by Rheume and seconded by Caprara to approve a victualer's license for Tubby's Ice Cream. Vote 7-0.

Item #57 Consider bids on tax acquired property

Motion by Rheume and seconded by Caprara, to sell the tax acquired parcel on Princeton Lane to James Martin for \$501. Vote 7-0.

Item #58 Hear an update from the Green Committee

Councilor Jenkins updated the Council on the Committees established goals and projects to date.

Patrice Putman, Chair of the Comprehensive Plan Committee gave an update in reference to stimulus money that has come available that could be used for funding a trail from Winthrop to Hallowell. The town manager will talk a grant writer offering \$1,000 to review the application process, investigate Manchester's desire to split the cost, and report his findings back to the Council on June 28th.

Motion by Jenkins and seconded by Fuller to move forward with this exploring the funding possibility to share the cost with Manchester. Vote 6-1 Rheume opposed.

Motion by Jenkins and seconded by Caprara to adjourn at 9:45. Vote 7-0.