

**Winthrop Town Council
Regular Meeting
Monday, June 2, 2008**

Attendance: William MacDonald (Chair), Linda Caprara, Patricia Engdahl, Kevin Cookson, Jim Norris, Priscilla Jenkins, Cornell Knight (Town Manager) and Julie Winberg (Secretary). Absent: Ken Buck

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

Approve the Minutes of May 5, May 12, and May 28, 2008

Motion by Norris and seconded by Jenkins to approve the minutes for these meeting with the amendments as follows: May 5th: Page 3, #53, second paragraph - \$491,117.00; Page 3, #52 delete...and let school officials....as redundant; and Page 5, #56 change reservation to renovation. The vote was unanimous.

Item #64 Hold public hearing on the Budgets for the 2007-2008 Fiscal Year: Resolution #93 Part I – Municipal Budget, Part II- School Budget

A series of budget workshops have been held with the town and the school department. The public hearing, held this evening, is an opportunity to hear back from the public should there be any questions or concerns.

The revenue projection is down slightly. There is a reduction in debt service this year. The transfer station bonds have been paid off. The new ambulance is on lease purchase. Funds for the new fire truck are coming primarily from the reserve funds. Additional expenditures such as the \$4,500 for planking for Mt. Pisgah, \$3,500 for water quality programs, \$4,000 towards the performing arts center, and \$2,400 for internet maintenance are also included.

The town's projection is that the mil rate will remain at \$12.50 per \$1,000 of property valuation. The School budget requires a validation vote at the polls on June 10th.

The public hearing was opened at 7:12 a.m.
The public hearing was closed at 7:13 p.m.

Motion by Cookson and seconded by Caprara to approve Resolution #93 Part I – Municipal Budget of \$4.93 million. The vote was unanimous.
Motion by Cookson and seconded by Caprara to waive the 2nd reading of

Resolution #93 Part I – Municipal Budget. The vote was unanimous.

Mark La Roach, Superintendent of Schools, was in attendance to present the School Budget for FY2008-2009. The reduction in state and federal funding was discussed as was the referendum that will take place on June 10th. State funding is down \$308,000. A 7.87 flat mil rate will be maintained. The surpluses that have been maintained have helped give a degree of leverage offsetting the increase in expenditures.

School consolidation has not affected the budget as yet. When it does take place, there will probably have some increase in the overall spending. An initial spike may take place but subsequent to that a savings in cost to citizens.

There have been shared services in transportation and the sharing of the Special Education Director.

The public hearing opened at 7:21 p.m.
The public hearing closed at 7:22 p.m.

Motion by Cookson and seconded by Caprara to approve Resolution #93 Part II- School Budget of \$10 million. The vote was unanimous.

Motion by Cookson and seconded by Caprara to waive the 2nd reading of Resolution #93 Part II- School Budget. The vote was unanimous.

The Board thanked the School Board for the hard work. Terri Despres was also thanked for his invaluable contribution.

Item #69

Consider a complaint on the speed of traffic on Memorial Drive.

An email from Barbara Walsh was sent to the Town Manager. She and several neighbors were present to discuss this issue. Chief Young also in attendance provided statistics on speed and enforcement. More than 100 people signed a petition presented to the Council asking that the speed limits be enforced.

Speeding is a chronic complaint on Memorial Drive as it is throughout the state of Maine. The concern of the local citizens centers on a drive that is used by many to walk, jog, bike ride, etc.. enjoying the beautiful surroundings. There have been multiple incidents of speeders disregarding the speed limit and causing endangerment to the pedestrians as well as to other drivers attempting to get out of their way. Speed limits vary from 20, 25, 30 and 35 mph on the road where full foliage trees seem to narrow the roadway and houses are close to the road.

Winthrop Town Council

Minutes

June 2, 2008

Page 2

Many recommendations were made involving more signs, speed bumps, ticketing chronic offenders etc.. On June 21st at 10:00 a.m., there will be a parade "Catch the Walking Bug" starting at the beach and walking up Memorial Drive for ½ mile up and ½ mile back. The rain date for this exciting event is June 22nd.

Chief Young spoke at length at his concerns as well. He expressed thanks for those that spoke as his job is made easier when he has the public's cooperation and assistance. His Department is taking a proactive approach. They have been awarded a speeding grant of \$5,000 and this will help pay the overtime to officers for special details. This grant runs through September 30th, 2008. He added that they will now be stopping motorists traveling five mph over posted limits in town.

A recent survey of communities throughout Maine has shown that although there are other more serious offenses, the one overriding complaint that citizens were most concerned about was excess speeding.

A sample survey has been done and was held on May 29th by Captain Ryan Frost. Radar was used in his personal vehicle taking a good cross section of Memorial Drive. The perceptions are different. Between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m., the overall mile per hour was 32.5. This was broken down every ten minutes. There were spikes here and there. Some in excess of 51 mph. Between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m., the overall mile per hour was 31 mph. with spikes here and there in excess of 47 mph.

The word is definitely getting out. The concern is town wide. The town manager will look into the cost for additional signage.

Item #65

Determine the dates when property taxes committed during the 2008-2009 fiscal year shall become due and payable.

The usual dates are October 1, and April 1.

Motion by Cookson and seconded by Caprara to use October 1 and April 1 as the dates when property taxes shall become due and payable. The vote was unanimous.

Item #66

Determine the rate of interest that shall apply to delinquent taxes committed during the 2008-2009 fiscal year until those taxes are paid in full.

The maximum this year set by the State Treasurer is 11%.

