



Town of Winchester
1 Richmond Road Winchester, NH 03470
**Minutes of the
Selectmen Meeting**
Wednesday, June 10, 2020

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

First order of business: Minutes

The Chairman opens the meeting at 7:00 pm.

The board reviews the minutes for 6/3/20. Selectman Rokes makes a motion to approve the minutes.

Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0.

Second order of business: New Business

Sherry Willard-Cemetery Sexton came before the board to announce that Gary Rokes has offered to build a new building at the Evergreen Cemetery no cost to the town. This would replace the existing building. Gary Rokes stated that the existing building is in disrepair and need to be torn down. Gary will be asking for donations/material from local businesses to help with the project. The building would have a concrete slab, metal roof & siding, sink, 10ft walls, windows, new driveway etc. Gary did ask if they could use some of the fill from the towns pit. The board didn't see an issue with that request. Selectman Kilanski stated that a public hearing would need to be held. The hearing will be scheduled for July 1st. The board was appreciative of Gary's offer and was in favor of moving forward on the project. Gary said that he would have more information and an estimated cost of the project for the hearing.

The WEDC are preparing to close on the loan and begin construction on Stone Mt Business Park. Part of the construction is staking out the road and setting benchmarks on the corner lots or trees near the roadways. This includes the cul-de-sac centerline and radius points. The WEDC is asking if the town would be willing to pay for this final work? The board tabled until they speak to Dale on funding this from the highway dept.

Selectman Marsh makes a motion to approve a sewer abatement for 163 Richmond Rd in the amount of \$42.56 for a pool filling. Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. The motion carries 4-0-1.

Thayer Library submitted to the board a phased reopening plan. Selectman Kilanski makes a motion to approve the plan. Selectman Rokes seconds the motion. The motion carries 5-0.

Selectman Marsh makes a motion to approve the firework permits for the 75 Parker St for July 4th. Selectman Leustek seconds the motion. The motion carries 5-0.

Intent to cut was submitted for map 9 lot 36 & map 9 lot 39-1.

Conant Library gave the board a few weeks ago a letter of recommendation from their Insurance Company to inspect the electrical. Tim Pelkey did the inspection and his recommendation is to replace the old breaker

panels. There are 3 of the old-style push breakers that are now obsolete. 3 standard panels are estimated to be \$1,000 dollars each. Or for more protection there is combo breakers which are \$70 per breaker and there are roughly 15 breakers. Total \$1,050 plus the panels at \$1,000 each. Selectman Rokes makes a motion to approve replacing the 3 panels and use the combo breakers. Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. The motion carries 5-0. Karey asked the board to move forward on getting quotes to finish the cosmetic work needed to repair the walls and ceiling from the water damage.

The board reviews and approves the following financial documents:

Selectman Marsh makes a motion to approve the Evergreen Expendable Care Fund in the amount of \$440.00. Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. The motion carries 5-0.

Selectman Stephens makes a motion to approve the purchase order from the water dept. in the amount of \$3,872.00 for fire hydrants, \$4,000.00- Audit & \$6,129.00- E. coli equipment. Selectman Leustek seconds the motion. The motion carries 5-0.

Selectman Marsh makes a motion to approve the purchase order from the sewer dept. in the amount of \$7,000.00- Audit. Selectman Leustek seconds the motion. The motion carries 5-0.

Selectman Leustek makes a motion to approve transfer from Police outside activity fund to operating budget for March-\$480.49, April-\$2,675.43 & May-\$5,861.52. Selectman Rokes seconds the motion. The motion carries 5-0.

Selectman Marsh makes a motion to approve the transfer from the Ambulance Billing fund to Ambulance operating budget in the amount of \$18,574.54-April & \$12,188.69-May. Selectman Rokes seconds the motion. The motion carries 5-0.

Selectman Rokes makes a motion to approve the withdrawal from the Church Steeple capital reserve fund to Scully Architects in the amount of \$1,875. Selectman Leustek seconds the motion. The motion carries 5-0.

Selectman Rokes makes a motion to approve the deposit to the water capital reserve fund in the amount of \$175,000 and the sewer capital reserve fund in the amount of \$75,000. Selectman Leustek seconds the motion. The motion carries 5-0.

Selectman Marsh makes a motion to approve the Tax Deed back to map 1 lot 20-60. Selectman Leustek seconds the motion. The motion carries 5-0.

Third order of business Board comment:

Selectman Kilanski made a statement: "In light of recent events in our country I fell it is important that we, the Select Board of the town of Winchester, share our views. We agree that racism, hate, discrimination or any other types of profiling are not only ugly but unwelcome here in Winchester. Fortunately, we live in a culturally diverse and amazing community that has not had problems with such hate or ignorance. I personally feel that part of this due to the implementation and enforcement of schools bullying policies. The school plays a huge role in building a strong community and with the policy on bulling they do a great job of handling these before they start. They have played a big role in having the great community and citizens we all live amongst. We also believe in and have full confidence in our police force. They have had a policy in place on the use of force and it is practice and monitored closely. Recently our Chief has reviewed and updated this policy. It was asked of us to follow what some towns and cities have recently done. Things such as creating new committees or new policies around discrimination. As much as we support these officials for doing such, currently we do not feel it is necessary here. As I stated earlier, we live in a great town where we don't see these types of problems. I would ask that if anyone has more questions on this or knows of problems that we are unaware of; please email the Town Administrator and they will be addressed."

