

Winthrop Town Council Meeting Minutes: October 5, 2015

Attending: Sarah Fuller, Chair; Ken Buck, Linda Caprara, Kevin Cookson, Richard Henry, Linda MacDonald, Peter Nielsen, Gary Rosenthal, C. Swanson, R. Calcagni, J. Stebbins, S. Thomas, P. Jenkins, D. Bubier, J. Dovinsky, Chief Brooks, Chief Frost, 4 firefighters, L. Huff, C. Crosby, 4 citizens.

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

Item 116. The Council voted to approve the minutes of the meeting held September 14, 2015 (Buck/Henry, 5-0-1, Cookson abstain).

Item 117. Fire Chief Brooks presented the Council with concept drawings for a new fire station, briefly explained a preliminary construction budget, and addressed Councilor Buck's questions about ledge at the site, and about an alternate location. Councilor Cookson encouraged Chief Brooks to address the sewer issue at the intended site, and said his support is conditional on not raising property taxes for this project.

The Council voted to repurpose \$900 from the existing budget, and authorize \$4,000-\$6,000 in the next budget for detailed planning (Cookson/Caprara, 6-0). Administration was advised to keep an eye out for grant opportunities. The Council moved away from investing in the old station if the new project is close to development. The Chief can look into selling the old station at the appropriate time.

Item 118. School Superintendent Rosenthal presented a memorandum explaining the School Department's intended uses for its 17% portion of the MEPRS refund to the town, totaling \$72,085.57. Following discussion, the Council voted to transfer \$72,085.57 to the School Department for projects and purposes explained in the Superintendent's memorandum dated September 28, 2015 (Cookson/Buck, 6-0).

Police Chief Frost presented a memorandum detailing costs first mentioned to the Council in July for contracted early retirement costs not provided for in the department budget. Councilors Cookson and Fuller acknowledged the item. The Council voted to approve the use of \$32,313 in MEPRS refund money to reimburse the Police budget (Cookson/Buck, 6-0). Chairperson Fuller stated that the balance of the MEPRS funds remain in surplus.

Item 119. Peter Nielsen explained a citizen's request for council support for a repeat request to MEDOT to lower the speed limit on Rte. 202 to 45 mph from East Winthrop to Squire Hill. Discussion ensued on the safety improvements made to Rt. 202 to date, and their effects. The Council consensus was to support the request with a letter to MEDOT, although Councilor Buck did not share that view.

Item 120. The Council voted to accept a bid from Kathleen Frost for \$1,400 for tax acquired property at Map 4, Lot 12 (Cookson/MacDonald, 6-0)

The Council heard the Town Manager explain 2 separate bids for a tax acquired mobile home at 9 King St. on Map 2, Lot 050-000-003. After discussion, the Council voted to accept a bid of \$375 from Richard Calcagni for the mobile home (Buck/Caprara, 6-0).

Item 121. The Town Manager requested Council support for an application to the Maine National Guard for assistance removing the swim platform/pier from Maranacook Lake. Councilor Caprara asked the manager to check with Superintendent Rosenthal to see if work to the athletic fields should be included in the application. The Council voted to support the application (Caprara/Henry, 6-0).

Item 122. The Chairperson opened a public hearing on the General Assistance annual updates at 8:11 PM. There was discussion about what could be achieved, or not, within the existing law pertaining to the standards. The Chairperson closed the public hearing at 8:18 PM.

Item 123. The Council voted to approve the DHHS annual General Assistance Ordinance updates (Buck/Caprara, 6-0).

Item 124. The Council voted to sign a quit claim deed for a satisfied property tax obligation (Cookson/Caprara, 6-0)

Item 125. The Council voted to nominate Peter Nielsen for election to the PERC/Municipal Review Committee (Cookson/Caprara, 6-0)

Other Business:

Councilor Cookson updated the council on jail cost issues at the county level, with consequent state and local implications.

Chairperson Fuller announced a Winthrop Historical Society WW II remembrance event, scheduled for October 10, from 1-4:30 PM in the All Purpose Room.

Manager's Report:

1. Discussed the Emergency Operations Plan regarding rail safety, with participation by Chief Frost, Chief Brooks, and Ambulance Director Dovinsky.
2. Area mill rate comparative information.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.