

**Winthrop Town Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Regular Town Meeting**  
**Monday, June 7, 2004**  
*Winthrop Middle School Cafeteria*

- The meeting was called to order at 7:13PM by Chair Kevin Cookson.
- Roll Call

Council Members Present: Kevin Cookson, Patrice Putnam, David Rheäume, Jim Norris, Jayne Despres, Linda Caprara, Bill MacDonald

Others present: Cornell Knight (Town Manager), Lee Bragg (Town Attorney), Jan Tewksbury (Finance), Paula Gaudet (Superintendent), Lisa Frost, (Secretary), School Board Members, Members of the Public

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

❑ **Minutes of May 3, 2004, May 10, 2004, and May 20, 2004**

*MOTION by David Rheäume, seconded by Linda Caprara, to approve the minutes of May 3, 2004, May 10, 2004 and May 20, 2004. Discussion: None. VOTE: 7-0.*

❑ **Item #84 Hold a Public Hearing on the Budgets for the 2004-2005 Fiscal Year:**  
**Resolution #78: Part I – Municipal Budget, Part II School Budget**

Chair Kevin Cookson said town government's proposal for the fiscal year 2005 is \$1,875,150. Town's appropriation to school is \$4,678,917. The school figure includes the GT program fully funded, a half art position funded, Spanish position funded and it restores furlough days.

Town Manager, Cornell knight reviewed the proposed budget on the municipal side. Total spending is \$4,150,029 representing a 5.25% increase over last year. The \$1,875,150 is net less revenues raised by property taxes. The increase over last year is due to an increase in capital improvements. An increase of 1.04mils is proposed. The average homeowner's tax increase would be \$103. 85.

Chair, Kevin Cookson opened the public hearing on the municipal budget and school budget at 7:20PM.

Mary Garrepy spoke in favor of increasing taxes to get more services in the school system. "Let's offer more and encourage more."

Judy Barnes reiterated what Mary Garrepy stated. Ms. Barnes stated that the music program has been successful and she was in favor of keeping the three music teachers

Gerry Steele said, "Don't be afraid of a higher tax rate." He stated there is not enough being put into education and we don't want programs cut.

Jack Kaiser stated that nobody is cutting the school budget, for there is an 8% increase.

Diane Maxell spoke of the new Performing Arts Center and the Town's support of it. She said they should think strongly before doing anything to the arts and music program. "Recognize that youth is our greatest pride. Schools are big business, which will draw people here."

Elizabeth McKenney, Sue Thomas, Marion Healey and Dan Stevenson spoke in favor of the music and art programs.

Ronald Millier requested that the Town Council look at their budget to see if they could save especially within salaries.

Richard Dyer spoke about making Winthrop like no other surrounding community by providing affordable housing and selling Winthrop as different and unique. He stated kids would leave the community if these cuts go through. He wanted the programs restored.

A student asked why some teachers are getting cut while others are getting raises. Chairman of the School Board, Mike Burke stated that increases and reasonable salary and benefits are offered to keep the good teachers that Winthrop employs. The School Board relies on the professional administrators who deal with educational outcomes to make decisions of programs to cut, though there are no good choices.

Phil Richardson, High School Principal and citizen, spoke in support of music and art and asked Town Manager, Cornell Knight about mil rate increase amounts referring to the minimal increase needed to keep the programs.

A citizen spoke in favor of the Family Consumer Science program.

A student and parent stated that fine arts credits are needed to graduate and should be considered in the decision.

Chair Kevin Cookson closed the public hearing at 7:50PM.

Linda Caprara was disappointed that the music program was being cut and believes it should be restored. She requested the music teacher's salary. Superintendent, Paula Gaudet stated it was \$33,845 for salary and benefits of the current staff. Student to teacher ratios were reviewed for each school.

Bill MacDonald agreed with Linda Caprara. He was concerned with cutting music and half art. And would like to figure out a way to finance it by revenue or savings.

Linda Caprara stated she was only advocating for music at this point.

Salary cost for reinstating half art is \$14,849.

Marion Healy said Family Consumer Science should be restored. Paula Gaudet, Superintendent stated the salary for that position is \$38,516. Kevin Cookson asked Superintendent Paula Gaudet if the Family Consumer Science Program is part of the EPS model. Ms. Gaudet said it was not part of the EPS model.