Selectman Leustek let the board know the Farmers Market had 7 vendors this past weekend and it went well. Music in the Park will be held next week at the ELMCC on the front lawn.

Selectman Rokes makes a motion to approve the purchase of 2 steel doors from Perkins Lumber for the Highway garage in the amount of \$1,000 plus the hardware- \$130.00. Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. The motion carries 4-1. Dale can return the other doors to Home Depot.

Selectman Rokes stated he spoke to Dale about the Elm St bridge and the potholes. Dale will reach out to the State of NH. Selectman Marsh would like to contact the owner of the Post Office and ask them to fix the hole in their driveway.

Selectman Stephens would like to have the Highway Dept pull out the trees and brush from behind the Fire Station. The board agreed. Also, would like to see all the moss on the gazebo roof be cleaned off and then seal the roof.

Fourth order of business Public comment:

Rick let the board know that Well#1 was repaired and back online. Thanked the board for allowing the redevelopment of the 1947 well. Also, for the purchase to replace the E. coli testing equipment. The water main extension project on Richmond Rd. will be starting in roughly 30-60 days. Replacing the 2inch line to an 8inch.

Lindseigh Picard asked the board if they found out if the COVID-19 Grant reimbursement money could be used for funding taping/video equipment? Karey stated yes. Lindseigh asked the board to consider purchasing the taping/video equipment to allow the residents better access to public meetings. Selectman Kilanski stated he sees no reason why we don't take this opportunity and use the funds for equipment. Lindseigh stated that the town last week approved a TAN (tax anticipation notes) for \$1,000,000 and asked why we are taking it out? In last week's meeting it was stated that we have money in our budget, so looking for some clarification. Also, you mention this happens every year so, what steps can the board make to address the cash flow every year. Selectman Kilanski said the reason why we do it every year is because by taking out a TAN at the start of every new fiscal year off a million dollars short. We have enough in our budget to operate the town, but the last 2 school payments are just over a million dollars, so to make the payment to the school we took out a TAN. In the years past the school has worked with the town to hold off on the payments so we wouldn't have to get a TAN. Unfortunately, this year the school was not in a place where they could hold off on receiving their payment. Lindseigh asked is this happening because of unpaid property taxes? Selectman Kilanski said yes. It's a hard cycle to get into having to get a TAN and start off in the negative. Lindseigh asked how can we break that cycle. Unpaid property taxes seem to be the culprit so what is being done to address the issue. Lindseigh stated that last week the board said they review the budget each week. How do you review the budget, do you have a finance committee that reviews it? Selectman Marsh said that we pay finance dept. (Amy) and she hands out or emails out detailed budget to the board. Lindseigh asked that the board to consider the last week of the 19-20 fiscal year handing out the budget for the public to review. The board stated that it's a public document and will share the document once the year has been finalized. Lindseigh had a comment for the board that she had attended the black lives matter rally and was moved by the town and the support and the positive energy and peacefulness. To say we don't have a problem is really inaccurate. The only way Winchester will continue to have peaceful rallies is addressing it and supporting it. Lindseigh was proud to see Chief Tollett out there with everyone. Selectman Kilanski stated that He and Selectman Rokes also attended and it was a nice rally. Karey addressed the question on the taxes. There are RSA's that will only allow the town to tax deed after 3 years. We lien the property every year when taxes are outstanding but can only tax deed after 3 years. Selectman Kilanski

stated that the board meets with many residents that are not 3 years behind but are falling behind to work with them on a payment arrangement. Help them work out a monthly payment plan. Amy asked to clarify the TAN, in past few years the school has been able to wait to receive their payments for a few weeks. This year Mary called and stated she wasn't able to delay their payment. The issue is timing once we send out our tax bills it is 3 weeks before the mortgage companies send in their payments. The last several years we have only had to take 1 TAN a year in November. This is to cover the county tax. Selectman Marsh said that several years ago the county revised their calculation on towns and what they owe. The Town of Winchester got hit hard. Maybe we reach out to the county to see if they are planning on revisiting the calculation any time soon.

Natalie Quevedo wanted to comment on the statement that Selectman Kilanski made. Racism does exist in Winchester. It was nice to see the Chief, Ben and James at the rally. Natalie wanted to point out the Chief did change his force of use policy, but it had not been updated since 2012 until it was asked to have it updated. Would it have been changed if we didn't ask or would you have made a statement if we didn't push for it? Selectman Kilanski said that no one pushed him to make a statement. It was asked of me to follow suit with what Keene did. No one asked me to make a statement or show up to the rally. I felt it needed to be done. Natalie would hope that the board acknowledge that racism and bigotry does exist in town.

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 b, c & 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 7:57pm.

Sixth order of business: Adjournment

The board reconvenes in public session at 8:43pm.

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

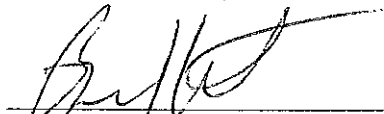
The Select Board hired Tirzah Nelson to the Ambulance Dept.

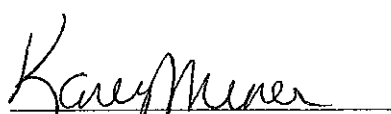
Selectman Leustek makes a motion to adjourn at 8:45pm. Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. The motion carries 5-0.

Minutes respectfully submitted:

Karey Miner, Administrator

Minutes signed by:


Ben Kilanski, Chairman


Karey Miner, Administrator