



Town of Winchester
1 Richmond Road Winchester, NH 03470

**Minutes of the
Selectmen Meeting**

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Board members present: Ben Kilanski, Jack Marsh, Herbert Stephens, James Rokes Sr. and Gloria Leustek. Also, present Amy Bond, Chief Tollett, Rick Meleski and Dale Gray.

First order of business: Work Session

The Chairman opens the meeting at 6:00 pm.

Denis Murphy-Conant Library gave the board an updated budget with a decrease in the total. The board discussed removing the \$5,555-town portion of health insurance and adding in \$5,000 for oil. Selectman Rokes makes a motion to approve the **Conant Library** budget for \$88,575. Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. The motion carries 5-0. Denis thanked everyone that helped during the Election and thanked the School Board for allowing the Election to be held school.

Selectman Marsh makes a motion to approve the **Water** budget for \$309,900 & **Sewer** budget for \$375,544. Selectman Leustek seconds the motion. The motion carries 5-0.

Selectman Stephens makes a motion to approve the **Town Beach** budget for \$33,851. Selectman Leustek seconds the motion. The motion carries 5-0.

Second order of business: Minutes & New Business

The board reviews the minutes for 11/17/20. Selectman Leustek makes a motion to approve the minutes. Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. Motion carries 4-0-1.

The board reviews the minutes for 11/4/20 & 11/14/20. Selectman Stephens makes a motion to approve the minutes. Selectman Marsh seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0.

Stebbins Painting will start work at the Conant Library the 1st week of December.

The Board decided that Next week's BOS meeting will be moved to Tuesday, Nov 24th@ 7pm.

The Broadband Committee has a vacant seat and are accepting volunteer interest forms.

Saturday, Nov 21st @9am the Budget Committee meets with the Department Heads on their budgets.

Selectman Rokes makes a motion to approve the Broadband survey. Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0.

Intent to cut map 7 lot 17-Old Hinsdale Rd.

Selectman Kilanski made a motion to abate the water/sewer in the amount of \$211. Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. Motion carries 4-0-1.

Selectman Rokes makes a motion to approve the Oath of Office for Jennifer Bennett-Conant Library and Mike Doherty- ZBA. Selectman Leustek seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0.

Selectman Rokes makes a motion to approve the Federal letter to renew are DUN's# for grant. Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0.

Selectman Marsh makes a motion to approve and sign authorization to allow New England Solar Garden onto town property (closed landfill). Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0.

Selectman Marsh makes a motion to approve the 3rd Q water warrant-\$129,037.87 & sewer warrant-\$97,271.69. Selectman Leustek seconds the motion. The motion carries 5-0.

Selectman Stephens makes a motion to approve payment to Haluch Water in the amount of \$427,855.62 for the Richmond Rd. water main project. Selectman Leustek seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0.

Selectman Marsh makes a motion to approve the Avitar equitation ratio of 98.5%. Selectman Leustek seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0.

Jim Tetreault received a letter from the Law Office Brian T. O'Neill thanking the town and the Election workers for assisting him during the elections as a "Legal Challenger".

The Board received the State of NH Education 2021 Tax rate of \$1.825 and the warrant in the amount of \$504,737.

Health Officer memo to the Board with a COVID update. Asking the board to come up with a plan on if and when the Town Hall will need to shut down again. The State of NH has a travel band out of New England. Also asking to send out a newsletter to update the public. The board has approved closing the Town Hall as of Monday, Nov 23rd to the public. Not limiting services and go to curbside, email & phone. Selectman Kilanski said we can go back to how we handled the shut down in the spring. Ask Boards & Committee not to meet unless it is necessary. If numbers increase, we might need to limit the number of people coming to the meetings and no public committee.

Dale Gray submitted 4 quotes for a new loader: John Deere-\$144,785, Volvo-\$138,370, SDLG 938-\$97,875 & Doosan-\$123,890. The board will discuss a warrant article. Selectman Marsh would like to see the lease information from John Deere.

The board reviews and approves the following financial documents:

Selectman Stephens makes a motion to approve a payment from the Ashuelot Rail capital reserve in the amount of \$6,000 paid to Bill Patnode Excavating and \$500 & \$996.75 to the Winchester Trail Riders. Selectman Rokes seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0.

Selectman Rokes makes a motion to approve a payment to Scully Architect in the amount of \$250 from the Church Steeple Fund. Selectman Leustek seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0.

Selectman Leustek makes a motion to approve a payment to Aubuchon's-\$206.40 & \$92.39, Hamshaw Lumber-\$3504.32 & \$66.38 and WB Mason-\$867.95 from the Cemetery Building Donation Acct. Selectman Marsh seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0.

Selectman Marsh makes a motion to approve Ambulance transfer from the Ambulance checking acct to the Ambulance payroll line item. Selectman Leustek seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0.

Board comment:

Selectman Kilanski stated the Tax Rate won't be set tonight. The school has to file their paperwork. The board will hold a special meeting. Date to be determined.

Selectman Rokes makes a motion to approve the AC Lawrence property cleaned up by mulching & mowing the brush in the amount of \$9,800. Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0.

