



Town of Winchester
1 Richmond Road Winchester, NH 03470

Minutes of the
Selectmen Meeting
Wednesday, July 21, 2021

Board members present: Ben Kilanski, Lindseigh Picard, Herbert Stephens and Theresa Sepe Also, present were Rick Meleski, Dale Gray.

First order of business: Minutes

The Chairman opens the meeting at 6:30 pm.

The board reviews the minutes of 7/18/21 for approval. Selectman Picard makes a motion to approve the minutes. Selectman Sepe seconds the motion. Motion carries 3-0-1. The board reviews the minutes of 7/14/21 for approval. Selectman Picard makes a motion to approve the minutes. Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. Motion carries 4-0.

Second order of business: New Business

Mark Tigan-WEDC presented a proposal for how the WEDC could use part of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for Stone Mt Business Park. See attached proposal. Selectman Kilanski thanked Mark for the detailed proposal and that the board will discuss this further once we have reviewed the needs of the town/departments. Selectman Picard asked if "Loan Pool" was for only new businesses coming into the park or can existing businesses be included. Mark stated that the WEDC had discussed the possibility of existing businesses but felt the funds needed to be used for new businesses to build/market Stone Mt Business Park. Selectman Sepe asked Mark what were the top 2 items that WEDC would like funding for. \$50,000 to help with a prospect to close the deal on 1 of the lots and \$25,000 to help with the delays on the solar project. Selectman Picard asked if there is a contract for businesses that are coming into the business park. Mark said no. The board thanked Mark.

Selectman Picard made a motion to request the ARPA funds. Selectman Sepe second the motion. Motion carries 4-0.

Karey has reached out to Monadnock Disposal for a meeting to discuss a new contract and the increase.

Reminder the board has a work session with Welfare Director- Jennifer Rhodes on updates to the welfare program next week, July 28th @ 5:30.

SFC Engineering will be at the July 28th board meeting to discuss the Town Beach Feasibility Study.

August 4th Senator Jay Kahn will be at the meeting to talk to the Select Board.

Selectman Stephens makes a motion to approve a raffle permit for a benefit for Pat Hall. Drawing is October 17th. Selectman Picard seconds the motion. Motion carries 4-0.

Selectman Sepe makes a motion to approve an Oath of Office for Kristin Landry & Amaret Johnson as Conant Library Trustees. Selectman Picard seconds the motion. Motion carries 4-0.

Selectman Kilanski read a letter from State Rep Jennifer Rhodes to NH Dept. Health & Human Services- Lori Shibbinette thanking their team for the quick response during the flooding and giving the town cots, blankets, pillows, and sheets. Selectman Sepe thanked Jennifer for all her help during the storm.

Selectman Kilanski announced that last week the board voted to show appreciation to the employees that were working through the pandemic last year. The employees had to be employed before March 23, 2020. Worked 6months consecutively and didn't receive the State of NH stipend. Fulltime received 2days off with pay and Parttime received 1 day off with pay. The time needs to be used before June 30, 2022.

The board reviews and approves the following financial documents:

Selectman Sepe makes a motion to approve the payment for the repairs to Highway truck #3 in the amount \$3,950.66. Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. Motion carries 4-0.

Selectman Sepe makes a motion to approve highways purchase of compactor in the amount \$3,644.00. Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. Motion carries 4-0. The compactor will be shared with water & sewer.

Third order of business Other:

