

WINTHROP TOWN COUNCIL

Monday, July 12, 2010

Minutes

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

Called to Order at 7:00 p.m.

Approve the Minutes of June 7 and June 28, 2010

Motion made by Rheaume and seconded by Fuller, the minutes of the meetings held on June 7 and June 28, 2010 were approved with a unanimous vote with the following correction: Page 9, motion was approved with a 6-0 vote as Caprara abstained.

Tabled from May 3, 2010

Item #40 Consider the installation of speed bumps on Greenwood Avenue

The Chief of Police was present and informed the Council that he held a meeting with the residents of Greenwood Avenue and the adjoining streets in reference to the 'speeding' problem. This meeting was very successful. Approximately 15 residents attended and the unanimous opinion was that they would form a neighborhood watch program. They still do want speed bumps (which would be removed in the winter) for their street as there is a lot of traffic. But they will start with the watch program. After several surveys done by the police department, the average speed was 26 mph. The Chief felt that speeding was not the major problem as it is an older neighborhood and life is at a faster pace these days.

The Chief felt that should the council decide to put in speed bumps, a formal policy has to be written prior to installation: the type, the installation,

criteria etc. very much like the policy the town has for street lights. He also spoke to DOT about the hedge at the corner of Main Street.

The town manager noted that the estimated cost for movable speed bumps is approximately \$1,700 from curb to curb.

The town manager recommended that this be tabled for one month in hopes that residents from Greenwood Avenue may be in attendance.

Motion by Fuller and seconded by Caprara to table this until the August meeting to further discuss the group's recommendations and perhaps putting a policy into effect. Vote 5-0.

Tabled from June 7, 2010

Motion by Caprara and seconded by Fuller to take this item off the table. Vote 5-0.

Item #53 Consider the replacement of the culvert on Turtle Run Road

A report from David Waddell, and engineer at DEP and an analysis from Wendy Dennis, Limnologist at the Cobbossee Watershed District were shared with the Council.

The town manager gave the report from DEP and their analysis of the water shed along with the recommendation that two – 30" culverts be installed. He went on to say that no matter which choice is chosen, culverts or bridge (walking/driving), there will still be flooding from Little Cobossesse. A permit is not needed, and the culverts can be installed very quickly. If the culverts do not work, they can be removed just as quickly.

With an installation of a bridge, an engineer will have to be hired and that would take much more time. He recommended going with the two culverts.

Priscilla Jenkins arrived at this time.

Residents from Turtle Run were present along with residents from the condominiums. Some wanted the culverts installed so the road could be

reopened and others wanted the bridge plan explored before spending any funds.

The town manager will get a bridge design and cost estimate.

Motion by Buck and seconded by Jenkins to hold a special council meeting to review the design plans for a bridge, the cost for building this bridge and the time it will take to completion. The vote was 5-1.

Item #54 Consider an easement with Fairpoint Communications from Charles Street to the Middle School

Motion by Caprara and seconded by Fuller to take this item off the table. Vote was 6-0.

John Smith from Fairpoint Communications presented his report to the council. This project would be the installation of a new cable at the Winthrop Middle School. The options were circulated and the council was asked to review and choose one of the four. He noted that aerial installation is easier to maintain. Fairpoint takes full financial responsibility for these fiber optic cables.

Motion by Rheume and seconded by Caprara with a unanimous vote to approve option #2. The town manager noted that the town made an effort to bury the lines when the schools were built and now there would be one overhead wire. Since there is virtually no maintenance to either option, Councilor Rheume amended his first motion Councilor Jenkins seconded,, choosing the original location of burying the line up Charles Street, next to the field hockey field, under Rambler Road to the utility room at the Middle School. Vote 5-0. (Councilor Buck left the meeting at this point and did not vote). This project should be completed by mid August.

New Business:

Item #61 Consider the school department's lease purchase of financial software.

The town manager said there was no need for it because the current system works well and furthermore, the town was not included in any of the discussions, nor was there an appropriation in the school budget for this

purchase. He felt that software should not be changed without the town's approval. The basis of this purchase was due to solve financial problems although management issues were noted. He felt that if the software was changed, it would increase the workload for the town significantly. The financial problems are a management issue not a software issue. The state accepts both systems. And the town has never heard that there was a problem with any of the reports that they submit to the state.

Briane Coulthard, Superintendant of Schools, said that with the new state reporting criteria, this is the only software he would recommend to be used. He also noted that over 105 school districts use this software and it would make it much more uniform.

The council was unanimous in their feeling that there was indeed a strong lack of communication between the school board and the town.

Taking a vote on this is moot as the school board has already entered into a 4 year lease with a signed contract. But the council was taken back at the mere fact that the school board did not talk to the council during the budget review. Communication with the town manager and the school board, although separate but equal entities, is essential.

Item #62 Consider a bus donation from the school for use by area Fire Departments

A memorandum from Dan Brooks was shared with the council. The school is disposing of two old buses. The Fire Chief would like one bus for training exercises with neighboring fire departments and the ambulance service

Motion by Rheaume and seconded by Caprara to accept the bus pending the school board's vote to donate the bus. Vote 5-0.

Item #63 Consider a Memorandum of Understanding with neighboring towns to work on an intercommunity walking trail.

The vision is for a multiuse recreational trail that begins in Monmouth, runs east through Winthrop and Manchester and connect with the Kennebec River Rail Trail in Hallowell.

Motion by Fuller and seconded by Jenkins to accept this Memorandum of Understanding with neighboring towns to work on an intercommunity walking trail noting that this does not commit the town to fund this project. There are many funding sources for trails noting that the council has the final authority for money that will be expended.

Councilor Rheaume commented that he feels there is a commitment to fund this project by signing this agreement and fails to see just where the employment growth from this type of development may be.

Councilor Fuller commented that just the recreational opportunity draws out many more opportunities for businesses along the trail lines.

Vote carried 3-2 (Rheaume and Caprara)

Item #64 Consider the paving bids for Sturtevant Hill Road

Three bids were received with the lowest bid from Ferraiolo at \$64.80 per ton. R & C was \$66.49 and Pike was at \$70.00. There is \$100,000 budgeted for paving this portion of the Sturtevant Hill Road.

Motion by Rheaume and seconded by Caprara to accept the paving bid from Ferraiolo. Vote 5-0.

Item #65 Consider the electricity bids for the town's small accounts

The bids opened 2:00 today (July 12, 2010). Four bid proposals were received with the lowest from Integrys Energy. The 12 month price is 7.22 cents, the current standard offer is rate the town is paying is .9.

Motion by Rheaume and seconded by Fuller to accept the bid from Integress but for one year at .723. At the end of the year, this will be reevaluated. The vote passed unanimously.

Item #66 Consider the bids to repair the trash trailers.

The two trash trailers which are used to take the trash to PERC need the undersides sandblasted, primed and painted. The lowest quote was from John's Truck Painting in Livermore Falls for \$5,200 per trailer. The funds would come from the Transfer Station reserve fund.

Motion by Fuller and seconded by Jenkins to accept the \$5,200 per trailer bid from John's Truck Painting, to be done one at a time to see if the work is satisfactory. Vote 5-0.

Manager's report

Preliminary state valuation dropped from \$627 million to \$604 million.

DOT Main street paving bids are out for mid-September completion.

Adjourn

Motion by Caprara and seconded by Rheaume to adjourn at 9:35 p.m. Vote 5-0.