

Winthrop Town Council Meeting Minutes
Regular Town Meeting
Monday, April 4, 2005
Winthrop Town Office

- **The meeting was called to order at 6:30PM by Chair Kevin Cookson.**

- **Roll Call**

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

Others present: Cornell Knight (Town Manager), Lisa Frost (Secretary), Greg Chabot, David Smith (Director of Public Works), Chief Joe Young, Sandy Smith, Jan Tewksbury, Jeff Hinds, David Dyer, Linda Dyer, Pat Flood, Bill Monagle, Bill Haefele, Don Williams, and several other citizens

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

- ❑ **Item #30 Review the annual audit with Greg Chabot of Runyon, Kersteen and Ouellette.**

See information packet and graphs.

- ❑ **Approve the Minutes of March 7, 2005.**

MOTION by Jayne Despres, seconded by Ken Buck, to approve the minutes of March 7, 2005. Discussion: None. VOTE: 7-0-1 (Kevin Cookson abstained.)

- ❑ **Tabled from 3/7/05 Item #27 Consider a proposal to accept the Town of Turner's recyclable cardboard and #2 plastic.**

MOTION by Linda Caprara, seconded by Jayne Despres to take Item #27 off the table. Discussion: None. VOTE: 6-0.

David Smith, Public Works Director present revenues and expenses for the proposed recycling with Turner, which calculated a net profit of \$5555.52.

Town Manager Cornell Knight asked David Smith about the quality of cardboard that does not get recycled. Mr. Smith reviewed that Livermore breaks their cardboard down and compacts. Monmouth compacts it and recently Winthrop did dump some cardboard into the rubbish pile due to mold and mildew. However, Monmouth was charged the cost and Winthrop has been working with Monmouth to get better cardboard. If it doesn't improve, Winthrop will no longer accept it. However, the last load was better.

Councilor David Rheame questioned if Turner could bring the cardboard to Winthrop, instead of Winthrop picking it up. Mr. Smith said no. Turner will use three trailers. A full trailer would be brought to Winthrop and would be unloaded over a month's time as the employees have time for it. When the second Turner trailer is full, Winthrop would bring back an empty trailer and return with a full trailer.

Councilor Ken Buck stated the load received from Livermore is cost efficient because we haul wood up and cardboard back. Mr. Buck also questioned why labor costs were not included in the proposal. Mr. Smith reviewed the amount of time taken to bale cardboard.

David Smith reviewed that the State Planning Office wants regionalization and if enough communities get involved, they could apply for a grant to purchase a horizontal bailer, which costs \$40,000 – \$50,000.

Councilor David Rheame spoke about a legislative bill, if approved, that would require a regional recycling center to take hazard waste. He stated it would be a great expense.

Chair Kevin Cookson asked, hypothetically, if Winthrop wasn't doing cardboard and plastic out of Monmouth and Livermore, what would the current four full time and three part time employees be working on if they weren't recycling.

Transfer station employee, Don Williams, said the employees are busy most of the time with cardboard and wouldn't have much to do other than maintenance. Chair Cookson asked if there would be significant enough work to have all the employees. David Smith said they might need to eliminate a part-time position, but really need it to cover sick and vacation time. Chair Cookson reiterated that the employees would still be getting paid even if they didn't have the cardboard to recycle.

Councilor Ken Buck stated the summer will be busy and if cardboard is received from Turner, the workers will have to work extra time and it will cost. Chair Cookson was not convinced it would require working extra time.

Councilor Jayne Despres calculated the cost of labor at \$17/hr and a net profit of \$5555.52 would allow for 323 hours of wages to break even.

Councilor Ken Buck reviewed long-term costs Dave Smith presented in last month's memo and thought it was conflicting with numbers presented tonight.

Travel time was discussed to Livermore and Leavitt. David Smith stated roundtrip would take approximately 1-hour.

MOTION by Patrice Putman, seconded by Jayne Despres, to approve Item #27, a proposal to accept the Town of Turner's recyclable cardboard and #2 plastic with the caveat that we can end that arrangement if the legislature requires us to accept hazardous waste. VOTE: 5-2 (David Rheume and Ken Buck oppose.)

