

Winthrop Town Council
Budget Workshop Meeting
Wednesday May 22, 2013 at 7 p.m.
Winthrop Town Office

Call to Order - 7 pm

Roll Call – Councilor Cookson, Councilor Fuller, Councilor Buck, Councilor Caprara, Councilor Jenkins were present w/the Town Manager. Councilor Ellis and Councilor Fitzgerald were absent.

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

Approve the May 13, 2013 Workshop Minutes – Councilor Jenkins moved, Councilor Caprara seconded to accept the May 13, 2013 Workshop Minutes passed unanimously with the following corrections: Hill n Dalers.

Complete Review of Municipal Budget- At this time, the tax rate will stay the same with a larger overlay or decrease slightly with a smaller overlay with the current municipal budget and a flat funded school budget. The manager reduced the Transfer Station budget by about \$10k. He will reduce the budget further by recalculating the tipping fees based on 3,100 tons of municipal solid waste versus 3,200 tons. Reworked the phone bills across the municipality and was able to cut another \$1,000 dollars. This meant that some departments increased, some decreased their phone costs; but, overall there was a \$1,000 decrease in phone costs. There was also a short discussion about possibly sending the public works workload out to bid. The manager commented that before that happened; it would be necessary to write down precisely what the public works crew did to make sure bids would represent a true comparison of costs. During discussion before the vote, the police station roof replacement was also discussed. Bids should request costs for metal and asphalt/composite shingles. Councilor Jenkins made a motion, seconded by Councilor Fuller to approve the capital improvement budget which passed unanimously. Councilor Fuller moved, Councilor Jenkins seconded the motion to move the municipal budget to the final approval meeting which was passed unanimously.

Complete Review of School Budget – Gary Rosenthal gave a brief review of where the school was relative to finalizing their budget. He planned to have a “tax flat” budget. He said they were \$88k over the mark, but would have the flat funding met by the next Tuesday Board meeting. He did not have any particulars for each area of the budget at the time of the meeting. They are developing a strategic plan to meet some of the concerns of last year’s budget season. He plans to take about 7 years paying off the summer salary deficit through carryover of bond payments after the bond matures. Councilor Buck asks questions about cell phone costs and usage. The issue of summer salary was also discussed as it applies to the budget. Councilor Cookson stated that the school board must get the approval of the council to use undesignated funds or to spend the summer salary fund. He also said that so far this year, the request hasn’t been made. There were other discussions about the nature of salaries and where the school system might want them to go. Mr Rosenthal talked in broad terms about leveling the playing field for the entire faculty versus actual raises. Councilor Cookson also asked whether the school was looking at health care costs. Mr Rosenthal asked about the feeling amongst the councilors if half of the \$291k revenue requirement might be paid out of undesignated surplus? A straw poll of the council reflected a position that the town does not have enough undesignated surplus to support the additional revenue requested by the school. Another discussion ensued that dealt with the use of the school’s use of undesignated surplus in previous year’s budgets. Another discussion about special education transportation costs. By the end of the upcoming

school year, the savings in transportation from moving the children from the Wayne program to Winthrop should be evident.

Adjourn – Fuller moved, Caprara seconded to adjourn at 8: 37.