The student to teacher ratios were reviewed in relation to the Music and Art Programs at each school. Karen Criss, Middle School Principal, reviewed that EPS will work around state funding. "The Town can have anything we want; we just won't have state funding."

Bill MacDonald reiterated that the EPS model is based on enrollment and we need to market ourselves different from other schools. If we cut programs like these, students will leave to attend other public and private schools.

Patrice Putman asked if there could be another opportunity to discover another \$50,000 – as \$168,000 was discovered after the last joint meeting. Superintendent, Paula Gaudet stated they have looked at the budget carefully. There was an inputting error in which \$168,000 was discovered. No one has offered other cuts to pursue and she thought it would not be a good idea to go back and make additional cuts. School Board Chairperson, Mike Burke stated they have gone over the budget; and he doesn't think the Board can find another \$48,000.

Bill MacDonald stated three options in order to reinstate the music and art positions. 1.) Take a week to work cost centers 2.) Finance equipment over 3-4 years 3.) Increase mil rate by 13 cents.

*MOTION by Jim Norris, seconded by Bill MacDonald, to increase appropriation to the school budget in the amount of \$48,694 which would result in an increase of 15 cents per thousand, in addition to the mil rate increase proposed by the Town Manager. The intent is to restore half art and music positions. Discussion: Kevin Cookson ruled the motion out of order. Jim Norris and Bill MacDonald would have to make a motion under Resolution No 78, Part II by increasing allocation amounts under the suitable article number(s). By Town Charter, Town Council can increase or decrease articles, but the School Board is not required to use that money toward reinstating the positions. School Board Chair, Mike Burke stated with confidence that the money would go toward instruction to reinstate the positions of Art and Music.*

Terry Despres said he supported the addition of music and art and firmly believes in the programs. He stated the community needs to know the truth in that we have not flat funded the schools because there is two million more in educational funding than there was five years ago. Mil rate went down because value went up and state funding increased. Winthrop teachers have a fair wage negotiated. High school administration will have to be looked at, because it can't operate without a balanced administrative path. The Board needs to look at K-12 restructuring and administrative structuring. And if you wait to implement EPS, you will suffer worse. He further stated that Winthrop is a

wonderful community and has a wonderful school complex, but believes you should not tax people out of town. He said to look at the comprehensive plan over the next three to five years. Other revenue sources are available. Mr. Despres was in support of the motion because "we need to get beyond tonight with some settlement". There were good reports over the last six years that drew people in. We had a plan. "Regroup and plan for the next five years."

Bill MacDonald proposed two options: Increase the mil rate by 15 cents OR finance the \$70,000 equipment purchase in order to free up money in the budget advertised. Town Council reviewed the finance option. Jayne Despres and Patrice Putman recommended passing the municipal budget as presented by the Town Manager.

*MOTION by David Rheume, seconded by Patrice Putman, to approve RESOLUTION NO. 78 - Part I - municipal budget as presented by the Town Manager. Discussion: None. VOTE: 7-0.*

*MOTION by Patrice Putman, seconded by David Rheume, to suspend a second reading of the municipal budget. Discussion: None. VOTE: 7-0.*

*MOTION by Jim Norris, seconded by David Rheume, to authorize Kevin Cookson to sign the Memorandum of Understanding between the Town Council of Winthrop and the Winthrop Board of Education. Discussion: Jim Norris said by doing so, it may result in a surplus at the end of the year because of improvement in the accounting and planning in both departments. Patrice Putman asked if this was going to save us money enough to not increase the mil rate. Mr. Norris said he did not know, but he thought it was a step in the right direction. Chair Kevin Cookson agreed with Mr. Norris and thanked Superintendent Paula Gaudet and Town Manager Cornell Knight for their cooperation. VOTE: 7-0. Chair, Kevin Cookson reviewed the Memorandum of Understanding, which agrees to merge the functions of the School Business Office in to the Finance Office subject to conditions set forth in the Memorandum.*

*Resolution NO. 78 – Part II with 12 articles:*

*MOTION by Bill MacDonald, seconded by Linda Caprara to approve ARTICLE #1: BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Town of Winthrop will appropriate from the foundation allocation for school purposes ( \$6,222,602) and raise as the local share of the foundation allocation:\$ 2,962,140. Discussion: David Rheume asked if the \$48,694 was increasing this article. Chair Kevin Cookson said it did not increase this article. VOTE: 7-0.*

