



Town of Winchester  
1 Richmond Road Winchester, NH 03470

**Minutes of the  
Selectmen Meeting**  
Wednesday April 24, 2024

**Board members present at the meeting:** Ben Kilanski, Jack Marsh Jr., Chan Stephens, Natalie Quevedo, Theresa Sepe.

**Department Heads Present for the meeting:** Chief Rice, Amy Bond, Dale Gray, Rick Meleski Sr.

**First order of business –Work Session w/ Energy Committee:**

Selectman Kilanski opened the work session at 530pm. Energy Committee members present were Chair, Neal Stetson, and Members Todd Kilanski & Norm Holsinger. Selectman Marsh asked what the purpose of the energy committee is. Chair Neal Stetson advised the board that the energy committee was formed to look into the different models that would save money on the resident's power bills. The Board of Selectman voted to join the Cheshire County Community Power Plan. The CCP sent mailers to residents in Winchester and Ashuelot to inform residents of service levels and that they can opt out at any time. Selectman Marsh asked if everyone was automatically enrolled, and Mr. Stetson advised the board that all residents would be automatically enrolled unless they opted out. Selectman Marsh wondered about the legality of this arrangement. Mr. Todd Kilanski advised the energy committee was an advisory committee and the vote was up to the Selectboard. Mr. Stetson added that he believed there were no fees for opting out. Selectman Quevedo advised there was no legality to it due to it being the town's infrastructure the board of selectman can act on behalf of the town. Selectman Sepe advised the board that she voted for the CCP because residents can opt out and that she would never mandate something like that. Selectman Sepe asked for the Energy Committee's thoughts for moving forward. Mr. Todd Kilanski advised the board that he personally was skeptical of the idea of CCP but sees it now as a win-win. After attending the meetings and hearing firsthand from the CCP he believes it will be beneficial to the town to look into the State Option. Selectman Sepe advised the board that she went to all the meetings because she wanted to make an informed decision and wants a non-bias representative for the State. Selectman Ben Kilanski advised the board that he'd like the energy committee to decide on a representative for the state. Selectman Sepe added that the Board of the Selectman should have the final say, since the rep would be coming back to the Board to inform them of the state decision. Selectman Sepe asked the energy committee what truck would show up if the power is out and didn't opt out of the CCP. Selectman Quevedo advised Eversource would still come to your location for power outages. Selectman Ben Kilanski advised the energy committee to decide on their state rep first. Selectman Quevedo advised the board that every other town has a town official as their state rep. Selectman Stephens asked the committee who the chairman was. Mr. Stetson said he is for now until they meet again and have a new vote. It was brought to the boards attention that the energy committee needs 1 more member since Mark Tigan and Sara Pratt had resigned which left Neil Stetson, Todd Kilanski, Norm Holsinger, Nate Homey, Lindseigh Picard, Jennifer Bellan as an alternate member and Natalie Quevedo (Selectboard Rep & State Rep). Mr. Todd Kilanski inquired how Selectman Quevedo became the state rep because he didn't know there was already one appointed. Selectman Quevedo said you have to be an elected official. Selectman Kilanski wants to see what the state regulations are regarding the rep. position. Selectman Quevedo agrees with Mr. Todd Kilanski to look into the state model. Selectman Ben Kilanski asked that the direction of the committee be aimed toward the state model giving the Board of Selectman updates as they go but not limiting the committee to just the state model if they were to find another option in their research. Selectman Quevedo

added that the committee create their own bylaws and submit them to the board of selectman. Mr. Stetson agreed that is also what the work session was about. Selectman Quevedo asked T.A. Assistant Monica Truesdell to look into what the Energy Committees in Chesterfield and Peterborough have for bylaws and send them to Mr. Stetson for ideas. Ms. Truesdell agreed. Mr. Todd Kilanski advised the board that the committee has a good start on the state model since they had 2 State Reps come and talk to the committee previously. Selectman Sepe asked for more public presentations and Mr. Kilanski advised the board that they would have to hold 2 more meetings to inform the public before the town would be able to opt in to the state model. T.A. Miner asked the Energy Committee to gather all minutes from previous meetings to present and have the committee approve them and then hand them in to her to get them on the website and have the Town Clerk file them for town record. Selectman Ben Kilanski asked Selectman Quevedo how often the reps for cheshire county meet because he has never heard any updates on it. Selectman Quevedo said they meet quarterly and it's still a very new group, they are just getting started.

Brief recess @620pm before the Regular Selectboard Meeting @630pm.

