

“Draft-Not yet Reviewed or Accepted by the Town Council”

**Winthrop Town Council Meeting Minutes
Regular Town Meeting
Monday, August 2, 2004
Winthrop Town Office**

- The meeting was called to order at 7:02PM by Chair Kevin Cookson.
- Roll Call

Council Members Present: Kevin Cookson, Patrice Putman, David Rheaume, Jim Norris, Jayne Despres, Bill MacDonald. (Linda Caprara absent)

Others present: Cornell Knight (Town Manager), Paula Gaudet (Superintendent), Cindy Dunham, Lonney Steeves, Sue Thomas, David Dyer, Linda Dyer, Ken Buck, Jim Baker, Danielle Gamiz KJ reporter.

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

❑ **Minutes of July 12, 2004**

MOTION by Patrice Putman, seconded by Bill MacDonald, to approve the minutes of July 12, 2004. Discussion: Patrice Putman noted an incorrect spelling of her name. VOTE: 6-0.

❑ **Item #120 Hear a presentation from the Director of the Maine State Housing Authority on affordable housing.**

Michael Finnegan, Director of Maine State Housing Authority gave a presentation on affordable housing in the state of Maine and Winthrop and its importance to economic development.

Chair Kevin Cookson called a recess at 8:00PM for members of the public and Town Council to ask questions of the Director of MSHA.

Chair Kevin Cookson called the meeting back to order at 8:18PM.

❑ **Item #121 Consider a request from the Youth Football program to cover the program under the town's liability policy.**

MOTION by David Rheaume, seconded by Bill MacDonald, to approve the request from the Youth Football program to cover the program under the town's liability policy. Discussion: Patrice Putman asked what other programs are covered under the town's liability. Lonney Steeves said it was for municipal recreation programs. Collision sports like ice hockey and football are not covered under the YMCA's policy. Jayne Despres asked what the cost estimate would be to cover the program. Town Manager Cornell Knight said it wouldn't add to the premium cost for it is a blanket policy to include recreational sports like football and basketball. VOTE: 6-0.

❑ **Item #122 Consider Order #118, \$190,000 from School Revolving Renovation Fund, for renovations to the Grade School**

MOTION by David Rheaume, seconded by Jim Norris, to approve Order #118, \$190,000 from School Revolving Renovation Fund, for renovations to the Grade School. Discussion: Chair Kevin Cookson asked Superintendent Paula Gaudet if one through six were done and if it was approved by the State. Superintendent Paula Gaudet said yes. VOTE: 6-0.

❑ **Item #123 Consider the bids for the sale of the 1982 backhoe.**

Chair Kevin Cookson tabled Item #123 to the September agenda.

❑ **Item #124 Consider Order #119, a Tax Anticipation Note up to \$1,900,000.**

MOTION By David Rheaume, seconded by Patrice Putman, to approve Order #119, a Tax Anticipation Note up to \$1,900,000. Discussion: None. VOTE: 6-0.

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❑ **Item #125 Consider the Enhancement Grant application for sidewalk reconstruction and the millstream walkway.**

Town Manager Cornell Knight submitted a grant application today for sidewalk reconstruction on Main Street from Highland Avenue to Route 202 and the Mill Stream Walkway. The total cost is \$355,400 with the local share being 30%. \$106,620 would be bonded and paid within two years.

In addition, Town Manager, Cornell Knight will be applying for a Safe Walk to School Grant for sidewalk reconstruction on Highland Avenue.

MOTION by Jim Norris, seconded by Patrice Putman, to approve the Enhancement Grant application for sidewalk reconstruction and the millstream walkway. Discussion: None. VOTE: 6-0.

❑ **Item #126 Appointments Committee Report**

MOTION by Jim Norris, seconded by David Rheume, to approve the Katie Stebbins to serve on the Tree Board. Discussion: None. VOTE: 6-0.

❑ **Item #127 Consider the Town Manager’s Contract renewal.**

MOTION by Jim Norris, seconded by Jayne Despres, to approve the employment agreement between the Town of Winthrop, Maine and Cornell F Knight. Discussion: Jim Norris said, “We are fortunate.” Chair Kevin Cookson said we are fortunate and appreciate his work. VOTE: 6-0.

❑ **Manager’s Report**

- *MOTION by David Rheume, seconded by Patrice Putman, to accept the Dell laptop donation to the Ambulance Service. Discussion. None. VOTE: 6-0.*
- Town Manager, Cornell Knight stated he submitted the Fun After School Grant. This is the third year and is a \$49,805 grant. Patrice Putman reviewed the success of the Fun After School Program and stated the program’s enrollment has increased, students’ grades have improved, and there is a decrease in absenteeism in school. She stated Winthrop’s program is viewed as the best in the State. A large number of high school students volunteer in the program and are good mentors.
- *MOTION by Jayne Despres, seconded by Patrice Putman, to approve the 2005 ambulance charges. Discussion: None. VOTE: 6-0.*
- The new Fire Ladder Truck is schedule to arrive Friday, August 6, 2004.
- The town’s valuation for the tax commitment looks to be \$800,000 less than the initially projected \$12,500,000 increase. Some of the deficit can be made up from overlay but the tax rate will likely be 21.75 mils. The assessor is still checking the totals.
- *MOTION by David Rheume, seconded by Jim Norris to approve the encumbrances carried over from 2003-2004 budget. Discussion: Patrice Putman asked about the tree removal. Town Manager, Cornell Knight stated it was carried over because the planting was going to occur until after July 1, 2004. VOTE: 6-0.*
- Town Manager Cornell Knight asked if the September meeting would be moved to the second Monday of September due to the Labor Day holiday on the 6th. Councilors agreed the meeting would be moved to September 13, 2004

❑ **Other Business**

Citizen, Ken Buck asked if the Town had considered repairing the Backhoe (which Mr. Buck estimated repairs at \$5500), instead of buying the excavator. Chair Kevin Cookson stated the Town Mechanic looked at the backhoe and felt it was “well beyond repair”. Mr. Cookson explained that the Kubota Excavator that was purchased was in the

Capital Improvement Account for a couple of years. Mr. Buck questioned what would happen with the Excavator in the winter for it is not the same piece of equipment as a backhoe. Town Manager, Cornell Knight explained that the Director of Public works said it would be more useful for ditches, trenches etc. than a backhoe and if a backhoe was needed, the backhoe at the Transfer Station could be used. And, if they need sand and salt, they have a front loader. Mr. Buck asked what they would do if the loader was moving snow and the trucks need sand and salt. Mr. Buck said it was a mistake in buying an excavator and not another backhoe.

David Dyer said it would be minimal money to repair the backhoe. Chair Kevin Cookson stated the item has been tabled this evening until the September meeting where they would review the sealed bids received. The Council has the right to reject any and all bids and could have the option of keeping the backhoe.

David Dyer questioned the purchase of the trailer for the trailer cost more than the repairs to the backhoe. Town Manager Cornell Knight explained the trailer would be useful for moving several pieces of equipment and help in saving miles on the equipment.

Ken Buck questioned why a 12-ton trailer was purchased when a 16-ton trailer was approved by the Town Council. Chair Kevin Cookson explained the company did not have a 16-ton trailer in stock and the Director of Public Works realized a 12-ton trailer would meet all the needs and it would save the Town \$1700.

□ **Adjourn**

MOTION by Jayne Despres, seconded by Jim Norris, to adjourn at 8:50PM. Discussion: None. VOTE: 6-0.

Submitted by Lisa Frost, Secretary to the Town Council.

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