*MOTION by Jim Norris, seconded by Jayne Despres, to approve ARTICLE #2: BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Town of Winthrop will authorize the Board of Education to expend for instruction and student and staff support: \$5,099,608. Discussion: Chair, Kevin Cookson stated to the Board of Education that if \$48,694 were added to the prior allocation of \$5,050,914, would it be used to restore the Music position and half time Art position. The Board of Education agreed it would restore the Music and Art positions. VOTE: 7-0.*

*MOTION by Linda Caprara, seconded by David Rheume to approve ARTICLE #3: BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Town of Winthrop will authorize the Board of Education to expend for administration and non-instructional service: \$ 1,383,544. Discussion: None. VOTE: 7-0.*

*MOTION by David Rheume, seconded by Patrice Putman, to approve ARTICLE #4: BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Town of Winthrop will authorize the Board of Education to expend for operation and maintenance of the plant:\$ 821,669. Discussion: None. VOTE: 7-0.*

*MOTION by Patrice Putman, seconded by Jim Norris, to approve ARTICLE #5: BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Town of Winthrop will authorize the Board of Education to expend for Winthrop student transportation services: \$291,706. Discussion: None. VOTE: 7-0.*

*MOTION by Jayne Despres, seconded by Jim Norris, to approve ARTICLE #6: BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Town of Winthrop will authorize the Board of Education to expend for Winthrop/ Monmouth Community Adult Education ( \$112,665 ) and raise as the local share:\$ 35,132. Discussion: None. VOTE: 6-0. (Dave Rheume was away from the table.)*

*MOTION by Jim Norris, seconded by Bill MacDonald, to approve ARTICLE #7: BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Town of Winthrop will appropriate from the debt service allocation and raise as the local share of debt service: \$532,414. Discussion: None. VOTE: 6-0. (Dave Rheume was away from table.)*

MOTION by Bill MacDonald, seconded by Linda Caprara, to approve ARTICLE #8: BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Town of Winthrop will authorize the Board of Education to expend for Winthrop Food Service (\$390,000) and raise as the local share: \$ 70,000. Discussion: None. VOTE: 7-0.

MOTION By David Rheume, seconded by Patrice Putman, to approve ARTICLE #9: BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Town of Winthrop will raise and appropriate funds to pay the Town of Winthrop to expend for the purpose of employing Crossing Guards: \$ 7,000. Discussion: VOTE: 7-0.

MOTION by Linda Caprara, seconded by Jayne Despres, to approve ARTICLE #10: BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Town of Winthrop will raise and appropriate funds to expend in support of the Winthrop Performing Arts Center: \$ 21,000. Discussion: None. VOTE: 7-0.

MOTION by Jim Norris, seconded by Patrice Putman, to approve ARTICLE #11: BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Town of Winthrop will raise additional local funds under the provision of 20-A, MRSA, Paragraph 15614: \$ 1,099,925. Discussion: None. VOTE: 7-0.

MOTION by Jayne Despres, seconded by David Rheume, to approve ARTICLE #12: BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Town of Winthrop will authorize the Board of Education to expend for the aforementioned fiscal year from the foundation allocation, debt service allocation, unexpended balances, tuition receipts, local appropriations, state subsidy and other receipts for the support of schools: \$ 10,038,618. Discussion: None. VOTE: 7-0

MOTION by Patrice Putman, seconded by Jayne Despres, to approve ARTICLE #13: To see if the Municipality/District will authorize the Board of Education to expend in fiscal year beginning July 1, 2004 and ending June 30, 2005, any unanticipated state school general purpose aid and other receipts that it may receive for that fiscal year. Discussion: None. VOTE: 7-0.

MOTION by David Rheume, seconded by Linda Caprara, to waive the second reading of the entire School Department budget for the fiscal period July 1, 2004 – June 30, 2005. Discussion: None. VOTE: 7-0.

MOTION by David Rheume to break for ten minutes.

❑ **Item #85 Determine the dates when property taxes committed during the 2004-2005 fiscal year shall become due and payable.**

MOTION by David Rheume, seconded by Linda Caprara, for property taxes committed during the 2004-2005 fiscal year shall become due and payable on October 1<sup>st</sup> and April 1<sup>st</sup>. Discussion: None. VOTE: 7-0.

