



Town of Winchester
1 Richmond Road Winchester, NH 03470

**Minutes of the
Selectmen Meeting
Wednesday, May 5, 2021**

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

First order of business: Minutes

The Chairman opens the meeting at 6:30 pm.

The board reviews the minutes of 4-28-21 for approval. Selectman Leustek makes a motion to approve the minutes. Selectman Rokes seconds the motion. The motion carries 5-0.

Second order of business: New Business

Selectman Marsh makes a motion to approve tax abatement for map 35 lot 20-boat ramp. Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. The motion carries 5-0.

Selectman Marsh makes a motion to approve Southwest Region Planning Commissions agreement for the feasibility study for the ADA ramp at the Town Beach. Selectman Rokes seconds the motion. The motion carries 5-0.

Tuesday, May 11th is Election Day. Selectman Kilanski and Selectman Stephens will be present. The board agreed to have Margaret take the minutes for Karey next week.

Comcast is in the process of a line extension to provide service to Verry Brook Rd. Applications have been submitted.

The Evergreen Cemetery will be adding a 15x27 addition and the funds will be used from the cemetery donation account for the project.

Selectman Kilanski read an email from a concerned resident; "Dear Select Board members, the town owns property on lower Elm Street, next to the old church. This property is an eyesore and is not being maintained in any way. Since the Town of Winchester is interested in property owners maintaining their homes, perhaps the town, who owns this property should mow, cut down random trees growing around the house and maybe even consider selling it. It has been like this for years and is frankly unacceptable. I had heard at one time that this property was considered for the Police Department. If you have this in your plan no one knows as there is no discussion about this in any meetings or minutes. If that is not the plan, may I please know why this unmaintained town property is still on the town owned property list and why aren't you selling it? Sincerely, Colleen Duquette" Selectman Kilanski stated that the board had discussed using this property of a new police station and have asked the grant writer to look for grants. Selectman Rokes said if it has been a couple of years maybe we should sell it.

The board reviewed the agreement with the Winchester Fire Assoc for the town to use the donated forest fire truck they received. The towns insurance company-Primex reviewed it as well. The board would like to have the town Attorney review it as well.

The board reviews and approves the following financial documents:

Selectman Rokes makes a motion to approve the monthly payment to the Winchester School in the amount of \$406,720.60. Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0. Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. The motion carries 5-0.

Selectman Rokes makes a motion to approve a payment to the CAG in the amount of \$851.53. Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0. Selectman Leustek seconds the motion. The motion carries 5-0.

Selectman Rokes makes a motion to approve releasing the elderly deferral lien for map 25 lot 7. Selectman Leustek seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0. Selectman Leustek seconds the motion. The motion carries 5-0.

Lindseigh Picard-Winchester School Board gave an update on the school. The school is back to 5 days a week. Principal Carey will be reminding everyone the process for dropping off and picking up the kids. Lindseigh reminded everyone that the election is Tuesday and want to make sure that everyone had the correct information. Lindseigh gave details on the school warrant articles and went over the importance of the article. If anyone has questions, they can reach out to Lindseigh at lpicard@wnhsd.org or 603-660-0646. Selectman Stephens asked if the Facilities Manager is leaving. Lindseigh stated that he was, and they are on the search for his replacement.

Third order of business Board comment:

Selectman Rokes stated that the board should hold off on the search of the new police chief until after elections. The board could be changing. Also asked if the board should post that we are looking for volunteer interest forms from residents/business owners that maybe interested in being the on the hiring committee. Have the form due back in 3 weeks. The board agrees.

Selectman Marsh made a motion to change the town Attorney to Jeremy Hockensmith. Selectman Rokes seconds the motion. The motion carries 5-0.

Fourth order of business Public comment:

Todd Kilanski commented on the new donated forest fire truck. The town currently has a forest fire truck that is owned by the State of NH that they lease to the town and the town maintains and insures. The new truck will work the same way. Selectman Rokes said this is the 1st we have heard about the Winchester Fire Assoc. Todd made a comment that the board should ask some of the Department Heads to be on the hiring committee for the new Chief. Todd asked the board to allow the fire dept to have a gas card. There are 2 gas vehicles and if there is an emergency, we need to be able to get gas. Selectman Stephens made a motion to allow the fire dept to get a gas card and Chief Kellom is to work with Amy on how many. Selectman Rokes seconds the motion. The motion carries 5-0.

Captain Felicia Howard-Ambulance gave an update to the board for April. 58 calls made all but 3 due to the ambulance was already at a call. This has been the busiest April since 2015. YTD 279 calls. May has been busy with 15 calls. Felicia stated that it would be nice to sleeping quarters. 3 attendants live out of town.

Mary Gannon appreciated everyone that came to the candidate forum on Saturday. Mary asked Jack and Gloria since they did not attend if they wanted to tell us why they are running again. Selectman Marsh stated that he had a prior engagement and that cannot campaign in the Town Hall, but asked Mary to call him or talk after the meeting. Selectman Leustek stated she also had a prior engagement.

Mike Coope asked the board to look into the abandoned car in the Center Church parking lot. Karey will call the PD. Mike want to let the board know the steeple is still leaking and would like to put the clock out of service for a week to clean it and remove the rust from the cables. The board agreed.

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

Selectman Marsh makes a motion to enter nonpublic session under “c, d, & 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 7:20pm.

Adjournment:

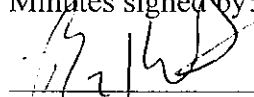
The board reconvenes in public session at 8:40pm.

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

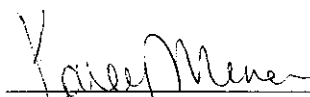
Selectman Leustek makes a motion to adjourn at 8:45pm. Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. The motion carries 5-0.

Minutes respectfully submitted:
Karey Miner, Town Administrator

Minutes signed by:



Ben Kilanski, Chairman



Karey Miner