



Town of Winchester  
1 Richmond Road Winchester, NH 03470

**Minutes of the  
Selectmen Meeting**  
Wednesday, November 16, 2022

**Board members present for the meeting:** Lindseigh Picard, James Rokes, Theresa Sepe and Natalie Quevedo. Also present Amy Bond and Rick Meleski.

**First order of business: Town Budgets**  
The Chairman opens the meeting at 6:31.

Selectman Quevedo had worked with Amy Bond on all the Town electricity accounts. Based on a 3year average, kilowatts, and the current rate the increase is 81.2441% totaling \$43,413. Selectman Sepe made a motion to approve GGB-\$258,271. Selectman Picard seconds the motion. The motion carries 4-0.

Selectman Quevedo reviewed the streetlights history as well, based on a 3year average, kilowatts, and the current rate the increase is 72% totaling \$53,245. Selectman Quevedo stated that it would be the time for the board to form an Energy Committee to help with energy costs. One idea is to look at changing the streetlights to solar lights. Possibly a warrant article, average cost for each pole is \$5,000. Selectman Rokes said that the rates will be going down in January. Selectman Quevedo stated that the rates will not be going down. Selectman Sepe asked how many streetlights we have and can any of them be removed. Amy stated she believes 57. Selectman Quevedo doesn't recommend removing any of the light for safety. Selectman Picard said that the board still have a chance to revisit the budget at deliberative if there is any update/additional information that comes to the board. Selectman Quevedo made a motion to approve the Streetlights-\$50,000. Selectman Picard seconds the motion. The motion fails 2-2.

MDS gave the Town 3 options- #1 1year (2023-2024) contract @ \$408,000 plus a fuel charge fee-\$1,500 approx. #2 is for the town to run the transfer station @ \$355,000 approx. this does not include salary for an employee. #3 is pay by the bag. Selectman Rokes said that we need to meet with Richmond. Selectman Picard said that the board has had multiple conversations on this and what a plan would like. Do we go with pay as you go where you have to buy bags or a punch card system. Also discussed increasing the dump stickers. Maybe a public forum to discuss all the options. Selectman Rokes asked Amy what does Richmond pay each year. Amy stated that there is a calculation which works out to \$66,000year approx. The cost between option 1 & 2 there is not much difference. Selectman Rokes makes a motion to approve Landfill-\$423,826. Selectman Picard seconds the motion. The motion carries 4-0.

The Police budget was created by using the last 2 Chiefs budgets. Selectman Rokes how many fulltime Officers do we have. Amy stated 7 fulltime and 4 parttime. Amy asked the board to rename the PT Admin Officer to PT Officer. The board agree to change it to PT Officer. Selectman Rokes motions to cut 3 fulltime Officers. No second. Selectman Sepe asked why the increase to contracted services. Amy stated she reviewed 6 contracts which total \$12,437. Selectman Sepe made a motion to approve Police-\$715,473. Selectman Quevedo seconds the motion. The motion carries 3-1. Amy asked if Police Standards and Training has a PT Academy anymore? Selectman Sepe stated no. Amy suggested since there is no PT Academy maybe the board cuts a PT Officer. Selectman Sepe would like to see the positions stay as they are. If we do not fill the positions, we can return the money back and would maybe accept a friendly amendment. Selectman Rokes gave a friendly amendment to remove 3 FT Officers. The friendly amendment was not accepted. Selectman Quevedo gave a friendly

amendment to remove 1 PT Officers. Selectman Sepe accepted the amendment. Selectman Sepe made a motion to approve Police-\$698,001. Selectman Quevedo seconds the motion. The motion carries 3-1.

Board took a 5-minute recess

**Second order of business: Minutes & New Business**

The board reviews the minutes from 11-9-22 for approval. Selectman Sepe makes a motion to approve the minutes. Selectman Rokes seconds the motion. The motion carries 4-0.

Selectman Rokes makes a motion to approve the oath of office for RED Committee- Alex Merriman. Selectman Sepe seconds the motion. The motion carries 4-0.

Selectman Quevedo makes a motion to approve the oath of office for Thayer Library Alt- Ben Kilanski. Selectman Rokes seconds the motion. The motion carries 4-0.

Selectman Rokes makes a motion to approve the water warrant- \$136,327.05 & the sewer warrant-\$115,927.05. Selectman Sepe seconds the motion. The motion carries 4-0.

Selectman Quevedo makes a motion to approve and sign the MS-535. Selectman Rokes seconds the motion. The motion carries 4-0.

Karey asked the board if they would be available for a work session on Monday Nov 28<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30 to set the tax rate. The board agreed to meet Nov 28<sup>th</sup>.

The draft RFP for solar at the Closed Landfill and AC Lawrence is completed for the boards review. Selectman Quevedo stated that the town did receive 2 responses for the RFQ. This would be a 25year agreement with no burden to the taxpayers. The life expectancy for solar is 25 years, once the 25years are up the company would come back and remove the solar. The board agreed to have the attorney review.

