

Minutes
Winthrop Town Council
Regular Meeting
Monday, May 1, 2006 at 7:00 p.m.

Winthrop Town Office

Attending: Councilors Norris, Despres, Putman, MacDonald, Buck, Capara. Town Manager Cornell Knight, Supt of Schools Terry Despres, Police Chief Joe Young, Ambulance Director John Dovinsky, and 50 residents.

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

Motion by Despres Seconded by Caprara to approve the minutes of April 3 (with name Councilor Norris name spelled correctly), April 10 and April 24. Vote 6-0.

Motion by Despres Seconded by Caprara to remove Item # 33, Cyber Cow Café Special Amusement application from the table. Vote 6-0.

Dan Wells, Supt of the Winthrop Utilities District presented the district's rules and regulations on the need for a grease trap to be installed at the restaurant. Cindy Spence the owner distributed letters on the subject and said she did not know it was required and installing one now would cost \$8,000 and the permit application is a separate issue from the rules of the district.

Motion by Putman Seconded by Caprara to approve the Special Amusement permit to the Cyber Cow Café. Vote 6-0.

Item # 42, Supt of Schools Terry Despres presented the 2006-07 school budget. The appropriation is \$7,995 less than last year a total request of \$4,890,353. He highlighted the increases in Central Office, guidance, fuel costs and decreases in the Grade School, MS co curricular. He estimated the high school population will drop to Class D level in 3 years, 240 students. He reviewed the School Lunch program and the 3 year plan to eliminate the deficit and the 5 year plan to cover the summer teacher wage debt. There is two more years of increase in state funding, and then the lower student population will reduce funding and make budget choices difficult.

The public hearing on the school and municipal budget is June 5.

Item # 43 John Dean, Chairman of the Public Safety Building Committee updated the council on their progress. The committee's recommendation is to build a public safety campus on land adjacent to the Winthrop Utilities District Treatment Plant on Rte 202. The facility would house the police, fire and ambulance departments. The existing police department is not designed for police use and would cost an estimated \$929,000 to renovate. The EMS building is too small for the service and not worth expanding. The fire department is on a very small lot and the meeting rooms and offices are below the garage bay floors. The committee has received approval for access to Rte 202 from the Dept of Transportation. The land appraisal estimated the value of the 5 acre parcel at \$22,000. It will be less costly to maintain one building and share space than the 3

buildings currently in use. It could be built in phases but it would be more cost effective to build all at once because the site work and utilities are front ended.

The committee agreed to estimate the costs of renovation of the fire and ambulance buildings.

The committee was asked to explore the soon to be vacant Winthrop Health Center building. The committee asked for some direction on the next steps. The committee would like to begin talking to community groups.

The council asked for a report and a timeline of activities the committee wants to do over the next several months and meet again in a few weeks. The council has not decided whether to put it out for referendum.

Pam Taylor asked that it be put out for referendum.

Councilor MacDonald said the physical needs of the public safety departments need to meet the demographic changes that are occurring in the community. The population is getting older.

Motion by Caprara Seconded by Despres to remove item #38 First Reading of the Driveway Ordinance from the table. Vote 6-0.

Councilors Caprara and Buck were opposed to the ordinance.

Mr. Knight said that he received comments from Al Godfrey on Friday and the Dept of Transportation today and would recommend that the council table the reading until he can meet with Al and discuss some changes to the ordinance and report back at the next meeting.

Motion by Despres Seconded by MacDonald to table the first reading. Vote 6-0.

Item # 44 Regional Dispatch Center.

The Town Manager asked that the council consider exploring participation in the regional dispatch center at the state police headquarters in Augusta. The public safety staff and town manager will review the costs and service to see if it will be good for the town.

Motion by Despres Seconded by MacDonald for the town manager and public safety departments to explore the regional dispatch center and report back with a recommendation. Vote 6-0.

Item #45 Discussion on the petition to amend the Zoning Ordinance is by referendum.

John Carpenter spoke on his petition, that since there was a town wide vote to approve the zoning ordinance that the citizens should vote to amend it.

Lee Bragg, the town attorney, said that a petition for a referendum vote cannot remove a power the council has by charter, the authority to amend and enact ordinances. The petition would have to be to amend the charter.

Mr. Carpenter asked the council to consider amending the charter to allow referendum votes on zoning amendments.

No action taken

Recess at 9:55 pm

Return at 10:00 pm

#46 Update on the Maranacook Lake and Mill Stream Dam.

The town manager said 9 rfp's were sent out to engineering firms for dam inspections but no bids were submitted by the deadline. The committee will meet on Wednesday to discuss the next step. Readfield votes in June on the Maranacook Lake dam. No word yet from the Winthrop Commerce Center if they will pay for the inspection costs.

#48 Motion by Despres Seconded Buck to accept the \$147.69 donation to the Ambulance Service from the United Way of Bath. Vote 6-0.

#49 Carleton Woolen Mill's \$104, 625.60 personal property tax bill from 2000. The town was a creditor in the bankruptcy.

Motion by Buck Seconded by Despres to write off the \$104,625.60 personal property tax. Vote 6-0.

The manager reminded the council of the Norcross Point Boat Wash dedication on May 23 at 1:30 pm.

Motion by Despres Seconded by Putman to adjourn at 10:15 pm.