### **Second order of business - Minutes / New Business:**

Selectman Stephens made a motion to accept the minutes from 4/17/24. Selectman Marsh 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Motion carries 4-1. Selectman Ben Kilanski made a motion to amend the minutes from last week to reflect the Conservation Commission has not traditionally/always looked at the intent to cut/intent to excavate before the Selectboard signed them. Selectman Marsh 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Motion carries 4-1.

Selectman Sepe made a motion to approve the letter from Henery Underwood requesting a Land Use Map as part of the H.O.P. Grant and will be paid for up to \$700 by H.O.P. Selectman Marsh 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Motion carries 5-0.

Selectman Marsh made a motion to approve the sewer abatement for Map 28 Lot 49 in the amount of \$1,989.97 due to a water break. Selectman Stephens 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Motion carries 5-0.

Selectman Marsh made a motion to approve the water abatement for Map 19 Lot 2-20 in the amount of \$211.36 due to a billing error. Selectman Stephens 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Motion carries 5-0.

Selectman Sepe made a motion to approve the R.E.D. Committee's raffle permit for a 50/50 to be held at the Local Food Festival. Selectman Stephens 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Motion carries 5-0.

The Oath of Offices for the Conservation Commission was tabled until further research was done on whether a Selectboard Rep could be a member of the Commission and a Selectboard Rep at the same time. Which also brought into question the Broadband Committee, Energy Committee and Winchester National Bank Common Committee of which all are held and represented by Selectman Quevedo. Selectman Marsh asked that the RSA be researched as well. Selectman Ben Kilanski advised the board that it should be tabled until the research is completed.

2 Intents to cut were submitted to the board. Map 12 Lot 30 and Map 4 Lot 72-4

Selectman Stephens made a motion to approve 3 timber tax that were submitted for the following:

Map 15 Lot 18 & 20 in the amount of \$1,486.73

Map 12 Lot 30 in the amount of \$2,708.65

Map 9 Lot 53 in the amount of \$1,050.95

Selectman Quevedo 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Motion carries 5-0.

The Forest Lake Improvement Association sent an update to the board regarding the dam. The association met 2 weeks ago, and the temporary fix is now on hold. The concern is liability, so they have switched gears and are moving forward with a permanent fix instead of doing a temporary fix first. The lake water will remain at winter level. The association is looking to have more answers/information on the permanent fix in June. The

permanent fix should be on track for late summer / early fall of this year. The board recommends checking their website for updates at forestlakenh.com.

The Winchester National Bank Common Committee sent an update to the board as well. As you can see, they have chosen a name and have a bank account set up to receive donations! The committee is currently receiving quotes for repairs that need to be done on the building from Neal Stetson (electric), Bob's Fuel (heating), and Marvin Smart (roof repairs). They are also with the town Building Inspector Michael Mastaler and currently looking for plumbers. They also asked the board for permission to have a bin and bags for dog waste on the property. The Selectmen agreed to table this and want for more information from the committee on how they'd like to see that run. Dana's Containers donated the dumpster that was set out for the clean out that went well. After removing the carpet, they were surprised with the nice wood floors. They are currently working toward applying for an LCHIP Grant and will be attending the Annual Local Food Festival to do community outreach and hold a raffle to support the Winchester National Bank Common Project! The committee wanted to confirm with the Selectboard that due to the building being a town owned building the town would be covering power, water and sewer which the Board agreed. Selectman Stephens an active member of the committee sent out a big thank you to Dana's Containers for donating the dumpster, thank you to James Rokes Jr for donating his services to power rake and fertilize the loam, and thank you to Marvin Smart for looking at the roof today. Selectman Kilanski thanks the committee for all their hard work.

Selectman Kilanski read an abutter notice from the Land Use Dept. on Map 35 Lot 8 that will be split into 2 lots.

Selectman Stephens made a motion to approve the new paving payment contract which is the same from last year for Back Ashuelot Rd. Selectman Marsh 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Motion carries 5-0.

Head of Finance Amy Bond submitted quotes for a new zero turn mower for Head of Maintenance Henry Audet since the mower he has now is 12 years old. Both had 3-year warranties and Kawasaki motors. Gary's Power Equipment's quote came in at \$4279.20 and the Winchester Motorsports quote came in at \$3500. The new mower would cut mowing time in half and the Bank property will be mowed by Mr. Audet too. Selectman Ben Kilanski advised the board that even without the Bank Property Mr. Audet needs a new mower. Mrs. Bond advised the board she would need approval to transfer the money for the mower from personal admin to cover the cost of the new mower and approval for their choice of mower. Selectman Sepe made a motion to approve the mower from Winchester Motorsports in the amount of \$3500. Selectman Quevedo 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Motion carries 5-0. Selectman Quevedo made a motion to transfer the funds from personal admin to cover the cost of the new mower. Selectman Stephens 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Motion carries 5-0. Selectman Marsh asked what was to be done with the old mower. Selectman Ben Kilanski suggested letting Mr. Audet decide. T.A. Miner suggested giving it to the transfer station for the little bit of mowing they have to do out there. Selectman Marsh agreed that was a good idea.

