

**Winthrop Town Council Meeting Minutes
Regular Town Meeting
Monday, March 7, 2005
Winthrop Town Office**

- **The meeting was called to order at 7:05PM by Acting Chair Patrice Putman.**

- **Roll Call**

Council Members Present: Patrice Putman, David Rheame, Jayne Despres, Bill MacDonald, Linda Caprara, Ken Buck (Kevin Cookson excused.)

Others present: Cornell Knight (Town Manager), Lisa Frost (Secretary), Superintendent Paula Gaudet, School Board Members – Isaac Dyer, Rae Giampetro, John Mitchell, Food Service Workers, David Dyer, Linda Dyer, Margy Knight, Michael Sanborn, Pat Engel, several other citizens

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

- **Approve the Minutes of February 7, 2005**

MOTION by Jayne Despres, seconded by Linda Caprara, to approve the minutes of February 7, 2005. Discussion: Councilor Ken Buck asked why the Council was not getting all the minutes for the whole meeting. Town Manager Cornell Knight stated the minutes are not a transcript. The only requirement of the minutes is to note the action taken. However, highlights of the meeting are included as well. Council may amend the minutes to reflect the meeting, but it is not word for word. Councilor Linda Caprara stated if he thought something wasn't in the minutes, he could review the tape and make a motion to amend the minutes. Councilor David Rheame stated if something is not in the minutes, Mr. Buck could go to the tape, ask for that portion of the tape to be transcribed and amend the previous minutes. Chair Patrice Putman stated the minutes are more extensive than previous minutes and thinks they are terrific. Ms. Putman stated page 4 of 6, should read "Annabessacook ratios" not "rations". VOTE: 6-0.

- **Item # 33 Council Appointments**

MOTION by David Rheame, seconded by Linda Caprara to reappoint Stephen Robbins and Jon Leonard to the Planning Board; reappoint Roger Hanson and Anthony Wess to the Zoning Board of Appeals; reappoint Judith Stebbins to the Board of Assessment Review; appoint G. Doug Whittier (pending approval of his employer) to Winthrop Utilities Board; appoint Tim Lavallee and reappoint Donald Beattie and Michael Tibbets to the Recreation Committee; reappoint Democrat Jane Bryson and Republican Donna Hall to the Board of Registration Appeals; and appoint Stephen Curtis, Harvey Dinerstein and Jim Norris to the Conservation Commission. Discussion: None. VOTE: 6-0.

- **Tabled from 2/7/2005 Item # 21 Hold a public hearing on the Liquor license renewal for Barney's Sports Bar.**

Chair Patrice Putman opened the public hearing at 7:13PM. Chief Joseph Young had no problems approving the liquor license as noted in his e-mail. There were no public comments. Chair Putman closed the public hearing at 7:14PM.

- **Tabled from 2/7/2005 Item # 22 Consider the liquor license renewal of Barney's Sports Bar, 7 Union Street.**

MOTION by David Rheame, seconded by Linda Caprara to approve the liquor license of Barney's Sports Bar, 7 Union Street. Discussion: None. VOTE: 6-0.

- **Tabled from 2/27/05 Item # 27 Consider a proposal to accept the Town of Turner's recyclable cardboard and #2 plastic.**

Councilor David Rheame stated the Town has more trash and more labor hours because of the time it takes for personnel to bale cardboard and the time it takes to sort recyclable and non-recyclable cardboard from Monmouth for Monmouth has not been properly recycling cardboard. Therefore, Mr. Rheame stated he is not in favor of the proposal because our people spend two and one-quarter hours baling and additional time sorting. In addition, the

travel time of 20-30 minutes one way with wear and tear on the vehicles would cost the Town of Winthrop more than it will bring in. Councilor Linda Caprara agreed.

Councilor Ken Buck clarified the average long-term price for cardboard is only \$65/ton. Mr. Buck presented the different types of cardboard and what is recyclable and what is not. Mr. Buck stated Monmouth's trailer has 300-400 lbs. of garbage in it. He stated Monmouth had a whole trailer of wet, molded cardboard which had to be thrown out. He stated the Town is not making any money. Mr. Buck also stated trucking 20-30 miles one way and the labor involved is not beneficial.

Councilor Bill MacDonald requested more information regarding costs and other details before taking any further action. And, suggested Monmouth should be made aware of their recycling and if it is inappropriate, Winthrop should turn it back to Monmouth. Mr. MacDonald stated the reason for a regional recycling system is to make money.

Councilor Jayne Despres suggested educating citizens about cardboard recycling.

Town Manager Cornell Knight stated Monmouth should be informed of recycling concerns discussed tonight.