ExploreNH/Treadylightly did cleanup Jantti Rd in October. Part of the agreement is to post some flyers on the road that was cleaned up. The cleanup went so well that ExploreNH/Treadylightly would like to come back and cleanup some other class six roads with owner's permission. The board would like to have a legal opinion on posting the flyers. Selectman Picard makes a motion to approve posting the signage after legal review. Selectman Rokes seconds the motion. The motion carries 4-0.

**Old Business:**

The board revisited the question of did the Select Board call the Liquor Commission on Full Circle Diner. Selectman Picard stated that she had done some appropriate research to insure and can comment that the Select Board did not call the Liquor Commission on Full Circle Diner. There was a 91a request for minutes or nonpublic minutes on this matter and there were no minutes or nonpublic minutes. Selectman Rokes asked why didn't the board review this as a full board. Selectman Picard said that the right to know request for the report was provided and did not show the selectboard which we knew but needed to be confirmed. Selectman Rokes said it is not your decision to do that. Selectman Picard said all I did was confirm and review all the minutes that the board did not discuss Full Circle Diner. Selectman Rokes said the full board should review the document. Selectman Sepe asked what document are we talking about. Selectman Picard stated the Liquor Commission document. Selectman Sepe stated she does not want to see or read the Liquor Commission document. The board did not take any action pertaining to the Liquor Commission. The question was answered by the board just now. This board does not have minutes/nonpublic minutes on Mr. Pratts Full Circle Diner. Selectman Rokes said so if someone comes in with an allegation, I can deal with it myself. Selectman Sepe said probably should have let the board know she was looking into it, but she is the chair of the board. A citizen made a complaint, and she followed up on it. Selectman Rokes does not think it is right that it was not done as a board.

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

N/A

**Third order of business Department Heads & Board comment:**

Karey informed the board that the Towns application to NH Municipal Bond Bank was approved for the \$660,000 for our Broadband project. Selectman Quevedo added that the Attorney has reviewed and made the changes to the Consolidated agreement. The Broadband Committee will be reviewing the changes and submitting it to Consolidated for their review soon.

Karey asked the board to consider closing the early on Nov 23<sup>rd</sup>. Selectman Quevedo made a motion to closed @12pm on Nov 23<sup>rd</sup>. Selectman Sepe seconds the motion. The motion carries 3-1.

Selectman Quevedo made a motion to start an Energy Committee. Selectman Sepe seconds the motion. The motion carries 4-0.

Rick let the board know that there has been an issue with air in the line on Warwick Rd from the breaks that have happened. They are working on flushing the line and hope to have the issue resolved soon. Rick thanked the residents for their patience.

Selectman Sepe gave an update on the current budget. Currently at 55.29% should be @ 61.44%. We are below due to the fact that we pay several contracts up front along with the libraries and the Health Agencies.

Selectman Picard states that the Budget Committee and the Board had a joint meeting with the Health Agencies Tuesday night. One of the Health Agencies thanked both boards for having the joint meeting and working together. There were some small increases to a few of the Health Agencies.

**Fourth order of business Public comment:**

Ben Kilanski thanked the board for approving the appointment as an alternate to the Thayer Library. Next meeting is Nov 18<sup>th</sup> to prepare for the budget meeting. Ben stated that when he was a Select Board member, they did look at all the streetlights with Mike Coope's help to see if any could be removed. No more could be removed. 5-6 years before that the board at the time did go through and had some removed. Lastly Ben asked when the board does discuss a committee for the Landfill, he would like to be a part of it because he had done research a few years ago on options for the Landfill.

Todd Kilanski has concerns with switching the streetlights to solar. If there are days with no sun, then the lights wont work. As for the dump, increasing the dumpsters to \$100 a year would help. Give the residents years notice of the increase. Also regulate the dump & stickers. Selectman Picard asked Todd for an update on Wreaths across America. Todd stated they have met their goal, 467 wreaths. They will be working with the VFW to place new flags at each headstone. Selectman Picard asked for clarification on the parking. Todd says they would like to have a Police Officer or a Fire Truck to help with slowing the traffic down on Forest Lake Rd.

Kevin Bazan stated that the transfer station needs to be the boards focus. \$408,000 is unacceptable. Richmond fees needs to be increased. Increasing dumpsters is not going to help, no one looks at the stickers.

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

Selectman Rokes leaves the meeting before the board goes into non-public. Selectman Sepe makes a motion to enter nonpublic session under "c, d & e" Selectman Picard seconds the motion. The motion carries 3-0. A roll call vote was taken, and members vote "yes" individually, and the board convenes in non-public at 7:59pm.

**Adjournment:**

The board reconvenes in public session at 8:44pm.

Selectman Picard makes a motion to seal the minutes under "d&e" Selectman Quevedo seconds the motion. The motion carries 3-0.

Selectman Quevedo makes a motion to adjourn at 8:46pm. Selectman Picard seconds the motion. The motion carries 3-0.

Minutes respectfully submitted:

Minutes signed by:



Lindseigh Picard, Chair



Karey Miner