**The board reviews and approves the following financial documents:**

Selectman Stephens made a motion to approve the annual Worldwide Computer Solutions Contract. Selectman Quevedo 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Head of Finance Amy Bond explained that the increase of \$164.00 is due to storage otherwise everything else is the same as last year. Motion carries 5-0.

Selectman Stephens made a motion to approve the 2-year audit contract as follows:

\$3200 for the 1<sup>st</sup> year

\$2000 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year

Selectman Marsh 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Motion carries 5-0.

Selectman Stephens made a motion to approve the Asset Management Project in the amount of \$30,000 to be transferred from the Sewer Budget. Selectman Quevedo 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Motion carries 5-0.

Head of Finance Amy Bond advised the board that BSMI was bought out by GWorks. They offer good programming, assets management, monitoring maintenance, and work better with FEMA. Selectman Quevedo made a motion to approve the following: Mrs. Bond asked for approval to switch to GWorks which would be \$2100 more than budgeted and give Mrs. Bond the authority to sign on the Boards behalf with T.A. Karey Miner as the 2<sup>nd</sup>. Selectman Sepe 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Motion carries 5-0.

Selectman Quevedo made a motion to approve the payment from R.E.D. Committee funds to Gemini Printing in the amount of \$291.25 for the Food Festival T-Shirt order. Selectman Stephens 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Motion carries 5-0.

Selectman Ben Kilanski asked the board for dates and times of availability for the Transfer Station Applicant's Interviews. Selectman Stephens & Selectman Quevedo both said they are available anytime before noon during the week. Selectman Ben Kilanski added that he can be available if needed, no problem.

Selectman Sepe brought up conflict she had with the Conservation Commission Timber Yield Tax Levy. T.A. Miner advised the board that this amount would be collected from the Conservation Commission, wouldn't be a conflict. Selectman Sepe asked for a motion to reconsider the vote on this one Timber Yield Tax Levy. Selectman Stephens made the motion to reconsider. Selectman Quevedo declined to reconsider. Selectman Sepe advised the board that she was not signing the Timber Yield Tax Levy due to Selectman Quevedo filling out the application for Conservation/ it's a conflict.

#### **Any other business before the board:**

Selectman Quevedo announced the RED Committee has their Annual Food Festival coming up Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024, from 9am – 2pm at the Town Hall. A 4k has been added to this years event that will start at the ELMM Center. Maps for the 4k can be found on their Facebook Page.

On Sunday May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Kawanis & ACCESS are having the Annual Bike Rodeo in the Town Hall Parking lot.

Selectman Marsh advised the board that he saw flowers being picked out of the garden in the park next to the library. He asked that "do not pick" signs be put in the garden.

Selectman Sepe made a motion that signs be purchased saying "subject to video & audio recording" for the entry doors into the Main Hall of the Town Hall. Selectman Stephens 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Motion carries 5-0.

Selectman Quevedo sent a thank you out to all those who helped with the Town Clean Up Day and the days that followed. She also Thanks the Highway Dept for getting it all picked up. A parent's workshop on how to de-escalate children is being provided by ACCESS at the ELMM Center on Sunday, starts at noon.

Highway Superintendent Dale Gray advised the board that they are still grading.

#### **Fourth order of business Public Comment:**

Todd Kilanski town resident asked the board to revisit electronics at the Selectboard Table during the meetings it's not in the best interest of the Town, unless it's an emergency in which case that person would get up from the table to take that call.

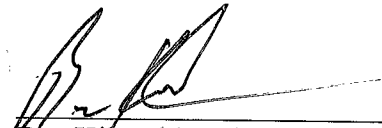
#### **Nonpublic under RSA 91-A:3II**

N/A

#### **Adjournment:**

Selectman Quevedo makes a motion to adjourn at 725pm. Selectman Stephens 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. The motion carries 5-0.

Minutes signed by:



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Ben Kilanski, Selectboard Chair

Minutes respectfully submitted:



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Monica Truesdell, T.A. Assistant

