

Town of Winchester
1 Richmond Road Winchester, NH 03470

**Minutes of the
Board of Selectmen Meeting**
Wednesday
August 1, 2018

Board members present: Ben Kilanski, Jack Marsh, Herbert Stephens and Roberta Fraser. Also, present LT Mike Tollett, Rick Meleski and Dale Gray.

First order of business: Minutes

The Chairman opens meeting at 7:05 pm. The board reviews the minutes of 7-25-18 for approval. Selectmen Marsh makes a motion to approve the minutes. Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. The motion carries 3-0-1.

Second order of business: New Business

Selectman Fraser made a motion to approve the water abatement for map 3 lot 2 in the amount of \$30.40. Selectman Marsh seconds the motion. The motion carries 4-0.

Selectman Fraser made a motion to approve the ARM Funding letters for the Jones Culvert & Cranberry Culvert stating the Board supports the grant applications. Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. The motion carries 4-0.

DOT sent the board a letter with the anticipated payments for the Highway Block Grant Aid for 2018-2019 in the amount of \$143,636.70.

Dick Lapoint Sr will be honored and awarded the NH Fire & Emergency Medical Services Committee of Merit for his service to the Town of Winchester. The ceremony is Monday Sept 24th at 6:30. Selectman Stephens and Selectman Kilanski will be attending.

Mt Pisgah Sportsmen's Club submitted a raffle permit to sell cow plop tickets. Selectman Fraser made a motion to approve the permit. Selectman Marsh seconds the motion. The motion carries 4-0.

The Board signed the oath of office for Jeanne Van Patten to the RED Committee.

The State of NH sent the application for reimbursement for Federal & State Forest Land in Pisgah State Park – 8,146.50 acres.

The Board agreed to be a part of the Picklefest Parade.

Reminder August 8, 2018 & 7pm the board will have a public hearing on the \$3,350,000 to finance a new water tank & water line upgrade. This hearing is to correct the procedurally defect from the original hearing.

The NH State Grange Committee sent a letter asking the board to submit a name from Winchester to be honored for their service as Firefighter, First Responders or in Law Enforcement. Selectman Kilanski would like to talk to the Fire Chief & Police Chief and will let the board know who he thinks should be recognized.

The board approved the 2nd payment to Mitchell Sand & Gravel in the amount of \$15,055.04

The board reviews and approves the following financial documents:

Selectman Stephens makes a motion to approve the Certified Ambulance Group Inc. in the amount of \$413.79. Selectman Fraser seconds the motion. The motion carries 4-0

Selectman Fraser makes a motion to approve Steel Shed in the amount of \$4,984 for the grating to finish decking and rails at the sewer plant. Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. The motion carries 4-0.

Nonpublic under RSA 91-A:3II (a)(b)(c)(d)(e)

Selectman Fraser makes a motion to enter nonpublic session under (a). Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. The motion carries 4-0. A roll call vote was taken, and members vote “yes” individually and the board convenes in non-public at 7:14 pm.

The board reconvenes in public session at 7:28 pm.

Selectman Fraser made a motion to seal the minutes under a. Selectman Kilanski second the motion. The motion carries 4-0.

Third order of business Board comment:

Selectman Kilanski was glad to see the support for LT Tollett. Selectman Kilanski made a motion to advertise in the paper & online for 2 weekends. Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. Selectman Fraser stated that she was not in favor and we should post it internally 1st. The motion carries 3-1. Applications due August 14th.

Selectman Kilanski let the board know that DOT was in town and looked at the Richmond Rd culvert and agreed to clean it out. It was a positive meeting.

Selectman Stephens went to the sewer plant and was showed how the Screw Press worked.

Selectman Kilanski let the board know that Karey heard back from the LCHIP Grant about painting the church steeple before the town knows if they have been awarded the grant. It could affect the grant.

Fourth order of business Public comment:

Jeremy Miller asked the board why advertise the position, why not hire LT Tollett who is more than qualified.

Selectman Marsh stated that he is a strong believer in public perception. If it was any other position I would feel the same way, it should be open to the public and not rubber stamp it. Then the board has a pool to choose from. Instead of spending the money on a company MRI, we can post it for a lot less in the paper. Mike might be the best candidate or the only candidate, but if we advertise we might have a more qualified candidate. We won't know unless we put it out there.

Selectman Kilanski stated that we have a process for any position is always advertised and accept applications. At the end of the day it's the boards decision who to hire. I am a firm believer in sticking to the process.

Selectman Stephens said let's take Mike out of the picture, we have a job description for when you hire someone, and what their qualification should be. I think we should go through that process.

Jeremy asked Selectman Kilanski, Marsh & Stephens if they felt that Mike is qualified to take on the Chief duties? Selectman Stephens said that we don't know what's in his background and we need to know when we hire someone. Selectman Marsh and Kilanski said yes, he is qualified, but it doesn't change how the majority of the board feels on the process and advertising.

Chester Lapointe said he understands public perception and is important but advertising it publicly vs internally shows the public that there is dis-interest in Mike. General practice in businesses is they post internally 1st. Chester believe an internal application is far more appropriate.

