

Minutes
Winthrop Town Council
Special Meeting
Monday August 23, 2004 at 7 p.m.
Winthrop Town Office

Attendance: Councilors Kevin Cookson, James Norris, David Rheaume, Patrice Putman, William MacDonald, Jayne Despres. Town Manager Cornell Knight. Police Chief Joe Young, Supt of Schools Paula Gaudet, KJ reporter Danielle Gamiz and 10 residents.

The meeting was called to Order by Chairman Cookson at 7:00 pm.

Item # 128 Consider Resolution #79, regarding Property Tax Relief.
Motion by Rheaume Seconded by Norris to approve Resolution #79. Vote 6-0.

Item # 129 Discuss the impacts of the Palesky referendum vote on town services.
The council reviewed the budget analysis done by the town manager. If the Palesky initiative passes and limits the property tax mil rate to 10 mils (from 21.77) the town must find \$1,223,817 in cuts, and the school must cut \$1,896,955. The schools debt payments can be added to the 10 mil cap.

The town manager and the Supt of Schools were asked if any actions were being taken in anticipation that the referendum passes. The town manager said that other than getting the analysis done and that no hiring was ongoing at the time, no other actions had been taken. The Supt of Schools said open positions were being filled to equal the level from last year, and no other actions had taken place. The school board would be reviewing the impacts of Palesky at their Sept 8 meeting.

Chief Young explained that even if dispatch were eliminated there is still a need for someone to log calls, enter complaints and issue fire permits. The cutting of 2 patrol officers is actually 3 officers because one of them is the school resource officer and federal funding will end in 2 years. Crime will go up in the town as a result of the cuts to the police budget. There will be fewer personnel to respond to complaints. Also he said to expect more litter if the town has to raise revenue by going with a pay per bag system to cover costs of the Transfer Station.

The council asked for a resolution at their September 13th meeting to oppose the Palesky referendum.

The council asked the town manager to develop a question and answer format, similar to the Town of Cape Elizabeth's review of the Palesky initiative, for distribution to the public.

Motion by Norris Seconded by Putman that the Winthrop Town Council stand opposed to the Palesky initiative and intend to do a strong educational effort to the citizens on why the council is opposed. Vote 6-0.

Other business:

The town manager said the Town of Monmouth will ask Winthrop to amend their Pine Tree Zone to include a site in Monmouth to accommodate an expanding business. This item will be on the Sept agenda.

Councilor Rheaume said the trees in the downtown were doing well but one had been vandalized but should survive.

Motion by Putman Seconded by Despres to adjourn at 8:30 pm.