❑ **Item #41 Consider a request from Rick Conant to cover the Youth Football cheerleaders program under the town's liability insurance policy.**

MOTION by David Rheume, seconded by Linda Caprara to table Item #41. Discussion: None. VOTE 7-0.

❑ **Item #42 Consider the tax acquired properties, from 2002 tax year.**

Town Manager Cornell Knight presented the list of properties that were tax acquired from the 2002 tax year.

MOTION by David Rheume, seconded by Linda Caprara, to put out for discussion. Discussion: None. VOTE: 7-0.

The occupant of 372 Holmes Road stated she would like to pay the \$1933.15 taxes due on her property and present Town Manager Cornell Knight with a bank check. Council accepted.

The occupant of 26 Highland Avenue stated he would like to pay the amount in full this evening and presented Town Manager Cornell Knight with a check. Council accepted.

MOTION by David Rheume, seconded by Patrice Putman, excluding two properties, account # H0434R, K0090R, and B3215R, other properties – C0387R, S2001R, S2215R and W1176R - are to go out to bid. Discussion: None. VOTE: 7-0.

MOITION by David Rheume, seconded by Linda Caprara to allow the town manager to do a quitclaim deed on the two that paid this evening. Discussion: None. VOTE: 7-0.

❑ **Item #43 Hold a public hearing on the special amusement application for Sully's Restaurant**

Chair Kevin Cookson opened the public hearing at 7:38PM.

Chief Joe Young asked if the special amusement application had any changes. Chair Cookson said it is for music, live bands and musicians.

A citizen expressed concerns that the restaurant has changed dramatically since last year and some patrons are intimidated by the females at the establishment who act in a manner, which is uncomfortable, such as exposing themselves and stripping, and are concerned about the manner in which the drinks are sold by teasing the men. The citizen asked what the process is it to make a complaint. She stated another person has written a letter. Chair Cookson explained the Police Department or Town manager could be called. Chief Joe Young said he received one letter in five years, which was signed anonymously, but it was not recent.

Chief Young stated he met with the all the local bar owners. Due to people overindulging, being shut off, then moving to another bar, a plan was implemented in which the bar which shut off the intoxicated individual, would notify all local bars so he/she does not proceed to another bar. Chief Young said he has seen improvement since the plan was implemented.

Councilor David Rheame stated to the citizen that the Chief and Council are now aware and something would be done. Councilors reviewed complaint procedures with Chief Young.

Sully's Owner, Jeff Hinds, said he didn't understand the comment about lewd behavior.

Chair Kevin Cookson closed the public hearing at 7:43PM.

❑ **Item #44 Consider the special amusement application for Sully's Restaurant, 6B Union Street**

MOTION by Linda Caprara, seconded by Bill MacDonald to approve the special amusement application for Sully's Restaurant, 6B Union Street. Discussion: None. VOTE: 7-0.

❑ **Item #45 Hold a public hearing on the Liquor license renewal for Sully's Restaurant, 6B Union Street.**

Chair Cookson opened the public hearing at 7:45PM. There were no comments from the public. Chair Cookson closed the public hearing at 7:46PM.

❑ **Item #46 Consider the liquor license renewal of Sully's Restaurant, 7 Union Street.**

MOTION by Linda Caprara, seconded by Bill MacDonald to approve the liquor license renewal of Sully's Restaurant, 7 Union Street. Discussion: None. VOTE: 7-0.

Councilor David Rheame asked Chief Joe Young regarding a bill in the legislature, if approved, which would appoint local officials to do liquor enforcement. Chief Young said there are a lot of administrative laws the local police department is not authorized to enforce and there are many problems and limits with the proposal.

Representative Pat Flood stated only 10-15% of the bills proposed are passed. And he would make note of the two bills discussed tonight by Councilor David Rheame.

❑ **Item #47 Hear an update on the Cobbossee Watershed District's activities, Bill Monagle.**

Bill Monagle of Cobbossee Watershed District, reviewed lake water quality summaries for Winthrop noting the extraordinary water clarity considering the history of Annabessacook Lake and the progressively poor water clarity of Wilson Pond.

