

Winthrop Town Council

Regular Meeting

Monday, August 3, 2009

Winthrop Town Office

Attendance: Kevin Cookson, Chair: Patricia Engdahl, Ken Buck, David Rheaume, Priscilla Jenkins, Sarah Fuller, Cornell Knight Town Manager, Steve Cottrell, Supt of Schools and 30 members of the public.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm

Minutes of July 6: Councilor Fuller said page 6 should read 40% for town match. Councilor Engdahl said on page 5 2nd paragraph, 2nd sentence her comments should read “about rules imposed by the parents.”

Motion by Rheaume Seconded by Fuller to accept the minutes with the changes. Vote 6-0

Item #84- Superintendent of Schools Steve Cottrell and Kim Morin gave a presentation on the Apple laptops to be leased purchased over 4 years, for all high school students and staff.

Item #85 Motion by Fuller Seconded by Jenkins to approve the disposal of the old computers, sold to school employees at state prices. Vote 6-0.

Item #86 Dick Dyer and Skip Greenlaw, representing Save Our Schools, requested a \$25,000 donation to the campaign for the referendum vote on the ballot in November, that would overturn the school consolidation law.

Motion by Buck Seconded by Jenkins to postpone the decision until checking with the Town Attorney and MMA about making a donation to a campaign.

Councilor Caprara arrived at 7:45 pm

Vote 3-4. Yea-Engdahl, Buck, Jenkins. Nay: Cookson, Rheaume, Caprara, Fuller.

Motion by Fuller Seconded by Jenkins to reject the funding request. Vote 6-1, Buck opposed.

Item 87 Consider a report and recommendation from the Bailey Library Building Committee, on the use of the Masonic Hall.

Item #88 Consider the request from the Library Board of Trustees to combine the lots of Bailey Library and the Masonic Hall into one lot.

Chairman Cookson stepped down as chair since he is a member of the board of trustees.
Vice-chair Rheaume assumed the chair.

Motion by Rheaume Seconded by Engdahl to accept the recommendation of the committee regarding the Masonic hall and to combine the lots into one. Vote 6-0-1, Cookson abstained.

The committee recommends that the Masonic Hall is not structurally adequate for a library addition and should be torn down.

Item #89 Hold a public hearing on proposed amendments to the Traffic Ordinance #17, which bans skateboards on sidewalks on Main Street. Hearing opened at 7:57 pm.

Councilor Engdahl suggested that instead of an ordinance that dictates fines there should be stakeholders working together for a solution as part of a service learning project.

Councilor Rheume said a few young people spoil it for all skateboarders but the police need a law to help with enforcement.

Councilor Caprara said she nearly hit skateboarders weaving in and out of cars on Main Street.

Comments and discussion were around adopting an ordinance with fines or using the issues as a teaching moment and have the students come up with a solution.

Police Chief Young talked about the frustrations of trying to enforce helmets at the skate park and keeping pedestrians safe on the sidewalks due to some skateboarders. The ordinance as written would allow for warnings before a summons.

Hearing closed at 8:35 pm

Item #90 Consider the first reading of the Traffic Ordinance #17.

Motion by Rheume Seconded by Caprara to approve the first reading.

Motion by Jenkins Seconded Engdahl to table the first reading . Vote 2-5. Yea: Jenkins, Engdahl. Nay: Cookson, Rheume, Caprara, Buck, Fuller.

Vote on original motion to pass first reading, 5-2, Yea Cookson Rheume, Caprara, Buck, Fuller. Nay: Jenkins, Engdahl.

Motion by Engdahl Seconded by Cookson that the Town Council request that students work on solutions to the skateboarding problem, through a service learning project. Vote 4-3 (yea Cookson, Engdahl, Fuller, Jenkins. Nay: Rheume, Caprara, Buck).

Item #91

Motion by Rheume Seconded by Fuller to trade in the 1996 cruiser when purchasing the 2009 cruiser.

Vote 7-0.

The new cruiser is \$22,000, the trade-in is worth \$2,650.

Item #92 Discussion of the policy to charge businesses for trash disposal. No changes were made.

Item #93 Order #132 Capital Acquisition and Improvement Project borrowing \$1.2 million for the police station renovations, land purchase for the fire station, a fire truck purchase and financing cost.

Motion by Caprara Seconded by Fuller to approve Order #132. Vote 5-2 (opposed Rheaume, Buck).

Item #94 Consider Order #133 Tax Anticipation Note.

Kennebec Savings Bank was the only bid on the \$1,300,000 note, at 1.93 %. The funds will be borrowed on an as-needed basis and there is no penalty for early pay off.

Motion by Rheaume Seconded by Caprara to approve Order #133, Tax Anticipation Note. Vote 7-0.

Item #93 Encumbrances from the 2008-09 budget

Motion by Rheaume Seconded by Caprara to approve the encumbrances as recommend by the Town Manager and Finance Director. Vote 7-0.

Motion by Caprara Seconded by Jenkins to approve the contract renewal with the Kennebec Valley Humane Society. Vote 7-0

Motion by Engdahl Seconded by Caprara to approve the DOT Urban Rural Initiative Program certification. Vote 7-0.

Motion by Engdahl Seconded by Fuller to approve the financial policies for fund balances and debt levels. Vote 7-0.

Motion by Engdahl Seconded by Caprara to accept the donation of \$3000 from Hannaford Grocery Store, the money will be used by the Fire Department to purchase new air lift bags. Vote 7-0.

Green Committee Update- Carl Swanson updated the council on the vending machine misers, and the tour of the transfer station. Gary Dawbin is working on the permitting of the Main Street dam for power generation.

Motion by Engdahl Seconded by Fuller to approve Order #134, lease purchase agreement for the new ambulance for \$137,000, and not trade in the 1998 ambulance, to be used for a back up when the other ambulances are being serviced. Vote 6-1, Rheaume opposed.

Town Manager's report- The police department was awarded a \$174,000 COPS grant, which funds an officer for 3 years. The community center grant proposal has made it to round 2 with the Maine Health Access Foundation. A rep from Historic Preservation will attend the next meeting to discuss ordinance options. Nomination papers for town council, school board and library trustees will be available next week. The library is moving in this week and hopes to re-open on Monday. Town emails are available to councilors, all councilors chose to have a town email.

Motion by Fuller Seconded by Buck to cast a vote on the MMA ballot, president to Mark Green of Sanford and for the 3 directors on the ballot. Vote 7-0.

Motion by Caprara Seconded by Rheaume to accept a \$250 donation to the Ambulance service. Vote 7-0

Motion by Buck Seconded by Rheaume to adjourn at 9:40 pm.