Natalie Quevedo presented the board a "Resolution upholding commitment to Humans Rights and Inclusivity" document for the board to approve and sign. See attached. This would be a statement that the Town makes to ensure that everyone is included and respected in town. The resolution covers everything in our community and is a good message to put out to the community and put Winchester in a positive light. Conor Hill said that he is in favor the resolution and it would ground ourselves moving forward on different policies. To be able to think outside of the box, to come up with different ideas and to look back at the declaration to see what our principles and our basic values are. Conor ask the board to sign it. Mary Gagnon said that she is in full support, and it is a message to the public that we are a community that opposes all forms of discrimination. People that are not directly impacted by some of these issues they might not think it is important to look at these things. Mary was told that there was a swastika on the Ashuelot Bridge, and she has a concern with it because usually there is more behind that symbol. Some people might think that we don't have to do this because we are a welcoming community, which is true. This statement is not saying that we are not that, but we can let our neighbors know, the community and the Sate that we are taking a stand. This could be a positive boom for the community. Mary asked to the board think about it and thanked the board for their consideration. Natalie stated that the town needs this declaration and asked the board to sign it. Selectman Picard makes a motion to approve and sign the resolution. No one seconded the motion. Selectman Stephens would like to time to review because he just received it. Selectman Kilanski said that he would like to have the attorney review the document and wait until we have a full board.

Flood update: Selectman Kilanski thanked Emergency Management, Fire Dept., Highway, Selectman, Henri Audet, and volunteers that came out to help with the flooding. Lindseigh and some residents brought food for the workers. The Community came together and worked hard. Selectman Sepe thanked everyone and stated that everyone worked very well together.

Dale thanked everyone as well and gave an update on the roads. Old Westport Rd. is open to 1 lane. The road will be shut down again possibly Monday to repair the 2nd lane. Dale would like to have Lawrence's help with the repair. Selectman Sepe makes a motion to approve hiring Lawrence's as long as FEMA has no requirements with having to have bids. Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. Motion carries 4-0. Dale added that he has been taking pictures and doing daily reporting. Selectman Picard asked if there are any other roads that are closed or issues. Dale said that all roads are passable. There are several that need work but are passable. Todd Kilanski asked if Old Westport Rd has a weight limit. Dale said no.

Rick Meleski updated the board on the town drinking water. Winchester has three sources for town water. Wells #1 and #2 located at 433 Keene Road and well #3 located on pump road 2 off from plumb Pak Drive. None of these locations were impacted by the recent flooding. The Winchester water department is delivering safe drinking water to all of its

customers per state and federal standards. The Wastewater Treatment Plant is up and running and they are cleaning up after the flooding. Selectman Sepe thanked the water & sewer dept for helping. Rick thanked the Fire Dept for keeping them updated on the water levels. Selectman Picard asked Rick what was the protocol for residents that have questions or concerns with their private wells. Rick stated that could call the water department and get information on the where they can have their well tested.

Richard Emergency Management Director let the board know that the State has given the Town the cots, blankets, sheets & pillows to keep. Chief Kellom is looking for a place to store all of the equipment, possibly at the ELMMCC. The board asked Richard to setup a quarterly Emergency Management meeting with all the department heads. The board asked Karey to look into the phones in the EOC building.

Dale let the board know the tractor rental from the state has been sitting and the Highway has not had time to run the machine due to the flooding. Dale asked the board if they would allow Dan & Roy to work some overtime to use the mower to get caught up. The board agreed.

Karey updated the board on the flooding at the Conant Library & Town Hall. Thank you to Henri for staying overnight to keep up with the water coming into the Town Hall. Tri State Restoration will be here to assess the damage and clean out the Conant Library & Town Hall. Dana's Container will be dropping off a dumpster. The Insurance Company has been notified of all the damage at the town buildings and all of the roads. We have been in contacted with FEMA & Homeland Security and have started an application. There is a 2million dollar threshold to meet for all the surrounding towns and we are currently at 1.5million. Homeland Security stated that local business and resident cannot be included in the application. They are to dial 211 and ask if there is any state aid to help with the flood damage. Karey stated that Jen-Welfare Director was tagged in a post on Facebook about assisting someone. Both Karey & Jen agree that having a conversation on Facebook is not the place to try and assist someone. If there is someone in need, they should call the Town Hall. The board agreed.

Todd Kilanski-Fire Dept. LT thanked the other departments and the community for their help and is proud of everyone's hard work. The Fire Dept did have to shut the electricity off on Main St due to the flooding basement. The owners of the building will need to have a licensed electrician to inspect the panels before the electricity can be turned on. Selectman Kilanski stated that it is the Landlords responsibility to help their tenants.

