

*Minutes
Winthrop Town Council
Regular Meeting
Monday, July 10, 2006 at 7 p.m.
Winthrop Town Office*

Attendance: *Acting Chair Jayne Despres; Councilors William MacDonald, Kevin Cookson, Patrice Putnam, and Ken Buck. Town Manager Cornell Knight and Secretary Julie Winberg.*

Absent: *Chairman Jim Norris, and Linda Caprara.*

Acting Chair Despres called the meeting to Order at 7:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Cookson and seconded by Putman to approve the minutes of June 21st and July 5th 2006. Vote 5-0.

Ordered that the Winthrop Town Council meet to consider the following items:

Item #77 – Consider a transient seller’s license for Linda Williams, Northeast Ice Cream.

Linda Williams was in attendance to present her transient seller application to the Council.

Motion by Cookson and seconded by Putman approving a transient seller’s license for Linda Williams, Northeast Ice Cream. Vote 5-0.

Item #78 – Update on the Trail Committee’s work.

Roger Guerette was present to update the Council on the Trail Committee’s work through the former Apple Farm Crossing II subdivision. He also discussed how donations are forwarded and how thankful he is to the

community for their support. \$16,400 is needed to complete the project. He asked that the town pay the bills when the work commences next month and donations will equal expenses in the fiscal year. The Town Manager said this would not be a problem. He also said the committee would use the wood cut from the trail for a raffle this fall as a fundraiser.

Motion by Cookson and seconded by Putman that the town pay the bills for the Trail Committee before all the donations are received. Vote 5-0.

Item #79 – Consider the purchase of two police cruisers through lease purchase.

Police Chief Joe Young was present to brief the Council on the reason behind this request. A memo was enclosed for the Council's review explaining the funding of this purchase as one cruiser was in fact budgeted for this year and the purchase of the second cruiser that was not budgeted would replace the one that was totaled.

Chief Young explained that one of his officers was involved in an accident on June 17, 2006 and the cruiser was totaled (2003 Ford Crown Victoria).

Because of that accident, he is before the Council to ask for the purchase of a second cruiser. Quirk Ford is delivering a new cruiser this month that was already approved in the budget. In stock, Quirk Ford has another 2007 cruiser that is available to replace the one that was totaled.

Chief Young presented his two options to the Council: Option #1 is to purchase a replacement cruiser this year; Option #2 is to lease purchase two replacement cruisers – the one that was budgeted for and one to replace the damaged cruiser. This lease agreement would be for two years.

Member Buck recommended a third option to purchase one cruiser now that had been already approved in the budget and replace the totaled cruiser next year.

Chief Young replied that that option would create a problem within his department as all cruisers are heavily used especially with the additional summer assignments and temporary hires.

Motion by Cookson and seconded by MacDonald approving the purchase of two police cruisers through lease purchase. Vote was 4 in favor and 1 opposed (Buck).

Item #80 – Consider the purchase of two defibrillators through lease purchase.

John Dovinsky Winthrop's EMS Director was present to demonstrate the defibrillator that the department is requesting to purchase through a lease purchase agreement. The Town Manager commented that he has three bids for financing rates.. The lease purchase is for a three year period and after that time the Town takes over ownership. The life span of this type of unit is approximately ten years.

Winthrop, a heart safe community, would benefit with this type of unit. Defibrillation is the process in which an electronic device gives an electric shock to the heart. This helps reestablish normal contraction rhythms in a heart having dangerous arrhythmia or in cardiac arrest. Small portable defibrillators have become available. These are called automated external defibrillators or AED's. This type of purchase completes the chain of survival concepts of early access, early CPR, early defibrillation, and early advanced cardiovascular care. A unit is placed in the ambulance, town hall, fire department on engine #2, and in the first duty cruiser. One is also in the school administration building and negotiations are being made for the school to purchase another much needed unit. In addition, the department is working with the community businesses to demonstrate to them the advantages of having such a unit.

Motion by Cookson and seconded by Putman approving the lease purchase of two defibrillators through Key Bank. Vote 5-0.

Item #81 – Consider an Emergency Action Plan for town department buildings.

Item #82 – Consider a Video Display Terminal policy

The Department of Labor came for their inspection and reviewed the Town's internal policies on the Emergency Action Plan. A plan needs to be in place for every town building. Copies of both plans were included in the Council's packet.

The Video Display Terminal Policy (VDT) is one that has been mandated by the State in an attempt to protect workers from unnecessary injuries as a result of working at video display terminals. The intent of the law is to advance awareness and training.

Motion by MacDonald and seconded by Putman approving the Emergency Action Plan and VDT policy as presented. Vote 5-0.

Item #83 – Update from the Winthrop Unites Advisory Committee

Councilor Putman updated the Council on the progress that the Winthrop Unites Advisory Committee is making. She reviewed the four primary goals: hire a coordinator – which was done by the school department; promote a wellness center within the school system – this has been done and there is in place mental health services at the school starting this fall; to develop a support system for the 18 to 25 year olds through the porch light program. Although the application for a grant was not approved, the Committee still remains committed to the concept and supports this program; and last but not least, the forth is to look into underage drinking and drug abuse. A subcommittee has been formed to explore this and those results will be brought back to the Advisory Committee at their meeting on the 18th of July at 7:00 p.m. The Advisory Committee is expecting an update on the earlier community report on underage drinking.

