

Winthrop Town Council Meeting Minutes: February 1, 2016

Attending: Sarah Fuller, Chairperson; David Bubier, Linda Caprara, Richard Henry, Priscilla Jenkins, Linda MacDonald, Barbara Buck, Peter Nielsen, Lauri Carson, Greg Chabot, Jonathan Russell, Linda Huff, Fire Chief Dan Brooks, Police Chief Ryan Frost, Melody Main, Gary Rosenthal, Ginny Geyer, Phil Locashio, Carl Swanson, approximately 5 citizens.

Following the Call To Order at 7:00 PM, Chairperson Fuller led the Pledge of Allegiance, determined the quorum, and began the meeting, to wit:

Item 9. The Council voted to approve the minutes for the meeting held January 11, 2016 (Jenkins/Henry, 6-0), and signed disbursement warrants.

Item 10. The Council voted to appoint Barbara Buck to fill the Council vacancy (Henry/Bubier, 6-0). Town Clerk Lauri Carson administered the oath of office, and Barbara joined the Council.

Item 11. Councilor MacDonald presented recommendations from the Appointments Committee for the full Council's consideration: Planning Board Alternate Member, Kevin Cookson, 5 year term; Winthrop Utilities District Trustee Richard Coleman, thru 3/31/17; Conservation Commission, Wini Turner, 3 year term. The Council voted to approve the recommendations (MacDonald/Jenkins, 7-0).

Item 12. Fire Chief Brooks updated the Council on plans for a new fire station. Since his last report, there were four significant developments: 1) Elliot Thayer surveyed the site, and defined its wet areas, to locate the building in the best spot, 2) Phil Locashio has progressed with the building design, 3) A donor may come forward to assist financially with the project, 4) A site abutter seems willing to allow an easement across his property for an underground utilities connection. The Chief intends to provide a construction cost estimate at the March or April Council meeting. Questions remain about the driveway right of way, the old station appraisal, and an underground ledge profile.

Item 15. At 7:14 PM, the Chair opened a public hearing on a Special Entertainment Application from Peppers Garden and Grill. Jonathan Russell attended to answer questions. Fire Chief Brooks asked for time to consult with the State Fire Marshal's Office. Councilor Henry advised we seek the Fire Marshal's input. The Chair closed the public hearing at 7:20 PM. The Council voted to approve the license for 2016, contingent on approval from the Fire Chief and the State Fire Marshal (Jenkins/Caprara, 7-0).

Item 13. Superintendent Gary Rosenthal presented a handout listing goals, objectives, and achievements in the Winthrop School System. He noted the system enrolls nearly 900 students, with a 94% graduation rate. The Councilors thanked him for the update.

Item 14. Auditor Greg Chabot distributed a Management Letter and an overview of the FY 2015-2016 audit. The Town received an unmodified, good opinion. The audit noted no deficiencies or material weaknesses in the town's internal control procedures. Two of the three suggestions in the management letter have been implemented, and the third will be soon, with Greg's assistance. Councilor Caprara asked the Town Manager to keep the Council informed of any developing expense overages. Fund balance continues to be lower than recommended.

Item 16. The Town Manager explained two offers arrived for a tax acquired property shown on Tax Map 8, Lot 67. Todd Park offered \$3,500. Doyle's Tree Service offered \$1,650. The Council voted to accept the offer from Todd Park (Jenkins/Henry, 7-0).

Item 17. The Town Manager explained that the contract for Assessing services with Don Cadwell needed renewal. A 2% price increase was noted in the draft. The new contract language spells out more fully the body of the work. Mr. Cadwell had reviewed the proposal and found it acceptable. The Council approved the proposed contract (Caprara/Henry, 7-0).

Item 18. The Council voted to sign quit claim deeds for satisfied tax obligations for: Map 11 Lot 6; Map 6 Lot 17; Map 20 Lot 29; and Map 2 Lot 36 (Henry/Caprara, 7-0).

Item 19. After explanation, the Council voted to approve the Town Manager's request for an interest charge adjustment in the amount of \$586.05 for tax on property owned by Douglas Dunn (Caprara/Henry, 7-0).

Item 20. The Town Manager explained the town received a \$2,000 tax payment from Dan Pottle in 2012. While his receipt showed the money was taken in, the record does not show where it was then applied, leading to an unpaid balance on the books. The town's software conversion may account for the error, though extensive research failed to trace the amount. The Council voted to apply the payment to the unpaid balance (Caprara/Jenkins, 7-0).

Other Business:

1. Councilor Jenkins will discuss a Committee on Aging at the next Council meeting.

Manager's Report:

1. Presented a Budget timeline for the 2016-2017 municipal and school budget process.
2. MMA handouts- Workers Comp training, loss control program.
3. Cobbossee Watershed District minutes.
4. South Rd./RT 202 beacon working by 2/4/16.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.