Motion by Caprara and seconded by Jenkins to set 11% as the interest rate to

Winthrop Town Council

Minutes

June 2, 2008

Page 3

apply to delinquent taxes committed during the 2008-2009 fiscal year. The motion was unanimous.

Item #67 Consider the rate of interest that shall be applied for overpayment of taxes. This must be within 4% of the maximum.
Motion by Cookson and seconded by Caprara to set the rate of interest to apply for overpayment of taxes at 7%. The vote was unanimous.

Item #68 Consider approval of the Capital Improvements Budget
Motion by Cookson and seconded by Caprara to approve the Capital Improvements Budget as presented. The vote was unanimous.

Item #70 Hold a public hearing on the Liquor License Peppers Garden & Grill, 357A Main Street.
The public hearing was opened at 8:02 p.m. There being no issues presented by the Chief of Police, the public hearing was closed at 8:03 p.m..

Item #71 Consider the Liquor License application for Pepper's Garden & Grill.
Motion by Engdahl and seconded by Norris to approve the Liquor License application for Pepper's Garden & Grill. The vote was unanimous.

Item #72 Consider an application for the Mt. Pisgah Fire Tower to be listed on the National Historic Lookout Registry.
Jim Connors and Bill Cobb have prepared an application for the Fire Tower on Mr. Pisgah to be listed on the historic registry. A narrative was circulated and application was circulated. This will not cost the town any expenditure. Once it is registered, a plaque will be presented to the town and be placed on the tower.
Motion by Norris and seconded by Caprara to approve the application for the Mt. Pisgah Fire Tower to be listed on the National Historic Lookout Registry. Vote 6-

0

Item #73 Consider a property tax abatement of an abandoned mobile home.

There is an abandoned mobile home in the Kelley Lakeside Mobil Home Park (behind Cobbossee Cash Market). The park owner will demolish and remove if the taxes are abated in the amount of \$128.54.
Motion by Jenkins and seconded by Caprara to approve a property tax abatement of an abandoned mobile home. The vote was unanimous.

Item #74 Consider the disposal of two trailers at the Transfer Station.

Two trailers that are in need of extensive repairs will bring more money as scrap

Winthrop Town Council

Minutes

June 2, 2008

Page 4

metal than as trailers. The funds will be used to purchase two box trailers for universal waste and plastics.

Motion by Cookson and seconded by Jenkins to approve the disposal of two trailers at the Transfer Station. The vote was unanimous.

Item #75

Consider the undercoat sandblasting and painting of 3 highway trucks. Three highway trucks need for the underside to be sandblasted and painted. The price was \$9,100. The monies would come from the reserve fund. Motion by Engdahl and seconded by Jenkins to approve this expenditure. The vote was unanimous.

Item #76

Consider a recommendation from the Appointments Committee

Motion by Engdahl and seconded by Jenkins to approve the appointment of Patrice Putman as Chairwoman of the Comprehensive Planning Committee. Vote 6-0.

Motion by Engdahl and seconded by Cookson to approve the appointment of Priscilla Jenkins as a member of the Regional Development Corporation. Vote 6-0

Item #77

Consider grant applications for school zone signs and new windows at the library. Requesting approval to apply for school zone signs and window replacements at the Library. The school zone signs will flash speed limits of 15 mph and be placed a few hundred feet from the cross walks on Main Street. The signs will cost \$10,800 and the town is seeking a grant for \$5,800. The library grant seeks \$9,000 from the Historic Preservation Commission.

Motion by Cookson and seconded by Caprara to approve the grant applications for school zone signs and new windows for the library. Vote 6-0.

Manager's Report

Request that approval be given to receive \$500 from the DA's office received as drug forfeiture. The money goes to the Police Department's drug investigation account.

Motion by Caprara and seconded by Cookson to approve this request. Vote 6-0.

The delay to assume ownership of the Annabessacook buildings at the former landfill is caused by UTC's requirement of easements on neighboring properties. Six more are needed.

Met with the Commissioner of the Dept of Transportation along with several of their employees and Rep. Pat Flood. DOT is short of funds but will look into the reclaiming and paving of Main Street which is projected to cost approximately \$125,000.

The engineering fees for the ambulance building (former health center) renovation were more than the original estimates because of the sprinkler and fire alarm system

Winthrop Town Council

Minutes

June 2, 2008

Page 5

requirements. The estimated cost is \$8,700. The bid document should be ready in two weeks.

The Town Manager will look into the ordinance in reference to the July 4th activities and the requirements that affect licensure to sell food. The Ordinance says that that area is restricted to non profits.

The new post office building is on tract and construction should begin in one month. The farmers market will definitely be affected. There are alternatives that have been presented such as the municipal town lot by the town center as well as the green space at the Congregational Church. The town is eager to work with the farmers market.

Item #78 Consider an executive session for a real estate abatement application MRSA Title 1 Sec 405 6 (F) and police union (AFSCME) negotiation proposal Sec 405 6 (D). Motion by Cookson and seconded by Caprara to go into Executive Session for a real estate abatement application MRSA Title 1 Sec 405 6 (F) and police union (AFSCME) negotiation proposal Sec 405 6 (D) at 8:30 p.m. Vote 6-0.

Return to regular session at 8:50 pm.

Motion by Cookson Seconded by Jenkins to deny the abatement application request. Vote 6-0.

Motion by Caprara Seconded by Cookson to change next month's regular meeting to Wednesday July 9th. Vote 6-0.

Motion by Cookson Seconded by Caprara to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 pm. Vote 6-0.