Councilor Putman informed the group that several very successful meetings have been held in May and there is a clear indication that the attendees want to have something for post grads but were quite concerned about the porch light program. The sense was that these young adults wanted to maintain their connection through the school system.

At the last Committee meeting, it was recommended that they work directly with the new school superintendent but want to give him time to settle in before the meeting takes place. Their goal is to work with the school and pursue the porch light concept but under a different structure.

Councilor Putman went on to say that the subcommittee needs to be free to brainstorm and work without any interference. Then take those recommendations, develop them and bring them back to the Advisory Committee. In summary, the subcommittee is assigned to do the research, working through the data at hand. The Advisory Committee, after working through the subcommittee's recommendations, would then make their recommendation to the Town Council and the School Board. That is the

process that is presently being used. The Committee meets every four to five weeks.

Councilor Putman went on to say that she is now certified to teach 'crucial conversations which is a program to teach parents how to communicate with their children. The cost of materials is \$10.00. She is considering offering a class this fall.

The Council was very appreciative of all the hard work that has gone into this Advisory Group and the subcommittees that have been formed as a result. But the concern was over the process and what was the best way for the subcommittee to be used, how to formulate the findings and the process to relay those findings to whom from whom.

Member Cookson noted that there have been rumors surrounding what the Advisory Group vs. the Committee vs. the subcommittee was doing and how they interacted with each other. The rumors centered on the layers that seemed to have been formed. Given the fact that the Winthrop Advisory Committee has done a great deal on the original charge, the consensus seemed to be a way to cut down on meetings and reports. Recommendations were made that the Winthrop Advisory Committee, the School Board and the Town Council fold back into Winthrop Unites. The hiring of the coordinator takes care of the wellness part of the charge.

Member Buck shared the same exact thoughts.

Acting Chair Despres also commented that the Committee has served its function. The coordinator needs to lessen the load and assist with the time management issues that have formed with these layers.

Member Putman commented that at this point in time she would not agree or disagree. She would recommend to the Council that this idea be brought back to the committees on the 18th and 19th of this month and have a dialogue with each of them to determine what the best way to handle this would be and how the group should function now. Having one less meeting is not a negative idea.

Member Cookson agreed that touching base with the new school superintendent is a good idea as well to see what his ideas may be and then put this item back on the Council's agenda in August.

Member Putman agreed

Item #84 - *Discuss organizing a Town Council goals session.*

Acting Chair Despres placed this item back on the agenda. This was a topic of discussion earlier this year and was tabled. It was originally recommended that a special meeting be held with the possibility of a moderator or facilitator to keep the group focused and on track.

Member Cookson was opened to the idea and as long as it started the process, he would vote for it.

Member Buck felt that a special meeting was fine but did not want to spend town funds for it and was opposed to the hiring of a facilitator.

Member MacDonald felt that the idea of a retreat facilitated by a moderator would be a real benefit to assist in exploring concepts and goal settings.

Initially, it may sound like a lot of money but when you are trying to conceptualize and formulate goals, it really isn't. We need to be able to buy into these ideas as a group. He went on to say that he would be willing to put in the extra time for this special meeting if it is done and handled the right way.

Member Putman felt very comfortable with the whole idea of a special meeting facilitated by a moderator. She felt that, for example, the affordable housing issue for the town or other controversial issues that have been on the table, and public opinion is in the negative, the Council gives in. For the affordable housing issue, the future of Winthrop and our schools are at stake. This issue needs to come back on the table and perhaps, with the help of a facilitator, the Council, as a group, may be able to present it again in a more favorable light. We need to gear ourselves up and be formally committed as a group. We can't get there on our own.

Member Buck commented that this affordable housing issue would not guarantee an increase in children to populate our schools. If the people don't want it, we are elected by the people and to represent them.

Acting Chair Depress commented that she was open to doing this either way, with or without a facilitator because doing the status quo has not worked. The 'list' that is formulated ends up being the Town Manager's list of goals and not the Councils. We need a more detailed plan and it does not seem that it can be done without the help of a facilitator.

Member Cookson commented that on the affordable housing issue, he too would not vote to approve housing to be built if the town people say that they don't want it. However, the term affordable housing after some personal research was very misleading. And the Council needs to explore issues such as this more carefully.

Motion by Cookson and seconded by MacDonald that the Town Council authorize the Town Manager to move forward with setting up a special meeting to be facilitated by a moderator. The time and location will be part of a discussion at the next Town Council meeting and will be placed on the agenda as a discussion item. Vote was 4 in favor and 1 opposed (Buck).

Item #85 – Consider an executive session pursuant to Title 1 MRSA Section 405 (6) (F) for property tax abatement.

*Motion by Cookson and seconded by MacDonald that an **Executive Session** proceed pursuant to Title 1 MRSA Section 405 (6) (F) for property tax abatement.*

Regular Session of the Town Council meeting ended at 8:30 p.m.

Return to regular session at 8:55 pm

Motion by Buck Seconded by MacDonald to table item #85 until the August Meeting. Vote 5-0.

Motion by Putman Seconded by Buck to adjourn at 9:08 pm Vote 5-0.