

**Winthrop Town Council
Regular Meeting
Monday, November 1, 2010
Winthrop Town Office**

Attendance: Kevin Cookson, Chair: David Rheaume, Linda Caprara, James Lattin, Priscilla Jenkins (arriving at 7:10 p.m.), Sarah Fuller, Cornell Knight (Town Manager) and Julie Winberg (Secretary). Absent: Ken Buck.

Approve the Minutes of October 4th and October 25th, 2010.

Motion by Fuller and seconded by Rheaume, the minutes for both meetings were approved with a vote of 5-0 with the following corrections:

October 4, Page 4, #83...clarify that this is a potential estimate and that funding for this project will be partially funded by the EPA.

Priscilla Jenkins attended the October 25th meeting arriving late.

Item #89 Hold a public hearing on the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Ordinance

Public hearing opened at 7:03 p.m.

Dana Fisher was in attendance to give a brief overview of this program. He is the coordinator of the Efficiency Maine Trust.

The Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program is a government program that allows property owners benefit by avoiding the upfront installation cost of renewable onsite generation systems and energy efficiency measures and eliminating concerns that they will sell the property before recovering the system investment from utility bill savings. This levels the financial risk. The result is that property owners in participating jurisdictions can finance their greening efforts. This program model is a financing structure that enables local governments to raise money through the issuance of bonds or other sources of capital to fund energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.

PACE legislation is a financing program. Residents will be allowed to access loans to do energy improvements. To date, there are 25 municipalities that have adopted PACE. The goal is to make it state wide.

Efficiency Maine Trust contacts the homeowners to winterize their home. There are low interest loans given over a 15 year period. In order for the town residents to benefit from this program, Winthrop would have to adopt PACE. The program is funded by the DOE – a \$20 million revolving loan program. Participants in this program can still apply for tax credits.

Mr. Fisher continued by stating that the participants need to demonstrate there is a 25% reduction in energy level and fuel savings. The municipality is responsible for advertising and it would up to the town to decide what kind of media they choose. However, there is written material and templates of media styles that are available thru PACE. A certified contractor needs to do the energy assessment. The energy auditor enters the information into the model to calculate the percentage. An auditor is a PACE requirement that the participant needs to hire an energy advisor to do the audit. The typical cost of this audit is \$300-\$500. With PACE, there are no organization or application fees.

The public hearing closed at 7:21 p.m.

Item #90 Consider the first reading of the Property Assessed Clean Energy Ordinance.

Motion by Rheaume and seconded by Caprara to approve the first reading of the PACE Ordinance. Vote 6-0.

Motion by Rheaume and seconded by Fuller to waive the second reading of the PACE Ordinance. Vote 6-0

Winthrop becomes the 26th town in Maine to approve the ordinance. .

Item #91 Hold a public hearing on amendments to the general Assistance Ordinance, maximum levels of assistance.

Public hearing opened at 7:23 p.m. and closing at 7:24 p.m.

The Council was presented with a list of the maximum levels of assistance. This is an annual adjustment to the Ordinance. The General Assistance maximums increased from \$6.00 to \$11.00 per month. The MMA ordinance also suggests an increase in Household/Personal and Diaper/Wipes allowance. The town recommends that it keep the current maximums but increase the allowance for diapers/wipes to the suggested level by MMA. As required by law, adopted on October 1, 2010 and with the town's approval, be signed and forwarded to DHHS.

Hearing closed at 7:26 pm

Item #92 Consider the first reading of the amendments to the GA Ordinance.

Motion by Fuller and seconded by Jenkins to approve the GA amendments maximum levels of assessment after confirming that this program is income based. Vote 6-0.

Motion by Rheaume and seconded by Caprara to waive the second reading of the GA amendments. Vote 6-0.

Item #93 Consider the Town of Winthrop's Emergency Operations Plan

Chief Young was in attendance to answer any questions on the draft Emergency Operations Plan which is required under the town's Emergency Management Ordinance. The plan is a manual that would be used in the event of an emergency or disaster. Adoption of the plan will also help the town in seeking grant funding.

Motion by Rheaume and seconded by Caprara to approve Winthrop Energy Operations Plan. Vote 6-0.

Editing changes to be made i.e., Mr. Market to Hannaford's etc., confirming that the text alert is provided by the Fire Department, and the list of essential staff is presently being worked on.

Chief Young assured the Council that the noted changes will be corrected but that this indeed is a basic plan and a work in progress. He submitted this plan at this time as the deadline for a Homeland Security grant is nearing and this plan goes along with the Ordinance that the town passed two years ago.

Manager's Report

Motion by Fuller and seconded by Jenkins to approve the donation to the Ambulance Service. Vote 6-0

Committee was formed at this meeting chaired by Councilor Fuller and vice chair Councilor Rheaume for the Spirit of America Committee. Nominations will be assembled and a reception will be held prior to the December Town Council Meeting.

Motion by Rheaume and seconded by Fuller, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m. with a unanimous vote.