



Town of Winchester  
1 Richmond Road Winchester, NH 03470

**Minutes of the  
Selectmen Meeting**  
Wednesday, February 17, 2021

**Board members present:** Ben Kilanski, Jack Marsh, Herbert Stephens and James Rokes Sr.

**First order of business: Minutes**

The Chairman opens the meeting at 7:00 pm.

The board reviews the minutes of 2-10-21 for approval. Selectman Rokes makes a motion to approve the minutes. Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. The motion carries 4-0.

**Second order of business: New Business**

Selectman Rokes makes a motion to approve an Oath of Office for Jenn Howe-Conant Library Trustee. Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. The motion carries 4-0.

Selectman Marsh makes a motion to approve Stebbins Painting proposal for additional work repairing/painting the stairway at the Conant Library. Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. The motion carries 4-0.

Intent to cut for map 4 Lot 50 & 51-Burt Hill and for map 1 lot 69 & 70-Manning Hill.

Selectman Stephens makes a motion to approve a tax refund for map 19 lot 16 in the amount of \$3619.00. Selectman Rokes seconds the motion. The motion carries 4-0. The taxes were paid by the owner and the Mortgage company.

The Cemetery Sexton has requested to place an ad to hire a part-time 3<sup>rd</sup> person. The board would like to hear from the Cemetery Trustee's if this 3<sup>rd</sup> person is needed.

Welfare Directors requested the board to approve no walk-in hours unless scheduled. Everything can be done by phone and mail. Selectman Rokes makes a motion to approve the Welfare Directors request of no walk-in hours. Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. The motion carries 4-0.

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

Selectman Marsh makes a motion to approve the transfers from the Police Outside Detail to the operating budget in the amount of \$3,172.50-Sept, \$1,691.15-Oct. and \$1,773.44-Nov. Selectman Rokes seconds the motion. The motion carries 4-0.

Selectman Marsh makes a motion to approve the transfers from the Ambulance Billing acct to the operating budget in the amount of \$36,674.44. Selectman Rokes seconds the motion. The motion carries 4-0.

Selectman Marsh makes a motion to approve payment to Stebbins Painting in the amount of \$4,090.50. Selectman Rokes seconds the motion. The motion carries 4-0.

Selectman Marsh makes a motion to approve payment to Maher Corp from Sewer in the amount of \$3,530.75  
Selectman Rokes seconds the motion. The motion carries 4-0.

**Third order of business Board comment:**

Selectman Kilanski read 2 emails from citizens.

#1 To Chairman Kilanski, Hi Ben, I believe you are still only accepting public comment by email and so I have a few comments to share with the Select Board today. The theme is transparency. The first is in reference to the police cruiser warrant article which was originally approved by the Select Board and Budget Committee for the 2021-2022 ballot. I noticed a unanimous decision by the Select Board at the January 13th meeting to remove the article. There didn't appear to be any discussion as to why, but I think what was even more concerning was the Select Board's lack of communication about that change to either the public or the Budget Committee. We had a public hearing the next day and no comment was provided. I should also mention that I emailed both Ben and Chester this question/concern three weeks ago and neither responded. Selectman Kilanski stated that the Town & School have the control of the warrant articles. The Budget Committee has control of the budgets. My second comment is regarding the \$400,000 surplus in the general fund. It's been asked repeatedly, where did that money come from? There should be a clear and specific answer for that and to date one hasn't been provided. Maybe the town auditor should come to a Board meeting and review your audit for the public to see? Selectman Kilanski stated that he would have Amy-Financial come to the next meeting to explain. Finally, what is going on with our Chief of Police. You could be introducing the public to the interim Chief. I believe it's Officer Fisher I see every week at the meetings but even I don't actually know who that is. It's worrying to see him at your non-public session week after week and have no update on the ongoing plan for that position. Is it even posted? If not, why? How many active officers do we have right now, tonight, patrolling our town? I have more to say on this subject as well but frankly think it's more appropriate to allow you to respond in real time. Thank you in advance for reading my comments. Sincerely, Lindseigh Picard, 96 Richmond Rd. Selectman Kilanski stated that the board has not decided on a Chief and have not posted or advertised for a Chief. LT Jim Fisher-Officer in charge, Sgt. Chris Fox, Josh Edson & Adam Howard certified full-time, Jonah Merkle not certified full-time and part-time Officers Brendan Bosquet, Steve Gordan & Gary Phillips. Lindseigh Picard asked where the Police Chief conversation is happening. It should be in public there is nothing about that conversation that should be in non-public. Is the board still looking at what the Police Chief position looks like. Selectman Kilanski stated yes. Lindseigh asked when are you having that conversation. Selectman Kilanski said the board asked Lt. Fisher to get information but have not received any information. Lindseigh stated that there is nothing non-public about the position, job description, expectations or if it is contracted. None of that is protected under non-public.

#2 Dear Select board, I would like the opportunity to participate in my local government and ask that you open meetings backup for public comment. My best, Natalie Quevedo. Selectman Kilanski stated that just like in the spring we decided to have public comment to shorten the meetings. Natalie said that the people want to know what is going on and what the board is doing. Open the public comment again.

Selectman Kilanski stated that the board will discuss changing the Selectmen meeting to 6:30 next week when there is a full board.

Dale-Highway Superintendent spoke to the board on the sidewalk machine. Dale has made multiple calls on used machines from Maine to Pennsylvania. All over \$15,000. Dale is recommending the town fix our machine and replace the motor. Porters Diesel has given a quote of \$10,000 to purchase and install a new motor.

Selectman Kilanski would like to make sure nothing else is wrong with the machine before putting in a new motor and for Porters to pull it apart to and go thru it before ordering the motor. The board agrees and Dale will call Porters to have them go thru the machine. Selectman Rokes makes a motion to approve Porter Diesel to repair the sidewalk machine up to \$10,000 after it has been gone thru. Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. The motion carries 4-0.

**Fourth order of business Public comment:**

N/A

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

Selectman Marsh makes a motion to enter nonpublic session under "c & e". Selectman Rokes 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 7:33pm.

**Adjournment**

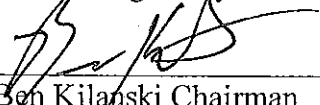
The board reconvenes in public session at 8:25pm.

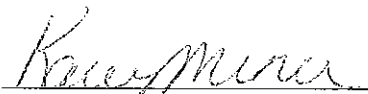
Selectman Stephens makes a motion to adjourn at 8:27pm. Selectman Marsh seconds the motion. The motion carries 4-0.

Minutes respectfully submitted:

Karey Miner, Town Administrator

Minutes signed by:

  
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Ben Kilanski Chairman

  
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Karey Miner