MOTION by Bill MacDonald, seconded by Jayne Despres to table Item # 27 to next month. Discussion: None. VOTE: 6-0.

A citizen asked if the Town should look into a different option for the removal of household rubbish. Chair Patrice Putman stated David Smith, Director of Public Works would be at the April meeting to discuss.

❑ **Item # 34 Consider a proposal from the Mural Committee to paint a mural at Norcross Point.**

Margy Knight was present on behalf of the Mural Committee and reviewed the sketch of a winter theme mural.

Councilor David Rheaume stated he has been getting complaints from people who don't want to see murals at the Point because it is distracting. Mr. Rheaume stated he thinks it is a nice looking mural, like the other murals, and appreciates the hard work, but the committee should find another location other than the bathroom walls at Norcross Point. He stated he would approve the mural, but believes the two murals are more than enough.

Councilor Jayne Despres stated she has heard from people visiting the community how wonderful the murals are and thinks it is an asset and shows community.

MOTION by David Rheaume, seconded by Jayne Despres to allow the Mural Committee to paint one more mural – Winthrop in the Winter- at Norcross. Discussion: None. VOTE: 6-0.

MOTION By Linda Caprara, seconded by Jayne Despres, to move Item #36 to the next item on the agenda. Discussion: None. VOTE: 6-0.

❑ **Item # 36 Consider Resolution #83, in support of Maine General's application for a new regional cancer center in Augusta.**

Town Manager Cornell Knight stated he had been to discussions that Maine General had given on the subject and they explained the importance of the regional cancer center in order for Maine General to continue to grow and service people in the area. Mr. Knight stated Maine General asked for support though they didn't ask for a resolution. However, many communities have done a resolution.

MOTION by Jayne Despres, seconded by Bill MacDonald to accept Resolution #83, in support of Maine General's application for a new regional cancer center in Augusta. Discussion: Councilor Ken Buck asked why Waterville signed on and backed out. Town Manager Cornell Knight stated he did not know specifics but thought it was a procedural issue - the mayor was absent at the meeting for which it was discussed and initially approved. Mr. Knight explained two cancer areas they currently have do not accommodate the program and won't accommodate the new equipment they need. Therefore, they would be merged to one. Mr. Buck asked if the cancer center would be located in Sydney or Augusta. Chair Putman explained it would be north of Augusta - around the Belgrade area.

Councilor David Rheame asked if Waterville's decision was because they are afraid of closing the Thayer Unit. Chair Putman stated the decision has been made by Maine General to keep acute hospitals in Augusta and Waterville. The cancer center is an outpatient facility.

A citizen asked what support the Town would give if it were approved. Chair Patrice Putman read the resolution and stated there is no monetary number.

Pat Engel, a resident of Winthrop and a Social Worker at Maine General, spoke in support of the Regional Cancer Center noting its low cost effort.

Chair Patrice Putman, an employee of Maine General, spoke in strong support of the regional cancer center because cancer has been a hard part of her life effecting many close family members, friends, and neighbors. In addition, approximately 250 people in the Winthrop area are treated at the cancer center.

VOTE: 6-0.

❑ **Item # 35 Update from School Superintendent Paula Gaudet on the Food Service program.**

Michael Sanborn gave a presentation on the Food Service Program and monthly financial reports noting daily type A lunch participation has increased though there is a decrease in student enrollment, breakfast participation has increased, productivity has improved to 10 meals per worker hour with a goal of 14-15 meals per worker hour, and food cost has decreased. Year to date, the food service program has a deficit of \$98,000 with a projected monthly financial report for February – June 2005 estimating a \$48,568 deficit.

Steps to improve financial stability of the food service program were reviewed including: Continuing to re-evaluate vacancies as they occur (retirement or resignations); Meeting with Nutrition Staff for ideas that could enhance the overall financial operation; Attempting to negotiate better pricing with Pepsi on Juice and Water; Continuing to work on increasing productivity at all schools; And considering adjusting pricing structure of Meals & A-La-Carte items.

Councilor David Rheame asked the Food Service Workers for feedback. Concerns included:

- only two workers at the Middle School versus four at the beginning of the year and years prior creating more work, stress and chance of accidents;
- communication regarding who is replacing a worker who will be out on leave soon (Mr. Sanborn noted a meeting will be held Wednesday at 2:30PM to discuss the matter);
- one lunch period at the High School causing students to leave the cafeteria line and eat elsewhere. (Superintendent Paula Gaudet stated the schedule could not be changed this year, but a new schedule would be presented for next year.);
- poor nutritional value of the food (Mr. Sanborn stated the menu meets USDA requirements);
- and concerns with fundraising during school hours, which include the sale of candy and doughnuts. (Superintendent Paula Gaudet said she would address the fundraising issue with administration.)

