

**Winthrop Town Council
Regular Meeting
Monday, May 4, 2009
Winthrop Town Office**

Attendance: Kevin Cookson, Patricia Engdahl, Ken Buck, David Rheaume, Priscilla Jenkins, Linda Caprara, Sarah Fuller, Cornell Knight (Town Manager) and Julie Winberg (Secretary)

Approve the Minutes of April 6, April 8, and April 13, 2009

Motion by Engdahl and seconded by Fuller, the minutes of these meetings were approved with a unanimous vote.

Item #46 Presentation of the Winthrop School Department budget 2009-2010, Superintendent of Schools Steve Cottrell.

Mr. Cottrell was in attendance and presented the department's budget noting that summary sheets were handed out to Councilors for review in their complete packet. An important aspect of this year's budget was that it is less than last year even with a vote penalty of \$176,000 in reference to consolidation. The wage reserve will help fund the summer teacher's program.

The total proposed budget for 2009/2010 is \$10,145,474.00. That is \$139,335.00 less than this year. It was noted that the 'stimulus package' will allow the school to maintain the systems in place as is for 09/10 and 10/11 pending state budget problems. All programs remain in tact as none will be cut.

Item #47 Consider Resolution #92 in support of LD 285, a bill to postpone the school consolidation penalties for two years.

On January 27, 2009, the town voted to reject the school consolidation plan. This resolution delays any financial penalties imposed on a school administrative unit for nonconformance with the laws, governing the reorganization of school administrative units until the fiscal year that begins on July 1, 2011.

The School Board approved a similar resolution. The Town of Fayette is coordinating support for LD 285. If approved it would delay the \$176,000 penalty for two years.

Motion by Rheaume and seconded by Caprara Resolution #92 in support of LD 285 was approved with a unanimous vote.

Item #48 Hold a public hearing on the renewal of Victualer's Licenses

Public hearing opened at 7:18 p.m. to consider the issuance of licenses for: American Legion Post #40, China Express, China Noodles, Cumberland Farms, Dead River Convenience Store, Fast Eddies, Full Court Deli, Mia Lina's Italian Express, Mister Market, Old Colony Ice Cream, Peppers Restaurant, Pond Town Tavern, Subway, Sully's Tavern, Wicked Bean, Winthrop House of Pissa. There was nothing to report and the public hearing closed at 7:19 p.m.

Item #49 Consider the renewal of Victualer's Licenses

The licenses for Item #48 were approved with a motion by Rheaume and seconded by Caprara with a unanimous vote.

Item #50 Consider the transient seller's license and the location for the Winthrop Farmer's Market.

At the time of this meeting, it was determined that the Farmer's Market would be located in the same place as it was last year – Union Street. After discussion, it was decided that final approval of a site will be taken up at the next Council meeting after the representatives of the Farmer's Market continue their discussion on various other options. This was passed by a motion by Fuller and seconded by Buck with a unanimous vote that as of this hearing, the market will remain at the Union Street location until further notice.

Item #51 Hear an update from the Winthrop Unites Education Committee – Nancy Schenck.

Ms. Schenck, Chairman of Winthrop Unites, was in attendance and presented a report to the Council on Winthrop Unites, its activities and a review of their mission statement. She also reported that they still have funds and will not be asking for additional financial assistance this year or next. It was gratifying to learn that the porchlight program had been used.

Item #52 Consider charging businesses for solid waste disposal at the Transfer Station and eliminate the no charge policy for the first 100 pounds of demolition debris.

The town manager noted that he has proposed a \$40,000 revenue item in the 2009-10 budget arrived from charging businesses for their solid waste. Enclosed in the Board's packet were copies of a letter that he sent to local haulers earlier in the week. As of right now, the town waives any fees for the first 100 pounds of debris. In the letter, the town manager explained that in the Council's effort to not raise taxes from the school or the town budget, one source of revenue that needed to be tapped was to charge business for

their MSW. The original proposal in this letter was to charge haulers for their commercial waste a fee of \$73.00 per ton to dispose of the waste at the transfer station starting July 1, 2009. He welcomed the haulers attendance at this meeting.

