

Minutes
Winthrop Town Council
Regular Meeting
Monday, September 12, 2005 at 7 p.m.
Winthrop Town Office

Attendance: Councilors Kevin Cookson, Chair; William MacDonald, David Rheame, Patrice Putnam, Jayne Despres, Ken Buck, Linda Caprara, Town Attorney Lee Bragg, Town Manager Cornell Knight, Secretary Julie Winberg, and 12 residents.

Chairman Cookson called the meeting to Order at 7:03 p.m.

Motion by Despres, seconded by Caprara to approve the minutes of August 1st and August 22nd, 2005. Vote was 7-0.

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

Item #127 - Consider the appointment of Dan Brooks as Fire Chief. The fire department membership has elected Dan Brooks to replace Roger Audette as Fire Chief. The appointment is subject to Council confirmation.

Motion by Rheame, seconded by Caprara that Item #127 - appointment of Dan Brooks as Fire Chief - by approved. Vote was 7-0.

Item # 128 - Consider a boat wash station at Norcross Point - Bob Moore, Executive Director, Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed presenting.

Bob Moore, Executive Director, Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed along with the designer of the project, John Blais, of AE Hodsdon Engineering, presented the plan for a boat wash station at Norcross Point. The station will be installed at no cost to the Town of Winthrop. A conditional use permit from the Planning Board and a variance for the small shed from the Zoning Board Administration will also have to be granted.

Mr. Moore talked extensively about the potential of milfoil entering Maranacook Lake as Norcross Point is extremely visible and use is increasing each year. At this point, the lake is clean of milfoil. On June 30th, 2005, the Cobbossee Watershed group met with the Code Enforcement Officer and reviewed the set back issues and all requirements have been met.

Mr. Moore proceeded to explain how the boat wash station will function, taking out plants and oils that drain into this area in a catch basin. The structure that would house the pump would be moved back 100' from the shoreline. The intake line is on the side. The pump house will have a pressure switch which will account for a checks and balance on the system. The water will come directly from the lake and after it is cleaned would go back into the lake. The size of the shed would be approximately 6x6, tall enough for a man to sit in, and no more than 10' high. This will be solely a voluntary process. It would operate approximately 5 to 6 months out of the year. The cost of the pump is approximately \$350.00 and has a lifecycle of approximately 25 years. The total cost of the station would be \$10,000, which is funded through a grant from LL Bean. Mr. Moore went on to say that boat inspection stations have been growing by leaps and bounds with excellent results – those results being keeping milfoil out of the lakes.

The Town Council, after discussing the impact of this structure in an already crowded park with some history of vandalism, while acknowledging how destructive milfoil can be, agreed to the boat wash station with the following conditions: 1) build the shed that houses the pump as a permanent structure – one that can not be easily moved; 2) design and build the shed in the same architecture as the structures that are there now; 3) bury the intake line to discourage destructive curiosity; and 4) that the Cobossee Watershed work with Readfield on an ongoing basis in order to protect both access points to Maranacook Lake. (As an informative note – Mr. Moore, with statistics received from research that his group has done, told the Council that Norcross Point exceeds the Readfield access to Maranacook by 3-1). Mr. Moore accepted the Council's conditions.

Motion by Putnam, seconded by MacDonald that Item # 128 - Consideration of a boat wash station at Norcross Point be approved with conditions #1, #2, #3 and #4. Vote was 7-0.

Item # 129 - Consider establishing a minimum fee for demolition debris at the Transfer Station.

The current charge at the Transfer Station for demolition debris is 4 cents per pound with the first hundred pounds free per day. And there is no charge for use of the scale.

The Town Manager recommended that this fee be increased to offset the cost for repairs and future replacement of the scale. The town takes the demo debris to Waterville and pays \$69.22 per ton plus a \$4.25 per ton fuel surcharge. The additional fuel costs for the town trucking plus the cost of scale maintenance and the cost of future scale replacement is the reason for the fee increase. The scale

was recently repaired for \$2,379. The scale company will return to re-balance the load cells. The state did a test on the scale and it was within the state tolerance at each level from 10,000 lbs to 50,000 lbs.. However, the scale could not be certified because of the imbalance, which caused the scale to reflect a different weight at one end than the other end. The state did not take the scale out of service. They will return next week to check them again. A retrofit repair estimate will cost \$24,500 using the structural supports in place. The estimate to install a new scale was \$43,500. The scale is 17 years old. The State performs these inspections every two years.

Information obtained from citizen participation as well as information from Council members showed that there was considerable concern about the illegal commercial use of the scale and the transfer station. At present, there is no charge for people that just use the scale and although there is oversight of those that use the transfer station, it definitely can be increased with additional random spot checks. David Dyer remarked that he hauls glass to the transfer station using the 100 lb. exemption whenever he has glass to haul.

Motion by Rheume, seconded by Caprara that Item # 129 - Establishing a minimum fee for demolition debris at the Transfer Station be increased from 4 cents to 5 cents per lb. keeping the first one hundred lbs. free per day. Added to this motion, and accepted unanimously by the Council, was that this increase would start immediately together with a charge of \$5.00 per use and per vehicle for the use of the scale. Vote was 7-0.

Item #130 - Consideration of the Final Order #124, 2005 \$1,270,000 Capital Improvement Bond project for roads and the library property purchase.

Motion by Rheume, seconded by Caprara that the \$1,270,000 Capital Improvement Bond for roads and library property purchase be approved noting that of that \$120,000 of that money was designated for the library property purchase. This was approved with a recommendation that the Council stay on top of this project on a month-to-month basis as it could present a significant budget impact if cost projections and deadlines are not adhered to. Vote was 7-0.