Mr. Monagle stated they are 2/3 complete on a watershed management plan, which is funded from a grant received. Maranacook Lake Association has also been formed to assist in developing a management plan to protect Maranacook Lake and improve the north basin.

Mr. Monagle distributed a three-page summary of a study prepared by Kevin Boyle, Resource Economist with the University of Maine, which reviewed the effect of water clarity on property values.

Mr. Monagle reviewed a portion of the Cobbossee Water District's budget. He stated the last few years have required a 4% increase of assessments. This year's normal assessment increase is 3% as opposed to 4%, however due to a need for a new boat (The last boat purchased was 25 years ago, which was sold due to its poor condition), the 3% assessment will be 6% to cover some of the costs over the 8 member towns.

Cost of new boat	
purchased at Clark Marine at cost:	\$8,000
Sold old boat for:	\$900
District will pay:	\$2600
Remaining amount for Towns to pay:	\$4500

❑ **Item #48 Council Appointments**

MOTION by Linda Caprara, seconded by David Rheame to appoint Clark Finney as second associate to the Planning Board and Steve Curtis to the Tree Board. Discussion: None. VOTE: 7-0.

❑ **Item #49 Presentation of the 2005-2006 Municipal Budget.**

Town Manager Cornell Knight stated the budget presented before the Councilor's represents a flat funding for next year's property tax and the number plugged in for the amount to be raised from the schools has been okayed by the schools. If passed as proposed, the average residential homeowner's property tax would drop by \$74 because the mill rate is higher their value will be lower due to the additional homestead exemption. It is not funded by the state so it is paid for by second home owners and businesses in town.

Special Budget Meetings are scheduled for the April 11th and April 13th. The School will present in May and a public hearing is scheduled for June.

❑ **Manager's Report**

- A grant was received for studying regional assessing with Gardiner, Augusta, and Kennebec County, and they are waiting for details on the next step.
- There was some flood damage caused over the weekend. We may receive FEMA funding if it is declared a disaster.
- The plowing proposal for area towns was reviewed with the town managers, however, the towns wanted more trucks, which created excessive costs. Therefore, Mr. Knight suggested the towns put their contracts out to bid and Winthrop will determine at that time if they want to bid.
- Mr. Knight asked the Councilors if they would like to pursue requests received from Manchester and Readfield to do street sweeping. After the Council discussed, it was decided Mr. Knight would work up a price with Dave Smith, Public Works Director and bring it back to the Council to review.
- Councilor David Rheame asked if Kennebec County falls under the disaster declaration for any winter storms. Town Manager Knight stated Kennebec was excluded. Mr. Rheame asked Mr. Knight to verify.

❑ **Other Business**

- Information was passed around on a conference sponsored by Maine Community Foundation and partnered with Maine Municipal Association on Western Maine Sustainable Development regarding developing plans to attract small businesses and housing.
- Councilor David Rheame addressed a personnel issue, which occurred at the Transfer Station with a citizen. A meeting with the supervisor, employee and citizen will be scheduled to resolve the issue. Chair Kevin Cookson stated personnel issues should follow the policy and addressed through proper channels.
- A citizen asked when the last property valuation was. Mr. Knight stated 1991 and an RFP is being prepared in order for another valuation to be complete by 2007.

❑ **Item #50 Consider an executive session pursuant to Title 1 MRSA Section 405 (6) (F) for a property tax abatement.**

MOTION by Linda Caprara, seconded by Jayne Despres, to move into executive session pursuant to Title 1 MRSA Section 405 (6) (F) for a property tax abatement and (6) (A) for a personnel matter. Discussion: None. VOTE: 7-0.

MOTION by David Rheame, seconded by Patrice Putman to return to regular session.

MOTION by David Rheame, seconded by Linda Caprara to deny an abatement request made pursuant to 6 MRSA Section 841(2) for the tax years 2203, 2004, and 2005. Discussion: None. VOTE: 7-0.

❑ **Adjourn**

MOTION by Linda Caprara, seconded by David Rheame, to adjourn at 9:05PM. Discussion: None. VOTE: 7-0.

Submitted by Lisa Frost, Secretary to the Town Council.