



Town of Winchester
1 Richmond Road Winchester, NH 03470

**Minutes of the
Selectmen Meeting**

Wednesday, March 3, 2021

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

First order of business: Minutes

The Chairman opens the meeting at 7:00 pm.

The board reviews the minutes of 2-24-21 for approval. Selectman Leustek makes a motion to approve the minutes. Selectman Rokes seconds the motion. The motion carries 4-0-1.

Second order of business: New Business

State inspections of the town owned boilers was completed on Monday. The Thayer Library boiler has a water leak on the bottom right corner. Karey will call Steve Gassett for service and recommendation on repairs.

Margaret Sharra updated the board on the Ashuelot Rail Trail. The board signed a letter of intent for the TAP Grant a few ago. This grant will require engineering and a match. We have found other funding sources, Norther Boarders and 2 USDA Grants. The USDA-RBG is \$30,000 no matching funds required. A MOU with the State of NH will need to be signed by the board regarding maintenance. These funds are for ditching and materials for rail bed and parking areas. Margaret asked the board to think about a permanent parking area. The Tannery property we are presently plowing is ideal. This small area would not impact the possible proposed future solar use. Town property at 19 Elm St. (Bickford) is a perfect size and within walking distance of downtown. The building would be demo' d and the lot cleared for parking. Recycle way, where the state property and Keith Colbourn and Gary O'Neal's property meet. This would also permit easy access to Pisgah State Park. This is ideal for access to both the trail and the park. Working to determine exact owner and work out details. Near Swanzey line, the Canoe launch that already existing. The grant funds can be used for creating parking areas. Hinsdale, Swanzey & Winchester have applied jointly for the MAST Grant which will be for free signage for the Ashuelot Rail Trail. Selectman Kilanski said he is ok with the Tannery property being used as a parking area as long as DES is ok with it. The O'Neal property is also used for a helicopter landing site for Fire & Ems, so we might want to clear it with the Fire Chief. Selectman Rokes asked if the town will be required to have insurance on the State Rail Trail and what about the Tannery. Margaret said that the insurance will be for any company that is hired to work on the trails. Just like we do now for any project the town does. As for the Tannery it is already insured. This grant is a reimbursement grant and no monetary match is required, but an in-kind match does give us more points. For example if the town Highway hauled the grave for the trails. Selectman Marsh is not in favor of the town hauling material. The board agrees to apply for the USDA Grant, sign a MOU, allow Karey or Margaret sign the application and allows parking in Ashuelot and at the Tannery with DES approval.

Intent to cut for map 12 Lot 30-Rt 10.

Selectman Rokes makes a motion to approve a tax assessment abatement for map 8 lot 93-Old Westport Rd, in the amount of \$448.00 and map 32 lot 13-10-Tamarack Cir in the amount of \$184.00. Selectman Leustek seconds the motion. The motion carries 5-0.

Selectman Rokes makes a motion to approve a tax assessment abatement for map 15 lot 2-1-Jantti Rd, in the amount of \$524.00 and Deny map 15 lot 1-Jantti Rd. Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. The motion carries 5-0.

Selectman Rokes makes a motion to change the Select Board meeting to 6:30pm starting March 10th. Selectman Leustek seconds the motion. The motion carries 5-0.

Selectman Rokes makes a motion to hire a 3rd seasonal laborer at the Cemetery. Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. The motion carries 4-1.

The board reviews and approves the following financial documents:

N/A

Third order of business Board comment:

Selectman Marsh asked Karey to reach out to the State of NH and ask them to place no parking signs on Rt 10 & Rt 78 near the new Dunkin Donuts/Mobil Station. Tractor Trailers are already parking in the break down lane.

Selectman Rokes asked if Barry had received any quotes on tire chains for the Ambulance. Selectman Kilanski stated that he did from Porters diesel, but it didn't include the labor.

Selectman Rokes stated that he had some concerns from residents about the Town Hall hours and suggested the board approve being open 5 full days 8-5 with an hour lunch. Selectman Kilanski stated that Jim the Town Clerk by statue can create his own hours. Selectman Marsh said that the board has discussed this a few years ago. Selectman Rokes said the rest of the building could do 8-5. Selectman Kilanski would like to see the hours not be confusing for the resident with all the departments having different hours.

Selectman Marsh made a motion to open the Town Hall for walk in's starting Monday 3/8/21 with the Same protocols of masks and social distancing. Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. The motion carries 5-0.

Rick Meleski encouraged the board to review the biosolids engineered report. The report is on the website. Rick would like to meet with the board to go over the project and funding. The Sewer Plant has been working on this upgrade for years. The goal is to dewater and dry the sludge ending with a class A Biosolid. The State of NH-DES has reviewed the report and is behind the town moving forward with the project. Selectman Rokes asked if there was any value in the class A product. Rick stated yes and is in high demand. Selectman Marsh stated that he has been in favor of the project but would like to see the numbers on the project. Rick said that depends on what scenario and type of equipment we go with, anywhere from 4million to 1million. Selectman Marsh stated that this could be a revenue source for the sewer plant. Rick said yes it could be revenue like we have currently with septic receivables and there is the possibility to bag the product and sell as fertilizer. Rick asked for the boards support.

Selectman Kilanski stated Dunkin Donuts is open and the Mobil Station will open on March 10th. Selectman Marsh added that the Diner will be opening on March 11th.

Fourth order of business Public comment:

N/A

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

Selectman Leustek makes a motion to enter nonpublic session under "b, c & e". Selectman Marsh 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 8:13pm.

Adjournment

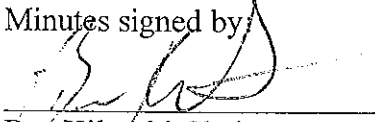
The board reconvenes in public session at 8:55pm.

The board hired Roy Faulkner to Highway Dept.
There was no nonpublic session under e, Karey misspoke.

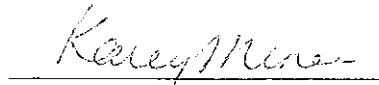
Selectman Leustek makes a motion to adjourn at 8:58pm. Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. The motion carries 5-0.

Minutes respectfully submitted:
Karey Miner, Town Administrator

Minutes signed by:



Ben Kilanski Chairman



Karey Miner