



Town of Winchester
1 Richmond Road Winchester, NH 03470

**Minutes of the
Selectmen Meeting**
Wednesday, March 31, 2021

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

First order of business: Minutes

The Chairman opens the meeting at 6:30 pm.

The board reviews the minutes of 3-24-21 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

Selectman Stephens makes a motion to approve Winchester Speedpark and Monadnock Speedway permits to operate for 2021. Selectman Leustek seconds the motion. The motion carries 5-0. Selectman Stephens makes a motion to approve Winchester Speedpark lease agreement. Selectman Leustek seconds the motion. The motion carries 5-0.

Selectman Marsh makes a motion to approve Avitars tax assessment abatement for map 32 lot 2-Keene Rd. in the amount of \$820.00 and map 26 lot 59-Parker in the amount of \$340.00. Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. The motion carries 5-0.

Selectman Rokes makes a motion to sign the acceptance letter from NHDOT stating that the town will maintain the crosswalk on Richmond Rd. near the St. Stanislaus Church. Selectman Leustek seconds the motion. The motion carries 5-0.

Rob Diluzio from Diluzio Ambulance Service will be here April 7th to discuss the contract. Any specific questions please let Karey know, and she will forward them to Rob.

Selectman Marsh makes a motion to approve a Current Use application for map 7 lot 3,4 &7 on Reilly Rd. Selectman Leustek seconds the motion. The motion carries 5-0.

Dale Gray informed the board that he was able to test a Volvo L60 Loader. Dale was impressed with the machine and would like to recommend that the board make changes to the article at the Towns Deliberative. Selectman Stephens asked if the loader attachment's we have will fit the Volvo. Dale said yes.

Reminder Town Deliberative is April 3rd @9am, School Deliberative is April 10th @ 9am at the Winchester School. Denis gave the board a list of Moderators rules of procedure for review. There will copies at the Deliberative.

The board reviews and approves the following financial documents:

Selectman Stephens makes a motion to approve payment to Wilson Controls from the water capital reserve in the amount of \$6,750.00. Selectman Leustek seconds the motion. The motion carries 5-0.

Third order of business Board comment:

N/A

Fourth order of business Public comment:

Lt Jim Fisher address the concerns that were spoken at last week's meeting. 185 calls of service, 14 arrests, 3 investigated traffic accidents, 24 incidents, 5 domestic violations & the department seized 50 bindle bags of heroin/fentanyl. Office Edson completed the OHRV driving course. LT Fisher spoke to Principal Val Carey at the school. Lindseigh Picard stated that in the information is nice to have but what is the plan for the Chief and how many positions are currently staffed. What is the hold up and is there a target date? Selectman Kilanski stated the board has not listed the opening for the Chief position as of yet. The Board wanted to look at other options and the pros & cons. LT Fisher stated that PD has 3 fulltime officers & 3 parttime officers.

Mary Ganon recommended the board should think about pulling in some community comments on the Police Chief position. Mary stated that she works with Law Enforcement & communities in Vt. Putting together safety reviews and what the community's needs are. Mary would be happy to help put together a community conversation. Given the current moment that we are in and issues that communities are facing around the pandemic, Schooling, Policing Racial justice, poverty. Mary asked if each of the board members are aware of the issues around economic and racial justice that we are facing in our town right now. Unfortunately, we have a reparation in parts of county that this is not a place where we support different people that are from different identities, race, culture, ethnicity etc. If we want to pull this community into a direct of economic opportunity and creating a health community for our kids there needs to be leadership. Mary asked what is the role of the select board is and what each of you are doing to address the social and economic issues? Creating housing, helping with food insecurities, kids not going to school, kids not being feed, helping with residents that cannot pay their rent. We will be impacted by the pandemic for several years. Selectman Marsh said that there has been economic growth. Mark Tigan-WEDC have worked hard on the development of Stone Mt Business and have some prospects. The Diner and Barber have reopened. J&J is adding an addition to their business and Selectman Rokes will be building a new machine shop. Economically we are heading in the right direction. We live in a low to moderate society. Small town USA are hand cuffed by County, State and Federal levels and it falls back onto the communities. Selectman Marsh stated that he works with the county jail and has helped with finding jobs for his renters. Mary stated she would like to see the board take some leadership to bring a community conversation on social justice. We have a new Welfare Officer and heard that the community is going to start a welfare to work program. Selectman Marsh said we have a program in place like other communities. It is not a work program per say. Per the RSA anyone that comes in for assistance from the town, the town keeps record of it. The person has to attempt to pay it back and instead of taking money out of their pocket they can work off the money owed. Mary said she would like people to understand the deeper issues when we talk about poverty and welfare. There is a stigma here in Winchester. I would like board to educate themselves and make more public statements that we are a community that supports and welcomes people into town. The School does a nice job. Across the State of NH there are conversations about Anti-racism and systemic racism. This is an issue, and it will be coming down the pipe to Winchester. There is a reason why we do not have more people of color living here in our community. People of color do not believe they can be here and be a welcomed. There is an Anti-racism statement going around that we are asking House Reps & Senators to sign. I would like the Select Board to make a prominent statement and how they are opposed to any racial injustice and intolerant of racial comments and racial behavior in our community. The power of that statement for this community would put us put front economically and socially. We are community that cares about everyone. I want the leadership

to make more a forceful statement on things that are going on in the 21st century. Selectman Kilanski stated that the board did make a statement about a year ago.

Kevin Sudell thanked the fire dept. for putting out the fire on Headlands Road. Kevin had concerns with the Fire Chief on the inspection done on the new propane tank at the same home that had the fire. The town staff did not have a complete building permit and no site plan was done. Also believes that the building codes and zoning need to be addressed. All permits should be in 1 office and be accessible for review. Selectman Kilanski stated that they will look into the concerns.

Nonpublic under RSA 91-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. The motion carries 5-0. A roll call vote was taken, and members vote “yes” individually, and the board convenes in non-public at 7:20pm.

Adjournment:

The board reconvenes in public session at 8:45pm.

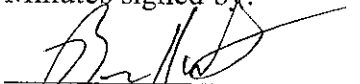
Selectman Stephens makes a motion to seal the minutes under e. Selectman Leustek seconds the motion. The motion carries 5-0.

Selectman Marsh makes a motion to adjourn at 8:50pm. Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. The motion carries 5-0.

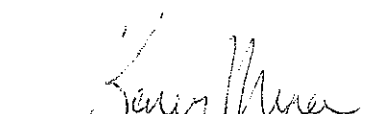
Minutes respectfully submitted:

Karey Miner, Town Administrator

Minutes signed by:



Ben Kilanski Chairman



Karey Miner