

Minutes
Winthrop Town Council
Special Meeting

Tuesday January 15, 2008 at 7:00 pm

Town Office

Attendance: Councilors Kevin Cookson, Ken Buck, Patricia Engdahl, James Norris, William MacDonald, Linda Caprara, Priscilla Jenkins. Town Manager – Cornell Knight, Police Chief Joe Young, EMS Director John Dovinsky, Fire Chief Dan Brooks and 20 residents.

Meeting is called to order at 7:00 pm.

Motion by Norris Seconded by Cookson to remove the election of the chair vote off the table. Vote 7-0.

Motion by Buck Seconded by Caprara to nominate Kevin Cookson for chairman.

Motion by Norris Seconded by Engdahl to nominate Bill MacDonald.

Vote on Cookson- 2-4-1. Yea-Caprara, Buck. Nay- Norris, Engdahl, MacDonald, Jenkins. Abstain- Cookson.

Vote on MacDonald-5-2. Yea-Norris, Engdahl, MacDonald, Cookson, Jenkins. Nay-Caprara, Buck.

Motion by Buck Seconded by Norris to nominate Kevin Cookson as Vice Chairman. Vote 7-0.

Item # 11 Discuss options on the Public Safety Building

Councilor Caprara recommends renovating existing buildings and using some surplus funds to pay for it.

Councilor Cookson recommended removing option 6 from consideration (Peck Farm lot), the Police station should be renovated and a new metal building for fire and ambulance should cost \$85 per sq ft.

Councilor Buck said the Police should be renovated, the EMS should move to the Fire Station and a new building for the Fire Dept. But a new building on Rte202 was not a good idea.

Councilor Norris suggested a straw poll on new construction versus renovation.

Councilor Jenkins said the Police Station should be renovated and would consider a new building for EMS and Fire.

Councilor Engdahl said the PD needed immediate attention.

Fire Chief Brooks said if the Fire Station is renovated, he will need more space in 5-8 years, and perhaps the money would be better spent towards a new building.

Councilor Caprara suggested the council put forth two proposals and get public response to them.

Phil Locashio said the council should establish what the total budgeted amount should be for the project before hiring an architect.

Councilor Buck said the Council should approve the renovation of the police station now.

Russ Hazard cited the drop in median household income from 2002 to 2006, and the increased expenses for fuel, electricity and groceries. The county budget has increased 9% per year. He said the total cost should not exceed \$1,500,000 including interest costs.

Councilor Jenkins leaves the meeting.

Ken Johnson said the Council should determine how much the town can afford, set the number first.

Cliff Frost asked if the Council would make the financial decision or put it out for a vote.

5 minute break. Meeting resumed at 8:50 pm

Steve Robbins said if the project were under \$2,000,000 it would be palatable to residents. He cautioned that the proposed fire station on Rte 202 is next to a limited residential zone and there may be conflict. He asked Chief Brooks why the station needs to be on top of the hill on Rte 202.

Chief Brooks said that most emergency calls require the department to travel on Rte 202, 133 or 41 and it keeps the trucks off the most pedestrian congested area of Main Street.

Councilor Engdahl said it would be helpful for the next meeting to know the amount of surplus available for this project and the amount that can be borrowed without increasing the debt service budget.

John Carpenter suggested that every 2 years do one project at a time.

Motion by Buck Seconded by Norris to send out an RFQ for architectural services for renovation of the police station. Vote 6-0.

Motion by Norris Seconded by Caprara to adjourn at 9:37 pm. Vote 6-0.