Item #131 - Consider a Declaration of Official Intent, to reimburse the town for general fund capital expenditures from the bond issue revenues when available.

The town will be paying for road construction work from the general fund before the bond funds are available in October. This resolution makes it clear the town will reimburse the general fund from the bond issue when funds become available.

Motion by Rheame, seconded by Caprara that the Declaration of Official Intent to reimburse the town for general fund capital expenditures from the bond issue revenues when available be approved. Vote was 7-0.

Item #132 - Consider the recommendations of the Social Services Committee.

Motion by Rheame, seconded by Caprara that Item #132 - Recommendations of the Social Services Committee, be approved. Vote was 7-0. A brief discussion did follow amongst the Council members on the way the Committee formulated their priorities. The Council members were in full agreement that next year they will notify the Social Services Committee of what the Council members' preferences are and the order in which they would make their recommendations. It was, however, brought to the Council's attention that in order for an agency to even be considered, an agency needs to make a formal request. Based on what requests the Committee received this year is how they made their recommendations.

Item #133 - Update on the sidewalk, paving and the FEMA projects.

The Town Manager updated the Council on the road construction projects and brought to their attention some of the changes made on the priority sheet noting that Green Street is projected to cost \$22,250 more than estimates due to unforeseen drainage costs and under budgeting. \$2,045 was spent from the drainage reserve to repair a collapsed drainage pipe that runs from Hanson Street behind the Brennan Insurance building to Main Street. Drainage (ditching and culvert installations) costs will double the initial estimate, since \$80,000 has been spent to date; \$14,000 more in culvert costs, because of the large culvert on the Holmes Road. The additional grading column in the initial spreadsheet has been replaced with shoulder grading expenses. In the initial priority list, Holmes Road was listed twice and Metcalf and Elm were omitted. The Town Manager moved N. Wayne, Old Lewiston and Turkey Lane to Priority 3. And moved Memorial, Beechwood, Birch, Bishop, Pleasant and Taylor to Priority 2 because those roads were ready, or soon to be ready, to be reclaimed and paved. Given the pace of the road paving and drainage work so far, it appeared that Priority 3 roads would be done in the spring. Green and Soper Road have been paved. Holmes and Narrows Pond Roads have been reclaimed. As more paving is done, the costs should be less than the estimates to make up for the difference in budget versus estimated costs.

The Narrows Pond causeway will be patched this year and funds from FEMA will be used to do a more permanent repair next year.

Manager's Report

Manager Knight will be speaking at ESPN Bass Tournament Banquet dinner next week. He has been appointed to the KVCOG Executive Board.

The Zimmerman property , no payments have been received to day. The total amount that is owed is \$2,612. Manager Knight has already sent them a letter. He will bring it back to the next Town Council meeting if nothing is received or acknowledged by the Zimmermans.

Manager Knight will be attending the MMA Convention in Augusta in October and if any councilors wish to attend to please let him know for registrations.

The Trail Committee has completed 3000 feet of the trail, 2000 feet remains.

The town received a rebate check in the amount of \$17,204 from the MMA Risk Management Services for the workers comp and liability policies.

The Conservation Commission has met twice. One meeting was a hike up the new Mt. Pisgah trail. They have had an organizational meeting. Jim Norris is chairman of the commission. Jim Connors from the Kennebec Land Trust has distributed a sample management plan and aerial photos of the Mt Pisgah site. Their next meeting is Sept 19th.

FEMA will reimburse the town \$97,654 for the rain/flood damage last spring. \$1,739 will go to the Winthrop Utilities District for damage at their filter plant. \$15, 703 will be set aside for a flood mitigation project at the Narrows Pond Causeway.

The Americorp's worker at the Ambulance Service was called to help in Louisiana last week. John Dovinsky, the Ambulance Director is on a waiting list.

Other Business

Councilor Rheume extended a heartfelt thanks and congratulations to the members and to the residents of Winthrop for a job well done in cleaning and sprucing up the town. He has received many accolades about this lovely little town and how clean and very quaint it is. So congratulations to all involved.

Councilor Despres inquired as to the status of the question the Council had in reference to the frequency of salary/wage adjustments during budget review. Town Manager Knight will put this item back on the agenda for the next Council meeting. He noted that it was put on the July 11th agenda and no motion was made to remove it and still remains an ongoing discussion item.

There was a public inquiry as to how to contact Council members as phone numbers and email addresses for them were not available. The Council members explained that any correspondence should go through the Town Manager who then forwards the inquiry to the Council Members. That, to date, has worked quite well.

A second inquiry was made to put 'Other Business' on as the first item on an agenda in order for the public to have those issues brought up first instead of last. The reason for this suggestion was time constraints. The Council explained that the Agenda would remain as it is with 'Other Business' as a last topic of discussion. However, should a resident have an issue that they feel needs to be brought up first, for whatever reason, they should feel free to contact the Town Manager and he will review that request with the Council Members, and they would take it under advisement.

Item # 134 - Consider an Executive Session- as per Title 1 Sec 405 6 (E) consultation with the town attorney regarding Calcagni vs. Town of Winthrop. Motion by Rheume Seconded by Caprara to go into executive session. Vote 7-0.

Motion by Rheume, seconded by Caprara to return to regular session. Vote 7-0.

Motion by Rheume, seconded by Caprara for the town attorney to file a claim in court to enforce the court's decision in the Vista Heights subdivision case of Calcagni vs. Town of Winthrop. Vote 7-0.

Motion by Caprara, seconded by Despres to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 pm. Vote 7-0.