❑ **Item #86 Determine the rate of interest that shall apply to delinquent taxes committed during the 2004-2005 fiscal year until those taxes are paid in full.**

MOTION by David Rheume, second by Linda Caprara, to apply the maximum rate of interest of 6.5% to delinquent taxes committed during the 2004-2005 fiscal year until those taxes are paid in full. Discussion: None. VOTE: 7-0.

❑ **Item #87 Consider the rate of interest that shall be applied for overpayment of taxes.**

MOTION by Jayne Despres, seconded by David Rheume to set the rate of interest that shall be applied for overpayment of taxes at 3%. Discussion: None. VOTE: 7-0.

❑ **Item #88 Consider approval of the Capital Improvements Budget.**

MOTION by Linda Caprara, seconded by David Rheume to approve the Capital Improvements Budget. Discussion: None. VOTE: 7-0.

❑ **Item #89 Consider a resolution for the School's 2003-2004 overdraft to come from reserve funds and be repaid in July 2004.**

*MOTION by Bill MacDonald, seconded by Linda Caprara, to consider a resolution for the School's 2003-2004 overdraft to come from reserve funds and be repaid in July 2004. Discussion: None. VOTE: 7-0.*

❑ **Item #90 Consider an ordinance to ban dogs on Norcross Point.**

David Rheame recommended that the Town Manager and Chief of Police rewrite the existing ordinance banning dogs from the Town Beach to include Norcross Point to be available for the July meeting.

*MOTION Patrice Putman, seconded by David Rheame to pass the ordinance to ban dogs on Norcross Point.. Discussion: Jim Norris asked when the ordinance would be effective. Town Manager Cornell Knight stated that two public hearings were required (the second reading may be waived by Town Council) and could be schedule for July to become effective in August. VOTE: 7-0.*

❑ **Item #91 Consider signing a contract with URS Engineers for the sidewalk project (Charles Street, Route 133, Main Street).**

MOTION by David Rheame, seconded by Jim Norris, to sign a contract with URS Engineers for the sidewalk project (Charles Street, Route 133 and Main Street). Discussion: It is a grant-funded project. However, Town Manager Cornell Knight stated the Town is paying approximately \$40,000 towards the project. - a matching requirement of the grant equaling 20% of the total cost). VOTE: 7-0.

❑ **Item #92 Consider expending funds from the salt shed reserve fund to build a salt shed at the Highway garage.**

Town Manager, Cornell Knight stated that \$18,000 is in the salt shed reserve account. Director of Public Works, Dave Smith, presented a plan to move the red modular building next to the Adell building to the highway garage to be used as a salt shed. It has received Winthrop Planning Board approval.

*MOTION by Linda Caprara, seconded by Jayne Despres to expend funds from the salt shed reserve fund to build a salt shed at the Highway Garage. Discussion: None. VOTE: 7-0.*

❑ **Item #93 Consider the sale for the 1970 street sweeper.**

Director of Public Works, Dave Smith, stated the mechanic got the 1970 street sweeper running. Mr. Smith asked for authorization to negotiate the sale of the street sweeper. The Town of Turner may be interested. David Rheame asked about putting it out to bid. Mr. Smith stated it had already been out to bid and they did not receive any bids.

*MOTION by Jayne Despres, seconded by Linda Caprara, to authorize the sale of the 1970 street sweeper. Discussion: None. VOTE: 7-0.*

❑ **Item #94 Consider the road-paving schedule for 2004.**

*MOTION by Linda Caprara, seconded by Patrice Putman, to approve the road-paving schedule for 2004 as presented in the packet. Discussion: David Rheame asked if the schedule is coordinated with the water district. Director of Public Works, David Smith stated yes. Patrice Putman asked about the repair of the railroad crossing at Annabessacook Road. Mr. Smith will call the Railroad Company tomorrow. The Railroad Company was scheduled to redo the crossing in June. VOTE: 7-0.*

❑ **Item #95 Consider ordering a backhoe, payment from the 2004-2005 budget.**

Town Manager, Cornell Knight, stated the backhoe at the Transfer Station is no longer working. Therefore, they have been renting one for the last few weeks, which is very expensive. Mr. Knight requested approval to order a new backhoe to pay in the next fiscal year. If it is ordered now, it will be here by July.

