

Winthrop Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, December 3, 2018 - Town Office
17 Highland Avenue
7:00 PM

7:00 PM Business Meeting: Call To Order – Pledge of Allegiance – Roll Call

ALL PRESENT: Chairperson Sarah Fuller, Vice-Chairperson Linda Caprara, Councilor Priscilla Jenkins,
Councilor Barbara Buck, Councilor Rita Moran, Councilor Andy Wess,
Councilor Scott Eldridge

Appointments Committee met at 6 PM to complete Board Interviews

Item 123 The Council approved council meeting minutes for August 6, September 10, October 1 and November 5, 2018, and sign disbursement warrants

Motion: Move to approve the council meeting minutes for August 6, September 10, October 1 and November 5, 2018

Motion: Moran **Second:** Eldridge **Vote:** 7-0 passes

Item 124 The Council heard from the Appointments Committee on a recommendation to appoint William Grant as Trustee to the Cobbossee Watershed District.

Motion: Move to appoint William Grant as Trustee to the Cobbossee Watershed District.

Motion: Moran **Second:** Eldridge **Vote:** 7-0 passes

Item 125 The Council heard an update from the Hallandale's Snowmobile Club President, Heather Groves.

Heather advised that Winthrop has 482 registered snowmobiles with only about 13.5% +- participating in club membership. The trails cross approximately 110 landowner lots that the club is in contact with. The club thanks the Town for their continued support with the States Trail System Grants.

Item 126 The Council heard the FY2018 Audit Presentation from RHR Smith – Ron Smith

Ron Smith from RHR Smith, the Town's Auditor, gave a presentation of the 2018 Audit. Ending June 30, 2018 the town is in a much better cash position with budget savings, old fire station sale and revenues received from the Town's separation from charter membership in the Municipal Review Committee that managed our contract for trash disposal locations which was with PERC in Orrington. Ron Smith that overall Winthrop is in the black in the amount of about \$500,000. The school reduced some of its deficit due to increased revenues by about \$350,000. Ron states the school overspent its budget by about \$80,000, but again stated that with additional revenue the school added to the Town's surplus by about \$350,000. Ron mentioned that the reconciliation between the town and school still needs work and is a crucial element to avoid future financial

difficulties. Ron states that he has observed that communication and cooperation between the school and town has greatly improved. During the presentation Ron advised that School Nutrition and School Adult Education are in a deficit situation. Ron advised that Adult Education's deficit was approximately \$200,000 and School Nutrition was approximately \$90,000. Ron did state that post June 30, 2018 the school was reviewing the budget and may have been able to reduce the School Nutrition Deficit by about \$12,000.

Councilor Caprara asked that the Town Manager request in writing why the deficits in the School Nutrition and Adult Education are occurring. Councilor Fuller advised that the School administration is working to fix these types of issues. Councilor Caprara expressed frustration that these same issues have been happening for many years and it needs to stop. Councilor Wess states that during budget review additional funds were granted the Adult Education budget and at that time the council was told those additional funds would be sufficient. Councilor Jenkins also stated that the council was told that the school nutrition issues had been solved and that maybe things had been changed on the accounting side and now she is not sure they were solved. Councilor Jenkins did state that she thought that on the Adult Education issue that the council knew there were still problems. Councilor Moran feels that additional monies budgeted for Adult Education was what it needed to be sustainable. Councilor Eldridge asked Ron Smith in his experience with other school districts how many School Nutrition Programs run a deficit. Ron stated that very few school nutrition programs run in the black and are a struggle in other school districts.

Town Manager Ryan Frost stated that the current Superintendent and current School Finance person are reviewing the budget and working with town staff. Ryan further stated that during FY2018 monthly attempts were made to reconcile accounts with school central office staff but to no avail.

Item 127 The Council heard an FY2019 Budget Report – Melody Main, Finance Director

Melody advised that the budget expenditures were in line with this time of year as well were revenues except with transfer station recycling revenues due to global issues beyond our control.

Item 128 The Council heard a request on closing the Town Office on Monday, December 24, 2018.

Ryan Frost requested that the Town Office Close on Monday, December 24, 2018 as long as office staff used personal time. Councilor Eldridge offered that staff use 4 hours of earned time and town cover the remaining 4 hours. Ryan Frost thanked Councilor Eldridge for the gesture but advised that it would cause problems in fairness with other town departments.

Motion: Move to authorize closing the Town Office on Monday, December 24, 2018, with the understanding that the Town Office Staff will use personal earned time to fulfill their work hours for the work week

Motion: Jenkins

Second: Moran

Vote: 7-0 passes

Other Business:

Councilor Wess advised that the Planning Board Zoning Review Sub-Committee has finished their work and has turned the proposal over to the full Planning Board. Councilor Wess stated that the Sub-Committee will stay formed to assist with creating a zoning map.

Councilor Jenkins stated the Green Committee will meet on Tuesday, December 11, 2018 at 5:30 at the Town Office.

Councilor Jenkins mentioned there was crash at 202 and Main Street. Ryan Frost advised the crash was still under investigation but a vehicle making a left turn toward Main Street turned into the path of an oncoming tractor trailer that was East Bound on Route 202.

Manager's Report:

MDOT Public Hearing on new Sidewalks/Crosswalks at Main Street & Route 133 and at Main Street & Metcalf Road is on December 12, 2018 at 6 PM – Town Office. The Towns share for this project will be around \$74,000 which will have to be added to the FY20 budget.

Maranacook Dam Work Update – HE Callahan has crews ready to be activated to start work on the project with just a day's notice if weather conditions cooperate. Winthrop Public Works has been doing a great job keeping the lower dam clear and CH Stevenson will be working to see if they can remove some debris from the lake dam to assist drainage. There is a deadline of December 15, 2018, but there is a good chance the deadline can be extended. Wendy Dennis advised that the work public works has been doing on the mill dam and the stream level is very good given the fact that we have had 11.5 inches of rain in October and November.

Change in Planning & Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting Nights – Mark Arsenault advised that due to fire department meeting day conflict the boards will be swapping the days they meet.

Adjourn.

Suggested Motion: Move to adjourn meeting at 7:50 pm

Motion by: Jenkins

Second: Moran

Vote: 7-0 passes