

Winthrop Town Council
Special Meeting Minutes
Monday, December 16, 2013 at 7 p.m.
Town Office

Call to Order: 7:00pm

Roll Call – Chairman Kevin Cookson, Councilors Sarah Fuller, Linda Caprara, Ken Buck Sr., Priscilla Jenkins, Larry Fitzgerald, and Don Ellis Jr.; Town Attorney Lee Bragg and Town Manager Jeff Woolston were in attendance.

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

Item #115 – Public Hearing to consider American Legion Post 40 Entertainment License

Hearing open at 7:02

Chief Young and Councilor Fuller agreed that “etc.” under type of entertainment was a bit vague

Hearing closed at 7:03

Item #116 – Consider American Legion Post 40 Entertainment License

Councilor Caprara made a motion, seconded by Councilor Buck to approve the entertainment license. Councilor Fuller said etc. gives them carte blanche to do anything. She was ok with special events but said they should not be lax in their application. This motion was denied (4, 3) due to the etc. in the application.

Councilor Jenkins made a motion, seconded by Councilor Fuller to approve the license application if the legion replaced the etc. with actual activities the organization had in mind. The council approved this motion unanimously. (7, 0).

Item #117 – Consider Inter Local Agreement of Maranacook Dam Committee

The town manager relayed that there were two minor administrative changes sent from the latest Readfield Select Board decision.

Councilor Jenkins made a motion, seconded by Councilor Fuller to accept the changes submitted by the Readfield Board of Selectmen which passed unanimously (7, 0).

Item #110 – Consider combined finance committee recommendations for school activity accounts

Councilor Caprara said that the committee recommends that the gate receipts and “pay-to-play” money left over in the current accounts should be returned to the town’s general fund. The money should be used to lower the school nutrition program debt.

After a short discussion about what the combined finance committee had decided and that there were newly completed sub account rules, the following motions and votes were taken:

Councilor Caprara made a motion, seconded by Councilor Fuller to return the identified money within the activity accounts to the general fund. This motion passed (7, 0).

Councilor Caprara made a motion, seconded by Councilor Fuller to move the money that had been moved to the general fund to the school budget to pay for the school nutrition debt; which passed unanimously, (7, 0).

Councilor Fitzgerald made a motion, seconded by Councilor Jenkins to approve the sub-account management plans and free up the activity accounts for use by the school; which passed unanimously. (7, 0). The town treasurer said he had quickly reviewed the plans and said that they should be sufficient for an auditor to track problems if there was a hiccup in the future. He also said they would be sufficient to guide an activity supervisor.

Councilor Caprara said that the committee should also look at the details of the school nutrition program going forward in the New Year. She thanked the committee as did Councilor Fuller and Chairman Cookson for the work that was done by the committee and on the management plans.

Item #112 – Presentation of FY 2013-14 School Budget

Councilor Jenkins made a motion, seconded by Councilor Buck to move the FY 13-14 school budget to a public hearing during the January 2014 Council Meeting, which passed unanimously, (7,0).

Item # 113 – Presentation of School Debt Repayment Plan

During this item, Mr. Rosenthal mentioned that the budget did have some movement of expenses from a couple of areas to raise the school nutrition program expense by \$60k to try and cover the expense for the year.

Chairman Cookson referred the superintendent to the attachments to the plan. He asked what the categories or labels meant. Mr. Rosenthal said they were types of bonds.

Councilor Jenkins made a motion, seconded by Councilor Fuller to approve the repayment plan as presented. Chairman Cookson renewed his objection saying using the funds in the activity accounts to pay for summer salaries and the food service was against the 2011 School Board decision. A short discussion about the nature of the money to be moved revealed that only the old funds from previous years were to move out of the activity accounts. It was also noted that the repayment plan should reflect what the council voted on for item #110.

Based on the discussion, Councilor Caprara said that only enough money to pay the food service debt should be moved from the activity accounts for that purpose and that the balance of those funds would be put in a capital reserve account.

Councilor Fitzgerald made a motion to recall the motion in Item #110 and add the language that the amount of repayment would not exceed the amount of money in the activity accounts and any remaining balance would be moved into a school capital reserve fund, was seconded by Councilor Fuller.

The discussion followed that \$50,000 would be moved to the food service debt; and that remaining \$19, 895.06 would move into the capital reserve fund. The motion passed unanimously. (7,0)

Councilor Fitzgerald made a motion, seconded by Councilor Fuller to create a capital improvement plan that looked out 5 years. This motion passed unanimously. (7,0)

Councilor Jenkins withdrew her original motion and made the following change:

Councilor Jenkins made a motion, seconded by Councilor Fuller to approve the School Debt Repayment plan subject to the motions made previously in Item #110 and clarified language in paragraph 2 of the repayment plan and current account balances. This motion passed unanimously. (7,0)

Item #114 - Consider Personnel Policy Change

The town manager highlighted that the pending Council Order changed the town's personnel policy to reflect changes in the amount of money paid by the town and municipal employees towards health care.

Councilor Fuller asked if the current policy had similar verbiage, which was yes. She said that it would not make sense to set a policy, then back into it through negotiations. Mr. Bragg mentioned the policy would only apply to non-union/non-contract employees. She then said she was opposed to making the move now.

The town manager asked that if the council was choosing to not change the personnel policy to reflect what they wanted for individual contributions of employee towards their healthcare, that they restore the \$100,000 removed from the budget.

After questions about the status of negotiations and their possible effect to the budget, the Chairman made a motion to table the item, which was seconded by Councilor Fuller. The motion passed unanimously. (7,0)

Other Business – There was no other business

Manager's report – There was no manager's report

Item #118 - Consider going into executive session in accordance with 1 MRSA, Section 405.6.E – Consult with legal counsel regarding union negotiations

8: 05pm Councilor Fuller made a motion, seconded by Councilor Caprara for the council to go into executive session in accordance with 1 MRSA, Section 405.6E – Consult with legal counsel regarding union negotiations. The motion passed unanimously. (7, 0)

9:12pm The council came out of executive session. No further motions were made. Councilor Fitzgerald made a motion, seconded by Councilor Fuller to adjourn.

Adjourn – 9:12pm