

Winthrop Town Council Minutes
Monday, August 7 - Town Office

7:00 PM Business Meeting

Attending: Sarah Fuller, Chairperson; Barbara Buck, Linda Caprara, Rita Moran, Priscilla Jenkins, Linda MacDonald, June Bubier @7:05, Gary Rosenthal, Ryan Frost, Ginny Geyer, Jana Diket, Joe Pietroski and citizens

7:00 PM - Chairperson Fuller called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance, and began the meeting, to wit:

Item 71 Disbursement warrants signed by Councilors MacDonald and Caprara

Item 72 To consider approving the annual request to close Union Street for the Chamber Art Festival – Barbara Walsh requested the annual closing of Union Street for the art show with the help of the police department. Councilor Moran made a motion to close Union Street for the Art Show on August 19, 2017 with a second from Councilor Jenkins, motion passed 6-0, Councilor Bubier was absent for this vote

Item 73 To hear an update on the Fire Station Construction Project - work order changes – Phil Locashio and Chief Brooks gave an overview of change orders to come for the new fire station project due to ledge, parking lot soil, electric service and masonry. Costs for these funds would come from \$150,000 of the donated funds that was earmarked as contingency. Chief Brooks also mentioned that these same contingency funds could be used for kitchen, phone system and other items. Councilor MacDonald asked if the parking lot in front of the station was long enough. She stated that it appears that it is close to the road. Chief Brooks stated that there was plenty of room for the fire apparatus, but understood her concern. Councilor Moran wanted to know if the new station would have any impact on the new Main Street at Route 202 intersection. Chief Brooks stated the fire department would be using the intersection, but the actual location of the new fire station would have no impact.

Item 74 To hear an auditor recommendation from our staff on how we can strengthen and improve the internal controls, flow of data, reporting and interaction between the School and the Town – Town Finance Director, Melody Main and School Finance Coordinator, Lisa Dinsmore reported that the school would manage school funds and revenue coming in with full review and access by the town for Revenue and Expense Budget Reports and Cash Flow. The school would reconcile income. The town council requested a follow up in a few months to see how things were going. Councilor Jenkins made a motion to accept the internal control changes with a second from Councilor Moran. Motion passed 7-0

Item 75 To consider a school department proposal to utilize additional state school funds – Superintendent, Gary Rosenthal praised the previous vote to change the Internal Controls. Superintendent Rosenthal then requested to use the \$277,179 in additional state school funding

in the following manner; \$100,000 to offset cuts made in the proposed FY18 school budget to fund the health aide position in Article 5 as well as to restore some funding to Article VI for System Administration. Superintendent Rosenthal stated that \$177,179 could then be used to reduce the mil-rate increase for 2017 taxes.

Councilor Fuller stated that both the town's attorney and the schools attorney agree that if the town council does not agree to approve funding requests for the additional state school funds then those funds go into undesignated funds. Councilor Caprara does not want to reconsider adding funds into Article 5 and Article 6. Councilor Jenkins states that she supports giving \$100,000 back to the school and using \$177,179 as property tax relief.

Councilor Jenkins made a motion on Resolution 105-Part II to approve as written with a second from Councilor Moran. Discussion: Councilor Fuller read emails from the town's attorney and from the schools attorney who both agreed that if no agreeable vote took place the additional state school funds would go into un-designated funds. Councilor Caprara stated that she still stands as a 'no.' Councilor MacDonald stated she is a "no." Councilor Jenkins stated that she thinks this should be passed. Councilor Fuller stated that she would consider adding funds to the school budget, but at an adjusted, reduced amount. Councilor Moran suggested this be done by line item. Councilor Caprara stated the town council does not have authority to line item vote on the school budget. Councilor Jenkins then withdrew her motion.

Chairperson Fuller entertained another motion on the additional state school funds. Councilor Jenkins made a motion to use additional state funds in the amount of \$100,000 for schools and \$177,179 for property tax relief. There was no second to Councilor Jenkins motion which automatically sends the funds to the undesignated fund account.

Item 76 To have a budget discussion on deferred funding; how to balance any budget increases over years without additional debt funding; consider what the mill rate could look like over the next two years – Ryan Frost gave an overview of some of the items that had been deferred from the FY18 budget and from prior years.

1. Paving \$320,000, no funding in current FY18 budget
2. Maranacook Dam \$132,817 (estimated), still pending new bid process) needed to further fund this project. We have already designated funds in the amount of \$84,402. The estimated total cost for Winthrop's share is projected to be \$217,219.
3. Fire Station Construction \$120,000. The funding amount for this project was at \$127,000 per year, and is estimated to be down to roughly \$120,000 per year. Funding for this project had been in the FY17 budget with no new effect on the tax rate since we had debt obligations retire. In order to keep the municipal budget below flat for FY18 this funding was cut.
4. Ambulance – Total cost would be in the range of \$230,000 or \$46,000 per year over five years.

5. Cruiser – Total cost would be in the range of \$36,000 or \$12,000 per year over three years
6. Backhoe – Transfer station backhoe would be in the range of \$120,000 or \$24,000 per year over five years.

****Culverts** - We have several medium to large culverts that are in need of replacement. This is being mentioned since they have been deferred from prior years. Matt Burnham is working on getting some basic cost estimates. The town has already designated \$50,000 out of bond funding toward these projects, but more will be needed. \$? It may be possible to seek partial funds from DEP on one or two projects.

Item 77 To consider authorizing the manager to vote in the Maine Municipal Association's Election on behalf of the town council. Councilor Moran made a motion to allow the town manager to vote on the councils behalf, with a second from Councilor Caprara, motion passed 7-0.

Item 78 To sign quitclaim deeds for satisfied property tax obligations, per list dated August 7, 2017 – Councilor Caprara made a motion to for the council to sign the quitclaim deeds for satisfied property tax obligations per the list dated August 7, 2017, with a second from Councilor Bubier, motion passed 7-0

Other Business: Councilor Jenkins requested another councilor be added to the Marijuana Committee. It was determined that Councilor Moran would be on the committee.

It was mentioned that the Food Sovereignty Law passed the legislature.

Reminder of the Art Show and Rotary Gumbo and Barbeque Festival on August 19, 2017

Manager's Report:

1. Speed limit – Annabessacook Drive
2. Mill Rate scheduled to be set on August 25, 2017
3. Audit to begin August 28, 2017
4. MMA Convention – October 4 & 5, 2017

Adjourn.