Motion by Engdahl and seconded by Jenkins to approve the charge and eliminate the first 100 pounds. After considerable discussion, the vote did not carry with all opposed. The motion died. Motion by Rheume and seconded by Buck to approve a fee of \$50.00 per ton and eliminate no charge for the first 100 pounds of demo debris. Vote 7-0.

Item #53 Consider the purchase of window treatments and a recording system at the Police Station.

The Police Department needs window treatments (blinds) and an audio recording device system for the interview rooms. Both these items were inadvertently omitted in the budget plan. The estimate for the blinds is \$3,500 and for the audio equipment if \$3,900.

Motion by Rheume and seconded by Caprara to approve both purchases. Vote 7-0.

Item #54 Hear an update on the meeting for the repair of the Cobbossee Lake Dam in Manchester.

An inspection report of the dam that was done in 2004 and the shore frontage breakdown was included in the packet to the Board members. Winthrop has the largest shoreline frontage. It may be a fact that the town of West Gardiner will refuse to pay for their share of the costs for repair. If that is the case, Winthrop's share will jump to 41%. Manchester wants to continue to own the dam and would therefore continue to pay for annual maintenance and operations. They are asking for the neighboring communities to help pay for the capital costs and any major repairs. Winthrop has a total taxable value of \$65,000,000 on the lake.

Mr. Andrew Starz, P.E. of E-Pro Engineering and Environmental Consulting, LLC was contacted by Mr. Robert Gasper to undertake an inspection of the Cobbosseecontee Lake Dam for the Town of Manchester. This report as noted as done in October 23, 2004 and it involved a visual assessment of the structural safety of the dam.

This report has four recommendations: Gate #4 wooden lifting stem should be repaired and put back into operation to preserve the discharge capacity of the dam. The deteriorating horizontal timbers supporting the walkway should be monitored and replaced as required. The sill concrete below the right most wooden panel section should be repaired to prevent undercutting of the steel support column. The steel support columns for the wooden panels should be painted to retard further deterioration.

Although Council members were not totally enthused with this additional financial burden, the cost of not doing it is equally as high if not higher.

Item #55 *Hear and update on the regional solid waste proposal.*

This being an ongoing process of looking into simpler ways of disposing of solid waste, a consultant was hired with grant funds. A report from that consultant was distributed. This is a first draft of the report and future meetings will be held to discuss this further.

Item #56 *Consider recommendations from the Appointments Committee*

Priscilla Jenkins is reappointed as the Town Council representative to WKEDA

*Ron Dyer is moving from an Associate Member of the Planning Board to a
Regular Member*

Ronald Taylor is being reappointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals

*Jan Saleeby is moving from Associate to Regular member of the Board of Assessment
Review*

Ken Johnson is reappointed as an Associate Member of the Board of Assessment Review

Leonard Blanchette is appointed to the Winthrop Utilities District Board of Trustees

*Kerry Sherman and Susan Marie Reinke are both moved from Associate to Regular
members of the Conservation Commission.*

Motion by Engdahl and seconded by Caprara to approve all the recommendations as listed. This motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Item #57 *Hear an update on the Green Committee*

This committee met for the first time this week and took as their first task a review of the municipal and school energy consumption before pursuing other endeavors. Councilor Jenkins is the chair and reported on their meeting. She reported that the Committee will be meeting again on May 27th and at that time will be drafting a plan of action. To date, there are nine members on this committee.

Manager Report

Next budget workshop is Wednesday May 13th at 6:00 p.m. Dinner will be provided.

Councilor Rheaume expressed concern from residents that many complaints are being received on skateboarders not skating at the park but on town streets. This is a nuisance and a danger. The Chief of Police noted that he is aware of this situation and that it is a growing problem. He requests that people call the Police Department as soon as they see this for the police to respond in a timely fashion.

Item #58 Consider an executive session to discuss a property abatement application pursuant to Title 1 MRSA Section 405(6)(F).

Motion by Caprara Seconded by Fuller to go into executive session at 8:27 pm Vote 7-0

Return to regular session at 8:43 pm

Motion by Fuller Seconded by Buck to grant an abatement request made pursuant to 36 MRSA Sec 841 (2) in the sum of \$2,617.50 for the 2008/09 tax year. Vote 7-0.

Motion by Jenkins Seconded by Caprara to adjourn at 9:51 pm Vote 7-0.