



Town of Winchester  
1 Richmond Road Winchester, NH 03470  
**Minutes of the  
Selectmen Meeting**  
Wednesday, May 27, 2020

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

**First order of business:**

The Chairman opens the meeting at 7:00 pm.

The Winchester School-Lindseigh Picard, Mary Henry & Ken Dassau gave an update. The school is preparing for the end of school celebration. The Preschool kids will come outside of the school and plant a sunflower and the Kindergarten kids will do a drive thru the school and receive their certificates. The 8<sup>th</sup> graders will have set time on Monday & Tuesday with up to 10 family members to come to the school walk across the stage to receive their diploma. Graduation will be video and posted to the school's website. The Senior night was canceled this year. Typically, the Seniors receiving scholarships would have been recognized at this event. The Teachers at the Winchester School did signs and wrote messages for all the seniors graduating and are displayed at the school. Karey added that the 12<sup>th</sup> seniors will be graduating June 13<sup>th</sup> and will be having a parade with one vehicle per senior. The school is looking at our disbursement schedule with the town. We current receive monthly payment to fund our budget. We are looking at options to front load the disbursement. We have a majority of project that need to be done this summer. The school has a \$550,000 list that the town voted on, raised and appropriated. Due to the unreserved fund balance being in the negative we have no money to fund the projects. The board will be discussing a disbursement schedule which will create more cash flow during the summer. Waiting for the year end balance. The board is already having discussions on how this new budget (20-21) looks like and how to accommodate for the decrease. Lindseigh stated that the School Board has started to talk about their next budget session. There was some miss understanding early on in the budget process and would ask that the Budget Committee & the Select Board to attend these meetings. With COVID-19 and not knowing what next year looks like and contracts and some reservation within the school system with the budget being cut have caused some distress not just in the school but in the community with families and students. Lindseigh wanted the board to know that and asked the board to join them on getting back on the same page. Lindseigh stated that Val Carey wrote a thoughtful letter to the board along with some resignations. The board has gone through and has decreased the staff by 25%. Because of the uneasiness with the staff we have received resignations from some teachers that have been there for a long time and with them leaving will be felt long-term. Staff that we have trained, invested time in and have seen through their master's degrees and they are moving on to local schools for more money. The decrease in the school's budget will have a long-term effect and I would encourage the Selectmen to read the minutes and encourage you to join in to create a more positive impact. Lindseigh said that had their insurance company open an investigation which took over a year on the money that was paid to ACCESS back in 2014. They looked into the policy to see if allow error or admission of recovery. The insurance company stated no and there was no accident that occurred. The board sat down with ACCESS and asked for some type of compensation. Ken stated that is was about \$88,000. Mary stated

that they had a quick discussion on working out an arrangement with ACCESS with possibly transportation. Ken stated that this was 2014 any inquiry needed to be done within 3 years which would have been 2017. But because of the all the talk about the money the school put it though anyway and the investigation showed no wrongdoing. Now it is can be laid to rest and we can work out an agreement with ACCESS.

Kevin Bazan gave the board an update on the Annual Pickle Festival. The Committee met and they have decided to cancel this year Pickle Fest. Kevin stated that some of the other events in the area have also canceled. The committee priority is the safety of the town and the people attending. Kevin will be reaching out to the Sponsors and the Vendors informing them of the cancelation and will releasing a press release on Friday. The Committee still plans on decorating the Main St with cornstalks, hay bails & mums. They have scheduled the next Pickle Festival for September 25, 2021. Kevin announced the recipient of the Pickle Fest- Robert Leustek Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 to Maddison Miner. The Committee created a new Scholarship this year in Cynthia Ryder name in the amount of \$500. They have awarded this scholarship also to Maddison Miner.

Selectman Rokes asked Kevin about his concerns with the property on Richmond Road that he had posted about a few weeks' backs. Kevin stated that he sent an email to Margaret with his concerns. The property has been sitting there for years untouched, it is a hazard and a safety issue. The board will send a letter the property owners.

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

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

Selectman Marsh makes a motion to approve the water capital reserve withdrawal in the amount of \$60,000 to hire Lawrence for the water project at the end of Richmond Rd and to approve \$6,650 to Henniker Directional Drilling. Selectman Leustek seconds the motion. The motion carries 5-0.

Rick let the board know that the Water Dept will be having a free energy audit done. June 4<sup>th</sup> will be the site review. Also, well #1 will be back online soon.

Selectman Rokes makes a motion to approve the fireworks permit for the Northfield Drive In for June 4<sup>th</sup> and June 6<sup>th</sup> (rain date). Selectman Leustek seconds the motion. The motion carries 4-0-1.

Elm St Bridge will be closed May 28<sup>th</sup> from 9-11am for an inspection.

Selectman Rokes makes a motion to approve a timber tax for map 5 lot 46 in the amount of \$209.81. Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. The motion carries 5-0.

Selectman Marsh makes a motion to approve a gravel tax for map 6 lot 23 in the amount of \$238.48. Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. The motion carries 5-0.

Intent to excavate map 6 lot 23.

Selectman Marsh makes a motion to deny NE Sweetwater & Distillery permit for outside tables. Selectman Rokes seconds the motion. The motion fails 2-2-1. Selectman Leustek makes a motion to approve the permit. No one seconded the motion.

The Board received a quote for a handicap ramp at the beach for \$189,000. Selectman Marsh asked to reach out to Jack Munn-grant writer to see if there are any grants available.

Karey asked the board about re-opening the Town Hall and add public comment back to the agendas. The board would like to wait until May 31 to see what the Governor will be recommending. Tabled until next week.

Reminder Public Hearing Friday May 29, 2020 @5pm on the COVID-19 GOFERR Grant.

The board tabled signing the TAN until they receive a legal opinion.

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

Selectman Marsh makes a motion to approve the transfer from Landfill to the Highway budget in the amount of \$9,233.75. Selectman Leustek seconds the motion. The motion carries 5-0.

**Third order of business Board comment:**

Selectman Leustek let the board know that WMUR will be rerunning the episode on the Town Clock and asked for an update. Selectman Kilanski said that the Town received the LCHIP Grant and is in the process of repairing it this summer. Selectman Leustek let the board know that the RED Committee is working on purchasing a few banners and hardware to fix the broken ones. The Farmers Market will start on June 6<sup>th</sup>. RED Committee-Music in the Park will have their 1<sup>st</sup> band on June 11<sup>th</sup>. More dates to come.

Karey stated that NESG will be sending a surveyor to the Closed Landfill site to start the solar project and Dale has Calcium Chloride coming Thursday for the North end of town.

**Fourth order of business Public comment:**

N/A

**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. 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 8:20pm.

**Sixth order of business: Adjournment**

The board reconvenes in public session at 8:28pm.


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

Selectman Leustek makes a motion to adjourn at 8:30pm. 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