

**Winthrop Town Council
Regular Meeting
Monday, July 9, 2008**

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Approve the Minutes of June 2, 2008

Motion by Norris and seconded by Cookson to approve the minutes. Councilor Buck abstained as he was not present for this meeting. Vote 5-0, 1 abstention.

Item #79 Consider new rules at the Skateboard Park and Tennis Courts.

Lonny Steeves, Director of the Winthrop YMCA, was in attendance to present the new rules. He has held a meeting with parents and skateboarders to review the new rules at the park. He explained that he can tell those using the park to wear helmets and to abide by the rules. However, he cannot enforce them.

A discussion ensued involving enforcement or the lack of. Chief J. Young was in attendance and explained that his Department does the best it can in reference to enforcement. He suggested that the Council could adopt an ordinance requiring children under age 18 to wear a helmet while bicycling or using a skateboard anywhere in town, or to have the council “take enforcement out of the police department’s hands and leave it with the recreation department.

Motion by Cookson and seconded by Jenkins to approve the new rules at the Skateboard Park and Tennis Courts. The vote was unanimous. The Council also requested that the Chief of Police report back to the Council about similar helmet ordinances in other communities.

Item #80 Consider a sole source ambulance purchase.

A memo from John Dovinsky, Ambulance Service Director was circulated. He was requesting that the Council give him the authority to negotiate with a single vendor for a new ambulance that would provide greater safety for patients and crew and with more ergonomic work stations.

The ambulance on hand now cost approximately \$132,000 several years ago. This new model will have an approximately price tag of \$138,000 as it will be much more compartmentalized. It will be the first of its type in the state with the focus on the safety of the front seat passengers and those working in the back. AEV Ambulance Company was the vendor that was recommended as sole source having a previous track record with the town. If this purchase went out for bid it would add approximately two months to the process and time was perceived to be an issue. The local mechanical service for the ambulance would be provided by either Sugarloaf or Mexico and it was noted that service calls should be no more than five to seven times a year.

Motion by Jenkins to approve the sole source ambulance purchase. The motion failed due to no second.

Motion by Buck and seconded by Cookson to put this purchase out for bid with the specifications that were enumerated. Vote 6-0.

Discussion ensued as to what the differences would be between what is known to be a standard ambulance versus what this state of the art ambulance would be. Others requested to consider other ambulance manufacturers as well and include them in the bidding process.

Item #81

Consider the location of the Farmer's Market.

Representative Nancy Smith, who is one of the vendors from the farmer's market, was in attendance. She said the market's trial run at the new site (along the sidewalk on Union Street near the former location at 112 Main Street, went very well on Tuesday, July 8th. She said the vendors tried to minimize the impact on other downtown businesses, occupying a minimum number of parking spaces, and maintaining safety for the farmers and their customers. Several options had been offered as construction nears for the new post office site. Out of the many options presented, the one tested proved to be the best of all the locations proposed.

Motion by Cookson and seconded by Jenkins that the Council authorizes the entire area as noted and reserve that spot for Tuesday and Saturday identifying seven parking spots. Vote 6-0.

Councilor Buck noted that a constituent had recommended Norcross Point. However, that site proved to be a spot that had little traffic and was unknown to the regular customers that have been coming faithfully to the market for years.

Item #82

Consider bids on paving roads.

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Paving bids were opened this week: \$138,243.75 from RC & Sons was the lowest bid. Three companies submitted bids on this project that includes repaving the following roads; Morton, Middle, Horseshoe and Tappen Farm, plus Leighton Drive, and paving to the railroad on Annabessacook Road.

Motion by Cookson and seconded by Norris to approve RC & Sons bid for paving the roads. Vote 6-0.

Item #83 Consider a transient seller's license to the VFW #9526 to sell hot dogs at Columbia Classic Cars during the car shows.

Motion by Jenkins and seconded by Buck to approve transient seller's license to the VFW #9526 to sell hot dogs at Columbia Classic Cars during the car shows. Vote 6-0.

Item #84 Update on the EMS building renovation project.

Bid opening has been pushed back a week until July 15th at 3:00 p.m.. A special Town Council meeting has been set for July 16th to award the bid. An addendum to the original contract was sent out this week following the pre-bid conference walk through. Three local contractors have purchased plans and specifications. The town manager has a copy of the specifications should anyone be interest.

Item #85 Consider a resolution regarding the Time Warner Cable TV spin off.

Time Warner Inc is spinning off the cable TV division from the rest of the company. It will not affect services provided to customers. The end result of the spin-off will be the divestiture of its entire ownership in Time Warner Cable. This spin-off will not result in the assignment or transfer of any of the franchisee's assets. There will be no change in the local management and staff or any change in the company's commitment to provide quality service. It was clear that Time Warner did not need the town's approval. However, they felt that it would be appreciated if the town granted such approval and adopt a resolution to that effect.

The Council was in unison that no motion was needed in this matter.

Item #86 Update on Grounds Maintenance and sharing services with the School Department.

The group met twice to discuss sharing services such as grounds maintenance, finance, custodial services and snow removal. The School Board met on July 2nd

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to discuss what services they could do for the town.

This is just a proposal as the School Board has not signed off on it as yet. The town does the mowing and plowing roads and the school takes over the custodial work. The town would plow and sand school roads and school personnel would plow parking lots and remove snow from walkways for school and town properties. This agreement still needs to be approved by the Council and the School Board.

There will be a follow-up after the School Board meets and discusses this proposal. The Town Manager stressed the importance of sharing services as it is a clear way for both the town and the school to stay within their budget. A clear definition of what 'custodial' means will be provided by the Town Manager.

Item #87

Upcoming meeting schedule.

The Library Trustees requested to meet with the Town Council at the Library next month to review their expansion plans, financing, fund raising, the use of the Masonic Hall, and timing of construction etc. A special meeting will also be needed to approve the bids for the EMS Building.

It was decided that the next Council Meeting involving the EMS bids will be July 16th at 7:00 p.m. The meeting at the Library will be on August 6th at a time to be determined. The next regular Council meeting will be August 4th at 7:00 p.m.

Adjourn

Motion by Cookson and seconded by Jenkins with a unanimous vote, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.