



Town of Winchester  
1 Richmond Road Winchester, NH 03470  
Minutes of the  
Selectmen Meeting  
December 16, 2020

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

**First order of business:**

The Chairman opens the meeting at 7:00 pm.

Denis Murphy-Moderator and Henry Parkhurst School Moderator spoke to the board about the upcoming Deliberative Session and Town Election in March. The recommendation from Denis & Henry is to move the Town Deliberative Session to the school scheduled for Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup>. Also move the March Election to the school. Selectman Rokes made a motion to move Town Deliberative Session to the school on Feb 6<sup>th</sup> at 9 am. Selectman Leustek seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0. Selectman Stephens made a motion to move the March 9th Election to the school. Selectman Leustek seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0.

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

The board reviews the minutes for 12/9/20. Selectman Stephens makes a motion to approve the minutes. Selectman Rokes seconds the motion. Motion carries 4-0-1.

Dean Beaman-Winchester Snowmobile Club asked the board to use the Tannery property on Bridge St as a parking lot for snowmobilers coming to ride on the rail trail. Selectman Kilanski has no issue with a parking lot but would like to get DES approval due to the fact the property is a Brownfield site. Selectman Stephens made a motion to approve a parking lot after the town receives DES approval. Selectman Rokes seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0.

City of Keene asked the Town of Winchester if they will be participating in the household hazardous waste collections in the 2021-2022. The fixed cost is \$5879. Selectman Kilanski stated that the town has not used this service in several years. Winchester residents can use the Keene transfer station but will be charged.

The Transfer Station will close at 2pm on Christmas Eve and New Year's Day.

The board received an email from a resident with concerns on the water & ice issues on Michigan St. The board asked if Selectman Stephens would work with Dale on a possible solution.

Selectman Rokes made a motion to approve the Timber report and Timber tax for Wastewater Treatment Plant in the amount of \$514.75. Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0.

Selectman Rokes made a motion to approve the sewer abatement for map 8 lot 119-Forest Lake Campground in the amount of \$1470.74. Selectman Leustek seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0.

Selectman Stephens made a motion to approve the Ambulance Department to continue operating for another year, Monday-Friday 6am to 6pm part-time hours. The board will review the ambulance operations in 1 year. Selectman Leustek seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0.

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

N/A

**Board comment:**

Selectman Kilanski asked the board to cancel and hold off the Public Hearing for creating a policy on Employee's using their tools scheduled on Dec 30<sup>th</sup> @7pm due to the increase of COVID number. It is not a pressing matter. The board agreed.

Selectman Leustek gave an update on the RED Committee house lighting contest and the Broadband Committee will be meeting every other week. The Committee would encourage everyone to fill out the broadband survey.

Natalie Quevedo-Broadband Committee member added that they are creating a new survey. The RFI have not been returned in time to meet the deadlines for funding. It will cost zero to the taxpayer to expand the internet in Winchester. Both the Broadband and the RED committees are looking for members.

Mike Coope stated that the clock is running slightly fast and will be installing the plexiglass. Mike asked if the Board had any further discussions on the Chiefs recommendations of a case worker. Selectman Kilanski stated no. Mike would ask that the board revisit the ambulance and the 1 year stipulation.

**Public comment**

Kevan Bazan asked if the board had any information from the Attorney on the Fund Balance and how the town had \$400,000 more this year than last year. It would be good information and educational to share with the public on how the town saved money this year. Kevin asked what can the fund balance be used for or not used for. Selectman Marsh sated that it can be used to offset the tax rate or a national disaster. Kevin asked did the board discuss using the funds to offset the tax rate. Selectman Kilanski said that they did discuss it Wednesday night when they set the tax rate. Because the tax rate decreased by almost \$7.00 the board decided not to use the fund. The State of NH doesn't like to see the fund balance drop below 5% and for several years we have used the fund to lower the tax rate to help the residents, which brought us below the 5%. Selectman Kilanski said he would ask Amy to type up what the DRA & Auditors said about the fund balance.

Natalie Quevedo asked the board to bring the meetings to virtual online platform so people who don't feel safe can be involved. Will the board make a motion. Selectman Kilanski said that he and Karey talked about live streaming the meeting and go completely remote. Natalie asked each board member their opinion. Selectman Rokes, Marah and Stephens are not for virtual online meetings. Selectman Leustek said either way she will be wherever she needs to be. Selectman Kilanski said residents can email their question and concerns.

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

Selectman Marsh makes a motion to enter nonpublic session under a, c & e. Selectman Leustek 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 7:50 pm.

**Sixth order of business: Adjournment**

The board reconvenes in public session at 9:10 pm.

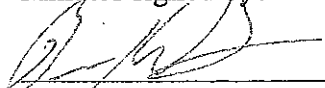
Selectman Marsh makes a motion to seal the minutes under e. Selectman Rokes seconds the motion. The motion carries 5-0.

Selectman Leustek makes a motion to adjourn at 9:13 pm. Selectman Rokes seconds the motion. The motion carries 5-0.

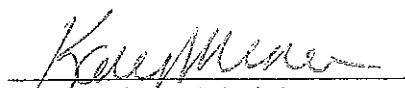
Minutes respectfully submitted:

Karey Miner, Administrator

Minutes signed by:



Ben Kilanski, Chairman



Karey Miner, Administrator