Chair Patrice Putman asked for next year's projections. Mr. Sanborn stated he had not crunched numbers yet, but with changes in staffing and recommendations including increasing the cost of meals, and questioning the satellite out to Fayette, etc., he doesn't believe there will be a \$100,000 loss next year.

Councilor David Rheame asked for the cost to satellite meals to Fayette. Mr. Sanborn said we are not losing money this year noting the Town receives \$1,000/mo = \$10,000/yr.

School Board Member Isaac Dyer reviewed efforts to raise awareness of Free and Reduced Lunch eligibility, which would increase participation and federal/state grants available. In addition, Mr. Dyer stated expenses are decreasing.

Councilor Jayne Despres thanked Michael Sanborn and the Food Service Staff for their work through the changes.

Town Manager Cornell Knight stated as of June 30, 2004, there was a \$206,000 deficit. As of June 30, 2005, an additional \$147,000 deficit is projected totaling a deficit of approximately \$350,000. Additionally, Monmouth owes \$54,000, which Superintendent Paula Gaudet stated she is actively pursuing. Ms. Gaudet stated the School Board would provide the Town with a three-year payment plan to pay the money back.

❑ **Item #37 Consider an ordinance for Pool Halls.**

MOTION by Linda Caprara, seconded by David Rheame to consider item #37, an ordinance for pool halls. Discussion: Councilor Ken Buck asked why they needed the ordinance. Town Manager Cornell Knight stated the Town had a license application, but Chief Joe Young was unable to find the corresponding local ordinance for pool halls, bowling alley, shooting galleries, and pool or billiard rooms. Chair Patrice Putman asked that "public" be added as to be sure pool tables could be within private homes. VOTE: 5-0. (Linda Caprara was away from the table.)

❑ **Item # 38 Update on the work of Community Coalition on Affordable Housing.**

Chair Patrice Putman stated the Coalition is looking at the issue of affordable housing because during the last budget session it was very clear the lack of affordable housing was affecting the school system and the need to protect many of the school's programs. In order to increase student enrollment (student population decreased by 220 over the last five years), there needs to be more affordable homes. The coalition has had meetings and a subcommittee met with Dale McCormick and a local developer. Ideas for funding of houses were presented. The subcommittee has plans on how to approach builders, options for financing, and how to bring new houses in Winthrop with the basic criteria including: not compromising on environmental issues, development within the existing infrastructure, and looking at zoning requirements. The next meeting is April 14, 2005 at 5:30 to meet with developers.

Councilor David Rheame stated he was impressed with the group and the good ideas. Superintendent Paula Gaudet affirmed stating it was a worthwhile meeting and exactly what the Town needs.

❑ **Item #39 Consider abating personal property account balances of companies that have gone out of business.**

MOTION By David Rheame, seconded by Linda Caprara, to abate personal property account balances of companies that have gone out of business. Discussion: None. VOTE: 6-0.

❑ **Manager's Report**

- The sidewalk project has been delayed because DOT hasn't received reviews back from the Maine Historical Preservation Commission and is therefore unable to issue a permit.
- The property abutting Norcross Point owned by Elaine Lucas and Chris Furlotte is being put up for bid on April 5 due to foreclosure.
- Mr. Knight is on vacation next week.

❑ **Other Business**

- Councilor David Rheame asked about the meeting with the Water District. Town Manager Cornell Knight stated a report would be given at the April meeting.
- Councilor David Rheame asked if the poor road conditions are due to the combination of liquid sodium, salt and sand. Town Manager Cornell Knight stated he has contacted DOT repeatedly and has not received any information. Mr. Knight stated he would continue to follow up.

MOTION by David Rheame, seconded by Linda Caprara to go into executive session at 8:58PM. Discussion: None. VOTE: 6-0.

❑ **Tabled from 2/7/05 Item # 32 Consider an executive session pursuant to Title 1 MRSA Section 405 (6)(C) for economic development purposes. And section 405 (6)(6) for economic development purposes.**

MOTION by David Rheame, seconded by Linda Caprara to return to regular session. VOTE: 6-0.

MOTION by David Rheame, seconded by Linda Caprara to grant an abatement request made pursuant to 36 MRSA Section 841 (2) in the sum of \$ 262.90 for the tax year 2002. Vote 6-0.

❑ **Adjourn**

MOTION by David Rheame, seconded by Jayne Despres, to adjourn at 9:20PM. Discussion: None. VOTE: 6-0.

Submitted by Lisa Frost, Secretary to the Town Council.