

Winthrop Town Council
Regular Meeting
Monday, February 9, 2015
7 p.m.
Winthrop Town Office

Call to Order 7:02

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call - Chair Sarah Fuller, Kevin Cookson, Linda Caprara, Lawrence Fitzgerald, Kenneth Buck, Richard Henry, Linda MacDonald, Town Manager Jeff Woolston, Lee Bragg – Town Attorney, Joyce Tillson, Carl Swanson

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

Approve January 5, 2015 and January 26, 2015 meeting minutes

Motion: Fitzgerald

Second: Caprara

Discussion: None

Vote: 7-0

Item #11 – Winthrop Fire Department Safety and Health Award Presentation

Mike Laplante – Workplace Safety and Health

Steven Greely – Director of Workplace Safety and Health

Mr. Laplante - explained that the agency does inspections in the public sector. Some are done without any notice at times. Public employers can apply for Safety and Health Awards, calculate injury rates and many other factors; if everything looks good a survey is given and then a consult is done between the State and the facility. Only 23 fire departments have received this award. It is a huge deal to give such an award to another fire department. Steve Greely presented the award to the Fire Department. The fire department also received a Legislative Sentiment presented by Craig Hickman. Chief Brooks accepted the awards and spoke about the program and his committed staff.

Item #15 – Consider Letter of Intent – Micro Grant – Everything for Kids

Jeff updated Council - State said Town Manager could legally sign the Letter of Intent. However, there will be a public hearing to consider accepting the funds if the package is approved.

No Council action needed at this time.

Item # 16– Consider Accepting Drug Forfeiture Funds

\$1,240.00 from the State of Maine to be put in drug forfeiture account.

Motion: Cookson

Second: Caprara

Discussion: None

Vote: 7-0

Item #17 -Town Personnel Policy Discussion

Councilor Caprara spoke that this was changed a few years ago to reflect similar pay as other towns. Proposes a change to revert back to what the town had; should be more general and not adjusting based on other towns. Chair Fuller asked for personnel policy to look at. Police Chief spoke in disagreement to the proposed change of reverting back to previous way; you get what you pay for. Not based on every year or two has never asked or received additional raise. Office staff agreed with statement you get what you pay for.

Motion: Fitzgerald to table to next meeting

Second: Caprara

Discussion:

Vote: 6-1 (Cookson)

Item #18 Consider Personnel Policy Change Order – Health Insurance – Member/Family Contribution

Jeff explained Order #158 amendment to: - how much the town pays and how much the member pays. 90% to employees; 65% to family. This is inline with the recently approved union contract.

Motion: Cookson

Second: Fitzgerald

Discussion: None

Vote: 6-1 (MacDonald)

Item # 12– Consider Quit Claim Deeds

Map 19, Lot 11. year 2011

Motion: Cookson

Second: Henry

Discussion: None

Vote: 7-0

Item #13 -Consider Property Tax Abatements

Two trailers were moved off their lots without notifying the town. Request for Council to write-off the debts from 2009 to 2013 property taxes. They are no longer collectible.

Motion: Buck

Second: Fitzgerald

Discussion: acct's: 2891, 3654

Vote: 7-0

Item # 19 – Consider Info Request from Maine Senate President – Unfunded Mandates

Jeff will collect and forward any mandates the Council would like to submit (input the Council would like

to have the legislature look at). Submit via email by February 16, 2015.

Other Business

Councilor Cookson asked other members of the appointment committee for former Councilor Don Ellis to be appointed to the Utilites Board. Committees recommends.

Motion: Cookson

Second: Henry

Discussion: None

Vote: 7-0

Chair Fuller has been meeting with the School Board and Gary. Alot of work has been completed with the energy grant they have received and would like for the Councilors to take a tour. Will last about three hours and will be contucted 8 to 11 on a Saturday morning. Chair Fuller asked Council members to sign up for available date.

Chair Fuller asked other members to email any items for Town Manger ad be emailed to her.

