

Winthrop Town Council

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 14, 2009

Winthrop Town Office

Attendance: Kevin Cookson, Chair: Patricia Engdahl,, David Rheaume, Linda Caprara, Priscilla Jenkins, Sarah Fuller, Cornell Knight Town Manager, 15 members of the public.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm

Motion by Rheaume Seconded by Engdahl to accept the minutes of August 3, 2009. Vote 6-0

Item #101 Discuss Historic Preservation Commission ordinances with Robin Stancampiano, from the Maine Historic Preservation Commission.

Ms Stancampiano reviewed the different historic preservation ordinances that are in use around the state. It is up to the community to decide if it wants the commission to do inventory, historic designations, public education or design review. An ordinance can also be used to delay the demolition of a historic building. Councilor Fuller will talk with the Comprehensive Plan committee to see what level of review they would like to see and report back. The Planning Board will also be contacted.

Don Chase, commander of the American Legion requested approval for a site at Norcross Point or some other public location for a war memorial. The design, size and what the memorial will say are all in the planning stages, but will recognize all branches of the military. There will be no cost to the town as private donations will pay for it. Mr. Chase asked that the town accept the donations for the memorial so that the donations are tax deductible. Other sites mentioned were in front of the town office and in front of the police station. The group will comeback to the Town Council once a design is settled on, and review the pros and cons of specific sites.

Item #102 Consider the second reading of the amendments to the Traffic Ordinance #17, which bans skateboards on Main Street sidewalks.

Motion by Rheaume Seconded by Jenkins to table until the next meeting. Vote 6-0.

There was discussion about the helmet rule in the skate park, the condition of the skate park and the service learning project. The stakeholders group is meeting this week to discuss possible solutions.

Item #103 Consider a request from the Winthrop Commerce Center to establish a handicap parking space at their front door on Main Street.

Motion by Jenkins Seconded by Caprara to table until the next meeting. Vote 6-0.

Item #104 Consider an agreement between the school department and town for town office rent and Rambler Road maintenance.

Motion by Rheume Seconded by Caprara to approve the agreement. Vote 6-0.

Item #105 Consider the lease purchase of a new police cruiser to replace the 2006 cruiser that was involved in an accident.

There will be a \$7,775 down payment for the car from the insurance company, and the balance will be paid over 2 years.

Motion by Caprara Seconded by Rheume to approve the lease purchase of a new cruiser. Vote 6-0.

Item #106 Consider the purchase of a smoke and fire alarm system for the police station.

The alarm system was part of the sprinkler system alternate bid that was not accepted when the project was approved. The cost is \$4,377 from Kaplan Electric.

Motion by Caprara Seconded by Fuller to approve the installation of the alarm system. Vote 6-0.

Item # 107 Consider accepting the donation of a treadmill to the police station by Chip Woodman.

Motion by Rheume Seconded by Caprara to approve the donation. Vote 6-0.

Item #108 Consider the funding recommendations from the Social Services Committee.

Motion by Rheume Seconded by Caprara to approve the funding recommendations. Vote 6-0.

Item #109 Consider using funds from the Nellie M Tuttle Trust to construct a handicap access ramp at a residence on the Stanley Road.

Motion by Caprara Seconded by Engdahl to approve the use of the Trust funds. Vote 6-0.

Item # 110 Discussion of the excise tax and Tabor II referendums.

The council asked that resolutions be drafted for consideration at their October meeting.

Item #111 Consider holding a yard sale to dispose of surplus property.

Motion by Caprara Seconded by Rheume to hold a yard sale. Vote 6-0.

Item #112 Update on the activities of the Green Committee.

Councilor Jenkins said the committee is holding a Energy education forum for the community on Tuesday September 22, at 6 pm at the Town Office. The committee is also working on installation of vending machine misers; exploring hydroelectric possibilities and energy audits of town buildings.

Manager Report

The Highland avenue reconstruction project is complete. The \$1,200,000 bond sale will be bid on Thursday at 11am, the town's bond rating from S & P is an A+. The councilors received the health benefit coverage for the school department, during budget review there was talk of reducing the town's benefit coverage. The school coverage is 100% for the employee and 85% for the family plan. The town coverage is 100% for the employee and 70% for the family.

Other business

Councilor Rheaume mentioned several new businesses that have opened in town.

Councilor Cookson said that Kennebec County will be changing their fiscal year to match the state because the jail budget is now controlled by the Dept of Corrections. There will be a 6 month interim budget. Assessments can be paid once or over time. More information will be available after a budget is proposed.

Motion by Caprara Seconded by Fuller to adjourn at 8:50 p.m. Vote 6-0.