Selectman Picard would like to have the swastika symbol removed from the bridge. Dale will take care of it. Selectman Picard updated the board on the Planning Board meeting on Monday. Selectman Picard would like to have State Rep Rhodes give the board a real time updates on the budget and items that will impact Winchester.

Selectman Stephens needed to be excused from the meeting.

Fourth order of business public comment:

Natalie Quevedo asked to be on the agenda Aug 4th for the Broadband Committee to present a proposal for the ARPA funds. Natalie announced the Ashuelot River and Conservation Committee will be doing a clean-up on a section of the Ashuelot River on Sunday, Sept 26th. Natalie asked where the board was on the warrant article to purchase livestreaming equipment. Selectman Picard stated that she has done some research on livestreaming and using other platforms to stream meetings but is waiting for 2 more quotes. Natalie asked where the board was on hiring a Social Worker. Selectman Kilanski said that the board decided to wait for the new Police Chief to be hired so he will be involved in the process.

Conor Hill thanked all the departments and volunteers. Conor likes the idea of the livestreaming equipment to be able to reach out to more people. If someone saw the swastika symbol, why not say something. See something say something.

Mary Gagnon thanked Jen Rhodes for her help and all the departments that help keep the community safe. There was a lot of good energy. Mary said that wanted to make it clear the comment Selectman Sepe made that know ones supports

Jennifer that was not me. When comments like that and are publicly made the tone of this meeting doesn't feel good to me. So we need to remind ourselves that what we are doing in town and the work we all are trying really hard to do to make this a better community is not about us. Mary said it is about the kids and the elders. Mary would encourage the board to talk to each other and how you conduct yourselves publicly.

Mary said she cares about the community and some of the ideas that I bring forward and even if people don't support them or not worth the time talking about them, I am still going to show up. Mary stated that she would be happy to speak to anyone that doesn't think any of the issues that she brings forward are of any concern. But when there is a swastika on a public bridge where there are tourist that stop, we need to take them seriously. If they see that they might not return. Mary thanked Dale for taking care of it.

Todd Kilanski stated that the comment Selectman Kilanski made was not sarcastic and during the flooding everyone worked together. Everyone did what they had to do. In regard to the swastika on the bridge, if everyone has seen it and never did anything about until tonight then maybe the select board didn't know. If you saw, then you should have said something prior to tonight.

State Rep Jennifer Rhodes gave an update on her meeting on the with Will Pearson-Cheshire County. They discussed the ARPA funds and some of the uses for the funds. Possibility helping Vet's with some feel good services and drug and alcohol abuse programs. Jen said that it was the end of 1st legislative session. Jen sat on the Criminal & Safety committee and there were hundreds of bills. The budget decreased 13.5 billion. 100million added to the Special Ed trust fund. Money was in the budget for Police cameras, broadband and family paid leave for small business. 30% increase in meals & rooms tax will be given back to the towns.

Mike Coope asked if there are any updates on when the Mike Duke-Robert Morgan CO. be back to change the glass on clock face and look at the issue with water coming in. Karey stated that Mike won't be able to get here until end of season, late fall partly due to having no help.

The board takes a 10min recess

Nonpublic under RSA 91-A:3II (c)

Selectman Sepe makes a motion to enter nonpublic session under " c ". Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. The motion carries 3-0. A roll call vote was taken, and members vote "yes" individually, and the board convenes in non-public at 8:40pm.

Adjournment:

The board reconvenes in public session at 9:27pm.

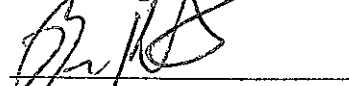
The board accepted Mike Weldon resignation. We will post the position for 2 weeks.

The hiring committee for the Police Chief has requested a non-public for 7/28/21.

Selectman Picard makes a motion to adjourn at 9:30pm. Selectman Sepe seconds the motion. The motion carries 5-0.

Minutes respectfully submitted:
Karey Miner, Town Administrator

Minutes signed by:



Ben Kilanski, Chairman



Karey Miner