Councilor Caprara - LD1118 has been printed and Wednesday is scheduled for hearing. (tax and foreclosed property as previously discussed)

Manager's Report

Jeff asked that the Council re-approve \$3,750 to fund WG Tech IT prpposal; money was to be taken out Safety Reserve fund, money isn't there. Asking to take out of the undesignated fund balance.

Motion: Cookson

Second: Caprara

Discussion: None

Vote: 7-0

Jeff has completed the Orders to the Noise Ordinance, needs all to sign except Councilor MacDonald (was not on board at the time).

State of Maine is asking for overlimit permit. Resurfacing of 133 to the Old Winthrop Road from the 202 bridge and from 202 Old Lewiston Road - Anabesacook intersection to the Monmouth/Leeds line.

Noise Ordinance approval (from previous public hearing)

Motion: Cookson

Second: Fitzgerald

Discussion: Police Chief asked Council for update on changes.

Vote: 7-0

Construction Overlimit Permit for town roads

Motion: Cookson

Second: Fitzgerald

Discussion: It was asked if rumble strips will be affected and they will not they stop at Charlie's Auto.

Vote: 7-0

Resignation of Darlene Beaulieu effective February 23, 2015

Item #14 - Consider the disposition of foreclosed property

The Council has been given the revised sheets.

Motion: Caprara to enter executive session per: MRSA Section 405 6.E

Second: Buck

Discussion: None

Vote: 7-0

7:50 Enter Executive Session

8:03 End Executive Session

Motion: Cookson (008/058-A, 35A/007-022, 008/067-A, 35A/008-018, 001/031, 35A/007-020, 004/012, 054/045-000-005) to foreclose.

Second: Cookson

Discussion: Town Manager and Town Attorney have spent alot of time on trying to collect on these properties. It is not for lack of trying.

Vote: 7-0

Motion: Fitzgerald; to take possession of 002/050-000-003

Second: Cookson

Discussion: None

Vote: 7-0

Motion: Cookson; to take possession of 040/019

Second: Fitzgerald

Discussion: None

Vote: 7-0

Cookson asked Town Attorney if Federal Government has lien on said property where does the town come in order. Lee Bragg - First. Blaine Plummer with Davis Real Estate, the property at 220 Maine Street, 031/175, is under contract and the Davis Agency is working with all lien holders. Ask Council to consider an extension to the seizure of property. Mr. Plummer expects mid-April for a closing.

Motion: Cookson to table for 90 days, 220 Main Street. 031/0175

Second: Buck

Discussion: Councilor Henry reminded Council that we have foreclosed and the Town is liable should anything happen on property. Councilor Fitzgerald asked Lee to speak. Lee explained that the Town owns and this is only pushing back the disposition for 90 days. Council is concerned with insuring the properties we have taken possession of.

Vote: 7-0

Motion: Caprara to accept \$4,579.03 plus interest and cost as full provided payment is made before quitclaim deed is issued. 001/053

Second: Fitzgerald

Discussion: Councilor Cookson explained to Council that payments made to an account go to the oldest year.

Vote: 7-0

Motion: Cookson to take possession of 002/050-000-005

Second: Fitzgerald

Discussion: None

Vote: 6-1 (Buck)

Motion: Fitzgerald, to take possession of 032/035-000-001

Second: Cookson

Discussion: None

Vote: 7-0

Jeff explained the next three properties on list have a 30 day delay due to bank involvement. As well as the next account (in orange).

Motion: Cookson to table for 30 days due to bank involvement; 054/007, 031/012, 012/010, 023/012, 031/057, 030/043, 009-047

Second: Fitzgerald

Discussion: 30 days is from date of letter, March Council meeting will be fine to consider.

Vote: 7-0

Jeff reminded- the owners have first priority on property until bid opening.

Item #20 Consider Executive Session - Title 1 Section 405.6.D. - Discussion of labor contract

Motion: Caprara, to enter executive session per MRSA Section

Second: Fitzgerald

Discussion: None

Vote: 7-0