

Minutes
Winthrop Town Council
Special Meeting
Monday, April 24, 2006 at 5:30 p.m.

Winthrop Town Office

Attending: Councilors Norris, Despres, Putman, Cookson, MacDonald, Buck, Capara.
Town Manager Cornell Knight, Supt of Schools Terry Despres, Police Chief Joe Young,
Ambulance Director John Dovinsky, Library Director Melanie Coombs, Finance Director
Jan Tewksbury, Dick Guerette.

Meeting was called to order at 5:37 pm.

Item #40 Budget Workshop, review of the 2006-07 municipal budget.

Supt of Schools Terry Despres briefed the council on the school budget process. The school appropriation will be \$7,995 less than last year's amount, a new total of \$4,890,353. The board will vote on Wednesday. The school budget will be presented at the council meeting on May 1. The school board and staff have been working on a 3 year budget plan to incorporate the lower student enrollment, estimated at 730 for 2010, the food service deficit and the summer teacher wage debt reduction.

The council reviewed the budget page by page.
Straw poll to reduce legal by \$4,000; vote 2-5 Buck and Caprara in favor.

Councilor Cookson requested a breakdown of the Cobbossee Watershed District's budget. The town manager said he would contact Bill Monagle for the information.

Motion by Despres Seconded by Cookson to donate the additional contribution funds from the tax bill check-off to the Senior Spectrum. Vote 7-0. At the end of March the amount was \$360.

Motion by Despres Seconded by Putman to remove the social service contribution check off on the tax bill. Vote 6-1 (Buck opposed).

Chief Young recommended a reduction of \$2,100 from line 0500-4500 phone lines, and a reduction of \$920 from 0500-8220 Equipment. The taser purchase will be made from the drug forfeiture account. He also recommended an increase in the Communications phone line 0550-4500 of \$650. The changes were made to the budgets.

The town manager was asked to check with the Fire Chief if 28 firefighters are budgeted for in training or 27.

Discussion on the mechanic's enterprise fund and whether to have a mechanic's budget or continue charging each departmental budget.

Dick Guerette, Winthrop Fuel Company questioned the town's participation in the regional fuel oil bid. No action taken.

\$1000 was added to the Transfer Station and Library fuel oil lines.

Discussion on the Health Insurance and whether the employee should pick up more of the cost increases. The police union contract with the current level of health insurance employee payments does not expire for 2 years. Councilor Caprara asked that it be discussed by the council in the future.

Councilor Despres asked if the employee benefits could be separated to show the cost of each department. Jan Tewksbury said it could be shown in a report.

Jan Tewksbury said there was not interest from employees for setting up Health Savings Accounts.

The school budget presentation is May 1st, and the public hearing and final budget approval is June 5th.

Discussion of affordable housing and the need to attract families to Winthrop to improve the declining school enrollment. The council agreed to make it an agenda item after the budget review is complete.

Motion by Buck Seconded by Cookson to adjourn at 8:45 pm.