

**Winthrop Town Council
Regular Meeting
Monday, August 4, 2008**

Attendance: Jim Norris (chaired this meeting), Patricia Engdahl, Ken Buck, Linda Caprara, Cornell Knight (Town Manager) and Julie Winberg (Secretary). William MacDonald and Kevin Cookson were absent. Priscilla Jenkins arrived at 7:10 p.m.

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

Approve the Minutes of July 9 and July 16 2008

Motion by Buck and seconded by Caprara to approve the minutes. Vote 4-0

Item #91 *Consider bids for a Tax Anticipation Note, Order #130.*

The town accepted bids for a \$925,000 tax anticipation note. The town will draw on the note in \$100,000 increments. The town reserves the right to pay down portions of the note during the year. All bids were to be received by the town by 2:00 p.m. on Monday, August 4th. The bids received came from Key Bank and Kennebec Savings Bank (who submitted their bid a few minutes after 2:00 p.m.). Gardiner Savings Bank notified the town that it would not be bidding. The Council has the authority to accept the bid that is in the best interest of the town. Key Bank was at 3.04%, and Kennebec Savings Bank was a 2.48% fixed rate.

Motion by Caprara and seconded by Engdahl to accept the bid from Kennebec Savings Bank. The vote was 4-0.

Item #92 *Consider an amendment to Resolution #93 Budget Adoption.*

When projecting the budget, five million in new value was estimated. However, calculating the abatement value last year was not figured in. To allow the town to keep the mil rate at \$12.50, money needs to

be taken from the surplus.

Motion by Buck and seconded by Caprara to amend Resolution #93 and to move \$110,000 from surplus keeping the tax rate at \$12.50. Vote was 5-0 (this included Councilor Jenkins vote).

Item #93 *Consider a 3 year contract renewal with the AFSCME Council #93, Police Department*

This three year contract has the following wage increase: 3% in 2008, 4% in 2009, and 4% in 2010. The only change to the contract is in wage increases for each of the contract years and they are within the guidelines the Council had established.

Motion by Engdahl and seconded by Jenkins to approve this three year contract. Vote is 5-0.

Item #94 *Consider an amendment to the sign ordinance changeable signs.*

Dave's Appliance has erected a sign that can display messages. According to the Maine Traveler Information Services Act, a changeable sign may be changed no more than once every twenty minutes, unless a municipality adopts an ordinance to the contrary. Dave's Appliance would like to change it to every five seconds with no phasing, rolling, scrolling or flashing. The state law and sample ordinance language was circulated. A recommendation to go to the Planning Board for review was made.

Motion by Jenkins and seconded by Engdahl to send this sign ordinance change to the Planning Board for review. The vote was 5-0.

Item #95 *Update on the Ambulance building renovation project.*

Phil Locashio and Bill Williams are still working on the scope and pricing to get the project under \$330,000 and leave some balance for

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change orders and contingencies. The performance bond must be kept in place as state law requires a bond if the project exceeds \$125,000. The Maine Human Rights Commission would not waive the accessible showers requirement. And that has increased the price slightly. The performance bond is for \$9,000. As soon as the town has a firm figure (as of this writing it is approximately \$320,000) and the bond firmly in place, the town manager will sign the contract. The items in negotiation and review are eliminating the emergency generator, for now; eliminating one toilet room, and eliminating some renovation in the existing health center. It was determined that most of the cuts came from the existing health center. The garage was left in tact. The paint will be purchased but the labor for the painting eliminated. As the work draws near, some of these projected elimination items may be able to go back into the final project.

There was some discussion at hand as to the cost of the garage (estimated at \$195,000). The garage is 40x60, 2x6 studs, 4 doors. It is not on a slab. It will not have plumbing but will have water piped into the garage from the main terminal. Because of the height of the ambulances, 12' high doors...with a 14' floor to ceiling height need to be installed, which is double the height of a regular garage door. It has heat but no air conditioning.

There was some discussion on the United Technologies Building and the use of the generator at this facility. Since the town owns it, the town manager is going to look into moving the generator from there to the health center.

It was also mentioned that as of September 1, 2008, a new electrical code for commercial buildings goes into effect that makes it mandatory that emergency generators must power the whole building and not just a portion of it.

It was determined that the town does not anticipate raising the fees to other towns thus leaving it as it stands right now at \$9.00 per capita.

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But, there is nothing to preclude the town from revisiting this at another time.

Manager's Report

Jay Lindsey and his crew from the Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed, volunteered 30 man hours to move the rock that had slumped from the waters edge at Norcross Point back onto the banks.

Chris Ivey, the Service Learning Teacher at the Androscoggin Learning and Transition Center in Lewiston, ME, volunteered several hours with students to weed and spread bark mulch at the garden plot on the traffic island by Mr. Market. It was part of the school's summer learning community project.

The Library Trustees meeting needs to be rescheduled from September 10th. The town manager will check to see if October 1st will be available.

The Library did not get the grant for funding the new windows. The town will proceed with that as budgeted.

Paving will start in two weeks if the rain holds up.

Spirit of America awards for 2008 should be put in.

Hannaford is still waiting for state permits. The hold up is the drainage and remediation that they have to do. The Water District is very involved.

It was mentioned by Councilor Jenkins that the energy crisis that the town and citizens may be facing this winter should be addressed in a public forum format. The Governor is calling the Legislature back in session to address this and the town should take advantage of this and

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perhaps utilize some of their help and ideas. It was decided that Councilors Engdahl and Jenkins will gather information and present it to the council at the September 8th meeting.

Other Business

Councilor Buck requested that the Council include as an agenda item or as an executive session item – specially set or otherwise - to discuss the town managers' decision on a 'personnel' issue. Lee Bragg will be consulted as to the nature of this issue and what is permissible under the rule of law.

Adjourn *Motion by Jenkins and seconded by Caprara with a unanimous vote, the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.*