Selectman Rokes makes a motion to approve the purchase a Town car, a used 2013 Ford Escape from Monadnock Ford in the amount of \$11,000. Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0.

Public comment

Lindseigh Picard suggested to the board putting a policy in place for water /sewer abatements. Lindseigh asked about the non-public minutes from the Nov 12th had no brief summary on what the non-public was about. All that was said is the board went into non-public under e. Selectman Kilanski stated that those minutes were sealed. Lindseigh said that there was no timeframe on how long the minutes will be sealed for. When will those minutes be available or will you be revisiting them to reseal again. Selectman Kilanski stated that it is unknown when they will be available. Lindseigh said you might want to say how long they will be sealed for and if you will review them. Lindseigh said she has asked the board during their budget planning if there was a capital plan and it was stated that there is a plan. Online there is a Master Plan that was last updated in 2008. In the plan it recommends that it is updated every 5 years. During the budget process I have never heard one reference to the master plan or any other future planning. Lindseigh suggested to the board to review the plan. In the plan it states under "vision for Winchester-support the needs of the community by providing excellent school, high quality childcare, social opportunities and recreation for children and families, senior housing and support services for those in need. Last night at the Budget Committee/ Select Board meeting Lindseigh didn't hear any of that, I heard the opposite from some of the Select Board. So perhaps the Master Plan should be revised. Lindseigh had a comment on COVID. The current new cases per 100,000 average is 24. The school will shut down at 10 or more and the school hasn't decided when they will go back. Until there is some consistency within our town to support and ensure that we are doing everything we can to keep those numbers down, the school we struggle to reopen.

Natalie Quevedo asked about the grant that expired. What was the total amount that was received. Karey stated \$102,729. Natalie asked how much was used. Karey stated all of it. Natalie asked if any of it was used to help the local businesses for abatements. Karey stated no. Natalie said the board didn't use the money to help the local businesses. Natalie stated she wanted to talk about COVID, and that Selectman Marsh asked her if she was tested for COVID. Natalie said she was tested, and it was negative. If you truly believe that everyone is going to take care of themselves and the board doesn't have any policies in place, what was stopping her from coming into the building and exposing all of you to COVID. Selectman Rokes stated commonsense. Natalie suggest that the Select Board put in place a mandate or suggestions to protect the residents.

Jonathan Gallup stated that the newsletter is a waste of time, money and you can't tell people what to do on their own property. Why not let the public into the Town Hall when we can go into the grocery. Yes, the cases are up in town, but the death rate is still low. It is a virus and it will go around, let's not freak out. Let's look at the death rate and recoveries.

Chief Tollett was asked to draft a job description for a Police Department Social Worker position and \$25,000 to fund the position. Also, the Chief drafted a list of frequently asked questions. Chief Tollett said the most asked question is how will this position be funded. The Chief asked to place the new position on the ballot and ask the voters. Chief Tollett asked Colleen Duquette to speak on behalf of the position and if the board had any questions. Chief Tollett stated that the feedback has been positive and even received an email from a Police Dept. from outside of Chicago that has this position in place. The biggest hurdle is funding. Selectman Rokes stated he believes that it's not necessary and there are agencies that already provide this service. Selectman Marsh said that at the Budget Committee meeting we funded MCVP. Chief said when you look at the information you won't find the depth of what we need in town and that is community. There is not a lot of help for Mental Health or Drug Addiction. You can't find volunteers to do this type of work and I'm not finding any grant funding. The level of service will be increased with someone that knows our community. Colleen stated that she is in support of this position and can be used by all Winchester Residents. The Chiefs program will help with imitate assistance and hopefully stop the repeat callers. Please read the job description and support the position. It would benefit the members in town.

Colleen asked the board to speak into the microphones it is hard to hear. What was the address of the water abatement. Selectman Kilanski said it was 15 Main St. Colleen asked about shutting the Town Hall down how will meetings be done. Selectman Kilanski said the Board of Selectmen meetings will be open to the public, but at some point, maybe limited to 10 people and/or no public comment to make the meetings quicker.

Mike Coope let the board know the steeple is leaking and sent photos.

Natalie asked the board if they do go to only allowing 10 people into the meetings that the board make a motion to find someone to record the meeting so the public that can't be here can still attend.

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

Selectman Rokes makes a motion to enter nonpublic session under a, b, c & e. Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. The motion carries 5-0. A roll call vote was taken, and members vote "yes" individually, and the board convenes in non-public at 8:04 pm.

Sixth order of business: Adjournment

The board reconvenes in public session at 10:43pm.

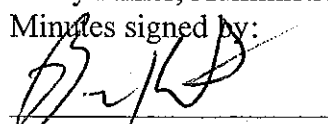
Selectman Marsh makes a motion to seal the minutes under e. Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. The motion carries 5-0.

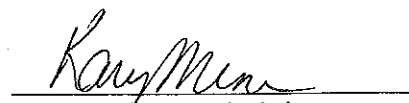
Selectman Marsh makes a motion to adjourn at 10:45pm. Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. The motion carries 5-0.

Minutes respectfully submitted:

Karey Miner, Administrator

Minutes signed by:


Ben Kilanski, Chairman


Karey Miner, Administrator