

Town of Winchester
Minutes of the Selectmen
Meeting
Wednesday May 12, 2021

Board members present: Ben Kilanski, Jack Marsh, James Rokes, Herbert Stephens, and Gloria Leustek. Also present, Lt. Fisher, Rick Meleski and Margaret Sharra.

First order of business: Minutes

The Chairman opens the meeting at 6:30pm.

The board reviews the minutes of 5-5-21 for approval. Selectman Rokes makes a motion to approve the minutes, Selectman Leustek seconds. The motion carries 5-0.

Second order of business: New business

The Chairman reads a note from TA Karey Miner asking for clarification of timeframe for the change in town attorney. Selectman Marsh said it was immediate and that ongoing cases would stay with the previous firm. The other members agree.

Selectman Marsh makes a motion to approve the raffle request for the American Legion for a cash drawing every Friday night from 7/2/21-9/3/21. Selectman Rokes seconds. The motion carries 5-0.

Avitar recommends the following charitable and religious exemptions: map/lot- 23/6-2, 28/57 & 41-1, 17/23, 26/16, 5/109, 19/8, 30/31, 26/91, 26/14, 25/5, 26/114, 28/5, & 6/15. Selectman Rokes makes a motion to approve, Selectman Leustek seconds. The motion carries 5-0.

The board discusses the work that needs to be done to the town beach. They will talk to Dale about rototilling and York raking it.

The board discusses DiLuzio ambulance contract. Selectman Kilanski had asked them about a longer timeframe for the patients to pay their bill. They agreed to change from 90 days to 180 days, prior to billing the town. Selectman Marsh had asked about when DiLuzio cannot collect from Winchester residents, can Winchester get that information and pursue payment themselves? The answer is no because of HIPA. Selectman Kilanski asks to send this contract to our attorney for review and will address it next week.

Third order of business: Financial

Last week there was a discussion on the Fire Department obtaining more gas cards. I was decided the Chief, Assistant Chief, Lieutenant, and Captains will get gas cards. They must sign an agreement on the use of the card. Selectman Stephens makes a motion to approve the agreement document, Selectman Leustek seconds. The motion carries 5-0.

Selectman Marsh makes a motion to approve the line transfers in the Police budget:

Line 105 to 106- \$880., line 102 to 106- \$880., line 103 to 107- \$880. Selectman Stephens seconds. The motion carries 5-0.

Selectman Rokes makes a motion to approve a payment from the Water Tank fund to Tata & Howard in the amount of \$67722.50. Selectman Stephens seconds. The motion carries 5-0.

Selectman Rokes makes a motion to approve a payment from the Ambulance Fund to DiLuzio in the amount of \$7214.00. Selectman Leustek seconds. The motion carries 5-0.

Rick Meleski submitted a request to replace a water line for South Drive residents. There is a cluster of homes there, #18,22,23,&25 that have had consistent freeze ups and breaks in the last few years. The property owners have been very proactive and have spent money working on repairs. They have hired a contractor to come in and replace the 700ft of water line in the amount of \$16,500. There are trees, patio pads and other obstructions presently causing havoc on this line. This new line will be 2" with taps off the 6" main. Rick is asking the town to waive the \$1700 each for a connection fee and for \$2500 to run the town line across FLR and connect to their lines. Rick recommends this improvement and waiver of fees since the homes are already connected and will just be reconnected. Selectman Marsh confirms the \$2500 is not spent on private property. Selectman Marsh makes a motion to approve the request, Selectman Rokes seconds. The motion carries 5-0.

Selectman Kilanski thanks all who voted yesterday and all the election workers. Over 800 people voted and there were no problems. It was a good day.

Fourth order of business: Public Comment

Todd Kilanski suggests that department heads do not need permission from the Board to spend money from their accounts. The board should have faith in the department heads. The board explains existing policy of 500/1500/3000 for levels of permission. This has been for years and do not know the history.

Theresa Sepe recalls in her past tenure, there needed to be checks and balances. Some departments overspent line items. She also did not want to see substantial bills at the end of the fiscal year. She is willing to look at the policy and possibly increase the amounts. She believes in being fiscally responsible.

Mary Gannon likes to hear the money requests to the Selectmen for transparency. She asked what is the deadline for applicants on the police chief committee? It is 2 weeks from today.

Mike Coope thanks Jack & Gloria for their service. He also adds to the conversation about Department heads spending requests. He says as a Trustee of the Trust Funds, they have their own checks and balances. Regarding the steeple and clock, he asks the board to get permission from Jeremy so Mike can do some work up there. He needs to replace some boards and rework an area so its easier to wind the clock. Selectman Kilanski will have Jeremy reach out to Mike.

Selectman Kilanski thanks Selectman Marsh & Leustek for their years of service and it was a pleasure to work with them. He congratulates Theresa Sepe & Lindseigh Picard on their wins as new Selectmen and he also congratulates all others who won positions. A swearing in will be on Friday at 5pm.

Selectman Rokes discusses the town owned property on Elm Street that is overgrown. He has asked Dale to cut the grass and clean up the property. He thinks the town should sell the property. Selectman Kilanski is waiting to hear from our grant writer to see if there are any grants for a new police station. We can discuss again next week.

Selectman Marsh said he was asked about the impact to the tax rate since everything passed. He had asked Selectman Rokes to reach out to Amy and get the information. It is expected the town rate will increase about \$.57 and the school \$6.16. These numbers do not include the county and state payments. The overall increase will be \$7.00 plus. He explains there are many variables to determining a tax rate. He states that a \$100K home will increase \$673 annually, \$150K value = \$1010 annually, \$200K=\$1346, \$250K=\$1682, and \$300K=\$2020 increase.

Nonpublic under RSA91-A:3II, (a)(b)(c)(d)(e)

Selectman Marsh makes a motion to enter nonpublic session under b, c & e. Selectman Leustek seconds. The motion carries 5-0. A roll call vote was taken, and all members vote yes individually, and convenes into nonpublic at 7:12pm.

Adjournment:

The board reconvenes in public session at 8:13pm.

Selectman Kilanski makes a motion to seal the minutes under e. Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. The motion carries 5-0.

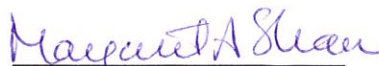
Selectman Leustek makes a motion to adjourn at 8:21pm. Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. The motion carries 5-0.

Minutes respectfully submitted:

Margaret Sharra

Minutes signed by:


Ben Kilanski, Chairman


Margaret Sharra