*MOTION by Jayne Despres, seconded by Patrice Putman to table item #95 to the June 16<sup>th</sup> meeting to allow Director of Public Works, David Smith, to obtain written estimates. Discussion: None. VOTE: 7-0.*

- ❑ **Item #96 Discuss the need for a milfoil penalty ordinance.**  
*MOTION by David Rheume, seconded by Linda Caprara, to table Item #96 to the July meeting. Discussion: None. VOTE: 7-0.*
- ❑ **Item #97 Consider charging Apple Farm Crossing development expenses to surplus.**  
*MOTION by David Rheume, seconded by Linda Caprara to charge Apple Farm Crossing development expenses to surplus. Discussion: None. VOTE: 5-2 (Cookson & Despres oppose.)*
- ❑ **Item #98 Hold a public hearing on the Special Amusement application Fast Eddie's.**  
 Chair Kevin Cookson opened the public hearing at 9:40PM. Chief Joseph Young asked what special amusement entails. The official definition was not available. Fast Eddie's had entertainment in previous years that involved women in bikini's washing cars. He suggested approving for music only. Chair Kevin Cookson closed the public hearing at 9:42PM.
- ❑ **Item #99 Consider the Special Amusement Application for Fast Eddie's Route 202.**  
*MOTION by David Rheume, seconded by Jim Norris, to approve the Special Amusement Application for music only at Fast Eddie's. Discussion: None. VOTE 7-0.*
- ❑ **Item #100 Appointments Committee Report.**  
*MOTION by Jim Norris, seconded by Patrice Putman, to appoint Jay Lyndsay to the Winthrop Tree Board. Discussion: None. VOTE: 7-0.*  
*MOTION by Jim Norris, seconded by Bill MacDonald, to appoint Sue Thomas, to the Winthrop Tree Board. Discussion: None. VOTE: 7-0*
- ❑ **Item #101 Update on the town office project.**
  - Carpet is 90% done.
  - Loam and seed, paving and striping needs to be done. We are holding a significant amount of money.
  - Town Manager, Cornell Knight would like approval of a \$400 expenditure for the alarm system. The old Town Office had a panel alarm that responded to the dispatch center. The new Town Office is out of range and a relay antenna, costing \$400, is needed outside the office.  
*MOTION by David Rheume, seconded by Linda Caprara to approve the expenditure of \$400 for the alarm system. Discussion: None. VOTE: 7-0*
  - *MOTION by David Rheume, seconded by Linda Caprara to approve the sound system for the All Purpose Room as designed by Josh Wheeler costing \$2800. VOTE: 7-0.*
- ❑ **Manager's Report**
  - Vote tomorrow. Polls are open 8AM – 8PM.
  - The Kinney property is cleaned up. CEO Beth Young inspected the property with Patrol Officer, Josh Wheeler,
  - The new Town of Winthrop website is up and running.
  - There is a Town Council Special Meeting on the June 16<sup>th</sup>. It is a joint public hearing with the Planning Board for a Tower Ordinance.
  - The final figures for the Adel Building BAN approval will be available soon.
  - Dave Smith was named a Roads Scholar by the Maine Public Works Association.
  - Homeland Security funding of \$37,000 has been approved verbally. A written letter should be received tomorrow.
  - Town Manager, Cornell Knight will be away from June 15 - June 27 on a "Manager Exchange" to Norway. The Chief of Police will fill in for town manager duties during his absence.
- ❑ **Other Business**
  - David Rheume heard from Kennebec Savings Bank who is giving a substantial landscaping grant to the Town of Winthrop.
  - Jim Norris stated that he was impressed with the assistance and cooperation of the highway employees who helped in the Mt. Pisgah Trail dedication. The parking lot looks wonderful. "It showed well for our community. Thank you to Dave and his staff".
  - Bill MacDonald asked what the procedural issues are if the moratorium should expire before the Tower Ordinance becomes effective. Lee Bragg stated the moratorium could be extended by vote.
- ❑ **Adjourn**  
*MOTION by David Rheume, seconded by Linda Caprara, to adjourn at 9:56PM. Discussion: None. VOTE: 7-0.*

*Submitted by Lisa Frost, Secretary to the Town Council.*