Missy Caldwell asked the board what is the next step, does Mike have to apply for the position and will there be a hiring committee? Selectman Fraser stated that in the past they have had a committee and Chief Phillips was hired internally and promoted to Chief. In most business you post internally 1st.

Missy ask if it has to be advertised. Selectman Fraser said no, there is no law.

Missy asked if the public's input is respected and the public strongly feels Mike is the most qualified will the board listen. Selectman Kilanski stated that the board does listen very carefully to the public. I have read all the letters, text messages and emails and I will take it all in to consideration, but it comes down to process.

Missy asked does Mike have to fill out an application. Selectman Kilanski said either way he will need to fill out an application and have an interview.

Andy Jackson stated that he was in support of Mike as Chief. He has been doing a great job and it shows. Everyone in town likes Mike and for the board to advertise and not hire Mike after telling him he does a good job is wrong. When you bring someone from out of town they have to acclimate to the town and the people. It never works.

Jen Bellan said that in the past Chief Philips came to the CAST meetings and complained about getting quality people in the department. We have someone with quality right here right now. I would hate to lose that quality.

Jeremy Miller asked the board to please reconsider the process and hire internally. If it is advertised the community's perception is, we don't trust Mike. Since Mike has been in Winchester he has organized the department, bridged the gap between the community, the school and the churches. Statistics show that it takes 3 years to build trust. We can't afford 3 years. 90% of the people trust Mike. There is a good repour with Mike and everyone likes, respects & trusts Mike. Mike started the DARE program in the school. On his personal time, he is thinking about Winchester. Mike has called me to help with homeless people who are trying to get thrown in jail, so they have somewhere safe to stay. Instead of the towns dime transporting them to jail, Mike reaches out to volunteers to help. The PD has a drug take back box because of Mike. Mikes at every CAST meeting, Elizabeth Brown from the Diversion Program said that the relationship that Mike Tollett and the police department have with this community is a model and she wishes that she could take him & his partners and go talk to Troy, Hinsdale & Swanzey. Jeremy added that he is passionate about hiring Mike and highly encourages the board to rescind your vote and hire internally. Show the public we all stand with Mike Tollett.

Mike Duprey stated that he could talk for an hour on what Mike has brought to the community but would like to address the process. Being an Administrator for 19 years, understands process and public perception. Sometimes we are in a difficult position to decide what is the public going to perceive and how is this going to look. The school was faced with the same question recently, should it be advertised or hire the current vice principal. It was decided to send a survey to the faculty and parents asking for their thoughts on if the Vice Principal was the right person. Parents and the faculty thought she was qualified and I supported that. Mike views this as a very similar situation. Mike urges the board to rescind and revote.

Ken Cole supports the board's decision to advertise for any position. If there is a process in place stay with it.

Selectman Kilanski stated that the board will not hire or fire without the vote of a full board.

Bonny Class stated that the board goes through the "process" but in the pass there has been times where people have been hired without it being advertised. So why now are we following the process. Selectman Marsh stated that past boards have done things different. Selectman Fraser stated that there is no process in black & white. It is the feeling of the board on what they want to do. Bonny added that every time we hire out of town they come in and screw it up. Your guy is sitting right there.

Chester stated that the consensus here is that you resin advertise in the Keene Sentinel and do an internal application.

Jeremey asked if the board will rescind the vote tonight. Selectman Kilanski stated no not tonight.

Chester asked if the board will create a policy. Selectman Marsh stated that they will discuss it.

Cindy Ryder stated that she is in favor of Mike becoming the Chief. Cindy had a procedural question on why the board had a nonpublic in the middle of the meeting and not at the end. Selectman Fraser said that they always have nonpublic at the end but needed have a discussion before we could continue the meeting.

Lt Mike Tollett thanked the public for their support and it is very humbling. Mike stated that he respects most of the board members but talking about my personnel fill in public is not ok and would appreciate their vote of support.

Fifth order of business: Nonpublic under RSA 91-A:3II (a)(b)(c)(d)(e)

Selectman Fraser makes a motion to enter nonpublic session under (a, c & e). Selectman Marsh seconds the motion. The motion carries 4-0. A roll call vote was taken, and members vote "yes" individually and the board convenes in non-public at 8:10 pm.

Sixth order of business: Adjournment

The board reconvenes in public session at 8:49 pm.

The motion to go into non-public under a, c & e was incorrect there was no e.

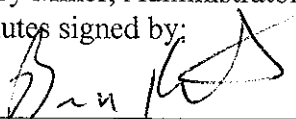
The board hired Ethan Marsh & Mike Walker to the Ambulance.

Selectman Stephens makes a motion to adjourn at 8:56 pm Selectman Marsh seconds the motion. The motion carries 4-0.

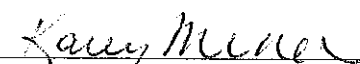
Minutes respectfully submitted:

Karey Miner, Administrator

Minutes signed by:



Ben Kilanski, Chairman



Karey Miner, Administrator