

Winthrop Town Council Meeting Minutes
Special Meeting
Wednesday, June 1, 2005
Winthrop Town Office

- **The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM by Chairman Kevin Cookson.**

- **Roll Call**

Council Members Present: Kevin Cookson, Patrice Putman, David Rheame, Bill MacDonald, Ken Buck, Jayne Despres.

Others present: Cornell Knight (Town Manager), Police Chief Joe Young, Code Enforcement Officer Beth Young, Finance Director Jan Tewksbury, 20 residents.

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

Item # 69 Discussion of the policy to fund Social Service Agencies from the Town budget.

Councilor Putman asked that each councilor discuss their points of view. She said it takes more than parents to raise a child and agencies can help.

Councilor Buck said individuals should fund agencies not taxpayers.

Councilor Rheame has made contributions to these worthy agencies, but the senior citizen taxpayer should be protected from tax increases.

Councilor Despres said the town should not force taxpayers to make contributions.

Councilor Cookson said the funds should remain in the budget.

Councilor MacDonald said it is worth keeping the \$11,000 in the budget to keep the dialogue open with the agencies that provide service to our residents. The cost is 3 ½ cents on the mil rate.

Councilor Cookson allowed for comments from the audience.

Jim Gill, Michael Swaboda, Jim Norris, Roger Guerette, Ruth Bryant, Gladys Richardson, Marie Pettingil, Jackie Kempton, Eileen Cummins, Bert Richardson, Peg MacDonald, Tom Sturtevant spoke in favor keeping the social service funding in the budget.

The comment period was closed at 8:35 pm

Motion by Putman Seconded by MacDonald to put the \$11,000 for contributions back in the budget.

Discussion: Councilor Despres did not want to leave the impression that Winthrop is not a caring community, and that endowments could be used to fund projects and agency services.

Vote: 3-3. Yea: Cookson, Putman, MacDonald. Nay: Rheame, Despres, Buck.

Motion by Putman Seconded by MacDonald to keep the \$11,000 in the budget include a note in the taxbill that \$3.00 goes towards social service funding, if the taxpayer can not afford it or disagrees philosophically with it, they could reduce their bill by \$3.

Discussion: Mr. Knight had concerns about the taxes committed to the collector, but some of the taxes could not be paid at the discretion of the taxpayer, which raises legal concerns. Councilor Buck suggested putting the issue to the voters. Councilor Putman suggested a note in the tax bill asking that persons be asked to add \$3 to their bill to fund the agencies.

Vote 3-3. Yea: Cookson, Putman, MacDonald. Nay: Rheame, Despres, Buck.

Councilor Cookson called for a break at 9:05

Return to regular session at 9:15 pm.

Item #71 Discussion of the Code Enforcement Officer Contract with the Cobbossee Watershed District.

Councilor Rheume said that Bill and Beth do a good job but it would be more convenient to have the Codes office next to the Assessor's office.

Councilor Despres said it would be easier for people when building a house to have codes in the Town Office.

Bill Monagle, Executive Director of the Cobbossee Watershed District, said that Winthrop has 12 lakes and ponds and there is a good synergy between the Code Enforcement Officer and the CWD staff. They collaborate on many issues that arise with enforcement. He also serves as the code enforcement officer when Beth is out of the office.

Steve Robbins said that Bill Monagle is an important consultant to the town but it would be better if the CEO were an employee of the town.

Beth Young, CEO said it is a smooth operation, and she is appointed by the council. The assistant codes position is important to have when she is out of the office.

Questions were asked about certification and training courses and the town manager was asked to look into the assistant codes position and the cost and time for certification.

Motion Rheume Seconded by Buck to table item #71 until the town manager could get more information on the codes and assistant codes position. Vote 6-0.

Motion by Rheume Seconded by Despres to table item #70 until the July meeting. Vote 6-0.

The council agreed to a special meeting on June 13 for road issues and other items that will be moved from the June 6th agenda.

Councilor Rheume updated the council on the public safety building. The Dept of Transportation had denied the Rte 202 access, so the town appealed the decision and asked for a waiver. Al Godfrey will do a traffic impact study. The phosphorous study is done. The building to house the police, fire and ambulance is estimated at \$3.5 million.

Motion by Buck Seconded by Rheume adjourn at 9:55 pm.