



Town of Winchester
1 Richmond Road Winchester, NH 03470

**Minutes of the
Selectmen Meeting**

Wednesday
March 28, 2018

Board members present: Ben Kilanski, Jack Marsh, Roberta Fraser and Gloria Leustek. Also present Margaret Sharra, Dale Gray and Rick Meleski.

First order of business: Minutes & New Business

The Chairman opens the meeting at 7:00 pm. The board reviews the minutes of 3-21-18 for approval. Selectmen Fraser makes a motion to approve the minutes. Selectman Marsh seconds the motion. The motion carries 4-0

Selectman Fraser made a motion to appoint William McGrath as Evergreen Cemetery Trustee. Selectman Leustek seconds the motion. The motion carries 4-0.

Selectman Kilanski signed both letters to DOT about working with the town and helping the owner on Keene Road. Selectman Kilanski spoke to Senator Kahn about the issues and let him know he would be receiving copies of these letters. Last week the board had sent a letter to DOT with concerns on how fast the snow plows are driving through town and had damaged a home. Richard Patten from DOT called Selectman Kilanski and let him know he will be looking into the complaint. Selectman Kilanski is to get him addresses to homes that were damaged. Selectman Marsh stated that window screens were damaged at 166 Keene Road.

Avitar recommended abatements for:

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|--------|------------|--------|----------|----------|------------|----------|----------|
| 4/27- | \$1,105.00 | 34/38- | \$350.00 | 35/19-1- | \$1,079.00 | 34/73- | \$134.00 |
| 34/63- | \$833.00 | 34/75- | \$246.00 | 9/11-7- | \$186.00 | 33/24-1- | \$676.00 |
| 34/4- | \$126.00 | 34/41- | \$750.00 | 33/15- | \$499.00 | 33/14- | \$526.00 |
| 34/44- | \$833.00 | 34/45- | \$190.00 | | | | |

Selectman Fraser makes a motion to approve the 13 recommendations from Avitar. Selectman Marsh seconds the motion. The motion carries 4-0. Selectman Fraser makes a motion to approve the 14 denied abatements from Avitar. Selectman Kilanski seconds the motion. The motion carries 4-0.

Selectman Kilanski let the board know he met with USDA-Eric Law along with Karey & Rick to sign the letter of conditions on a grant for a new water tank & water main. Signing this paper does not obligate the town in taking the loan/grant. It just secures the money on USDA end and the town can walk away if we feel this not the best option of the town. The loan amount is for \$2,609,000 and \$703,000 as grant funding with 21% forgiveness and an interest of 2.75%. Eric stated that our water user rates are low and the town has no debt. Selectman Fraser stated that we told the Budget Committee and the town at deliberative session we would not consider moving forward unless the town could receive 50% forgiveness. Rick stated it is a 30 year loan with a semi-annual payment of \$64,155. With these figures we were given it would increase the water

fees to \$60 base rate. Selectman Marsh asked if we have looked at other avenues of funding. Rick stated that we could talk to SWRPC to see if there are any CDGB funds and ask Gary Leach to research the Exxon Mobil fund that are supposed to be available in October. Rick added that the SRF Funding with only a 10% forgiveness has the same issue for low user fee's even though we qualified for low and moderate income. Selectman Marsh asked if we had a plan "B" on engineering or another way to do replace the tank & water main. Rick said unfortunately this is a large job and the town would not be able to take on a project like this. It would be the board decision to move forward or not. No matter how we move forward we need to take a look at the rate structure.

The board reviews and approves the following financial documents:

Selectman Fraser makes a motion to approve the Water Capital Reserve for EJ Prescott in the amount of \$5,235.50. Selectman Marsh seconds the motion. The motion carries 4-0.

Selectman Fraser makes a motion to approve a PO for Global Truck Traders in the amount of \$2,390 to purchase Steal Flat Bed. Selectman Leustek seconds the motion. The motion carries 4-0.

Second order of business: Public Hearing

Selectman Fraser makes a motion to re-open the public hearing from last Wednesday night. Selectman Marsh seconds the motion. The motion carries 4-0. The public hearing is continuation of RSA 79E submitted by Dani Soni for the property located at 96 Main St. Margaret was asked to contact the NHMA for a legal opinion. "Intent is relevant to determine the necessity of holding the public hearing, but the reduced tax assessment does not get granted by the select board until the completion of the substantial rehabilitation. As long as the substantial rehabilitation has been completed in time for the select board to approve the tax warrant for the year of levy 2018, then the lower RSA Chapter 79-E assessment should be approved." Margaret stated that the Attorney interpretation of this RSA is that the selectmen don't grant the 79E until the work is done. Selectman Fraser added that the assessment wouldn't change until the work is done. Selectman Fraser makes a motion to close the public hearing. Selectman Marsh seconds the motion. The motion carries 4-0. Selectman Fraser makes a motion approve the 79E for 5 years. Selectman Leustek seconds the motion. The motion carries 3-1.

