

WINTHROP TOWN COUNCIL

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes

July 8, 2013 7 P.M.

Attendance: Chairman Kevin Cookson: Priscilla Jenkins (arrived at 7:04 p.m.), Linda Caprara, Larry Fitzgerald, Ken Buck Sr., Don Ellis, Jeffrey Woolston (Town Manager) and Julie Winberg (Secretary). Excused: Sarah Fuller

The meeting opened at 7:00 p.m.

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

Item #65 Review School Budget

Gary Rosenthal gave an overview of the budget. He explained that the budget remains exactly the same as was presented on May 28, 2013. None of the Articles have changed.

At the present time, Winthrop schools have 850 students with 21 less teachers. There has been a 6% decrease in title funds. The school is now charging \$31,000 to the town office for rent (recommended by the auditors). The staff benefits and salaries are still under negotiation at the present time.

The Council stressed that the municipal budget did not include raises and also cut \$100,000 out of the employee benefit line. They reminded the School Board that by Charter the Council has a right to cut additional monies from the school budget and the majority of Council members indicated that is what will be done if consideration is not given to parity between municipal employees and school employees.

A pole of councilors was as follows:

Don Ellis.....	against raises for employees and benefit line must be cut.
Larry Fitzgerald.....	matter of fairness - school has to feel the same burden.
Priscilla Jenkins.....	up to the school to negotiate their salaries

Ken Buck, Sr.....	town employees received no increase, state no increase, only fair teachers take a cut in wage increase as well.
Linda Caprara.....	fairness – benefits need to be cut
Chair Cookson.....	the town attorney verified that this is perfectly legal as the town holds the purse strings. The school is a department of the town. The Council runs the town and the Council holds the final authority.

The Chair asked that the school budget, after their board meets on Wednesday, to send the final budget to the Town Manager to disperse by Thursday for the Council's review.

The Council will hold hearings on both budgets at 7:00 p.m. on Monday.

Motion by Caprara and seconded by Jenkins, passing with a unanimous vote, the meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

/jcw