Third order of business Board comment:

Selectman Kilanski let the board know he spoke to Senator Kahn about the towns concern with the senate bill for allowing towns to postpone town election due to the weather. His thought was it might be best if each town has their own warrant article in place. Selectman Leustek added if the senate bill passes it could give us more incentive/support to pass our own article.

Selectman Marsh would like to discuss the town fixing waterlines on private property and the town's policy. Selectman Fraser stated that this has been discussed many times over the years. There was a motion that gave Rick the discretion to repair any leaks. Rick stated in the regulations the town is responsible from the road to the curb stop and the home is owner responsible from curb stop to their home. Rick added that any work we do we charge the home owner and that it is documented. There times were the customer needs help and at the same time we need to protect our water system. The discussion was heated. Rick added there needs to be trust in my decisions and if necessary I would come to board. Selectman Fraser said the town has many property owners that have "spaghetti lines" and the deeds don't state whether or they own them or not. As a town we have the man power and the equipment to help fix them and charge them. The home owners might not know where to go, so they turn to the water department for help. Selectman Marsh would like to see a policy in place so we know going forward. Selectman Fraser believes there is one in place. Rick feels that there is a policy in place

we don't bill. Only if it is after hours. We try to keep the paperwork down. Selectman Marsh said there is an RSA and states that any department helps another, must be given their time, basically because they shouldn't use those departments line items for another department. Selectman Fraser added that we all work together for the town. Selectman Fraser said we can do internal transfers. Selectman Marsh believes that some towns have been asked by their Auditors to keep track. Selectman Kilanski stated that our auditors are aware and are comfortable with how we have been doing it.

Gloria reminded everyone on April 21st is clean up day in town and asked Dale if he would prefer the bags to be left on the side of the road or brought back to the transfer station. Dale would like to see it go directly to the transfer station.

Fourth order of business Public comment:

Colleen stated she was appalled by the display of Selectman Marsh. Also the board needs to trust in the department heads that they have hire to run their departments.

Henry Parkhurst thanked the board for the letter letting the Cemetery know that the Town has asked the Forester to fix the damaged they did to the fence. Also the cemetery workers will be back on April 2nd and the Sexton will let the town know when they plan on opening the cemetery to the public.

Bonny Class would like the board to inform more tax payers of what is going on here in town. Not one Selectman has any power to ask an employee to do something by themselves. All decisions should be made as a board. Bonny asked the board if they were given hand books or code of ethics when you were sworn in. Selectman Fraser stated that they have attended the class that NHMA accept for Gloria. Bonny said that one selectman cannot tell one employee to go do a job unless the board has voted on it. Selectman Fraser stated that is correct. Also a concern citizen form was submitted by Bonny, wanting the Select Board to be aware that the Water Department was working in the roadways with no signs or flaggers and the town truck was in the road. The law states that there needs to be signs and flaggers on state or other roads. Bonny would like this addressed for the safety of everyone. The board asked Rick, where he was working. Rick stated 196 Ashuelot Main Street and the truck was on the side of the road, but he did say the signs were not in place. Selectman Fraser made it clear, going forward the signs will be out when work is being done. Selectman Kilanski added if you are working in a hazard area flaggers need to be in place too. Rick agreed.

Michael Coope asked the board if when looking at the ambulance contract and the cost for emergency services, would the take into consideration of passing the cost onto the users of the services and compare those to other providers. Selectman Fraser stated that they have not look at that yet. Selectman Kilanski added that we are still gathering all the information and costs right now and let Mike know it would be a part of the board's consideration when looking at the whole picture. Mike also commended Dani on how nice his property at 96 Main Street looks. Mike let the board know that RSA 79E if necessary the Historic District Commission can make a recommendation to the Select Board to allow an additional year to complete the project.

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 Leustek 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 8:17 pm.

Sixth order of business: Adjournment

The board reconvenes in public session at 10:00 pm.

Selectman Fraser made a motion to Seal a & c minutes. Selectman Leustek second the motion. The motion carries 4-0.

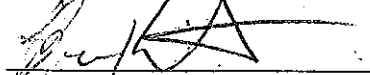
Karey will be contacting LGC for advice on using taxpayer money on private property.

Selectman Marsh makes a motion to adjourn at 10:10pm Selectman Leustek seconds the motion. The motion carries 4-0.

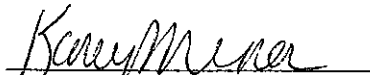
Minutes respectfully submitted:

Karey Miner, Administrator

Minutes signed by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Ben Kilanski", written over a horizontal line.

Ben Kilanski, Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Karey Miner", written over a horizontal line.

Karey Miner, Administrator