



Town of Winchester  
1 Richmond Road Winchester, NH 03470

**Minutes of the  
Selectmen Meeting**  
Wednesday, July 28, 2021

**Board members present:** Ben Kilanski, Lindseigh Picard, Herbert Stephens, James Rokes and Theresa Sepe  
Also, present were Rick Meleski, Chief Kellom & Richard Lapoint.

**First order of business: Work Session**

The Chairman opens the meeting at 5:30 pm for a Welfare work session with Jennifer Rhodes and Cheryl Laraba. Jennifer asked the board for their opinion on several possible changes in the welfare guidelines. The current allowable rent amounts are between \$300-\$450 if the applicant qualifies. Jennifer asked if it should read "up to \$300-\$450 if eligible." Selectman Rokes made a motion to change the language to read "up to the amount eligible." Selectmen Stephens seconds. Motion carries 5-0. Selectman Sepe asked how do we know what they are eligible for" Jennifer said we have a budget work sheet. Jennifer said that currently the food voucher is \$15 per person per week. This is not doable. The prices have changed since 2014. The SNAP program allows \$5.49 per person per day. Also need to review the allowable foods and prices. The Town works Kulick's and the list has meat at \$1.99 a pound. You can not get meat for \$1.99 today. Selectman Picard if it is possible to work with other stores. Jennifer stated it has always been Kulick's because they are willing to work with the town and they are in town. Jennifer said that she would reach out to Swanzey to see who they use. Selectman Picard makes a motion update the prices to today prices and increase the voucher amount to \$50 per person per week. Selectmen Stephens seconds. Motion carries 5-0. Selectman Picard said that the Farmers Market allows SNAP and sees no reason why they wouldn't accept a voucher from the town. Jennifer said that we inspect the apartments making sure that they meet code and safety standards. But there is nothing in writing stating that we will be inspecting the home before they are approved for assistance on rent, electricity, or heating fuel. Selectman Kilanski said we should ask NHMA for the correct language making sure it is legal and that will cover for any assistance being applied for. Jennifer said currently cable is not an allowable expense but what does the board think about internet? Selectman Sepe said possibly but we should have certain criteria the applicant needs to meet. Jennifer asked about lot rent. The board agrees that lot rent allowable. Jennifer asked about water/sewer bills. Selectman Kilanski said that the landowner is responsible for paying the water/sewer bills. The board agrees not allowable. Jennifer said currently we don't allow payment for security deposits or 1<sup>st</sup> months rent. Does the board agree? The board said they agree, not allowable. Jennifer asked about car insurance. The board agreed car insurance as an allowable expense but set a limit. The board set the next work session for Aug 11<sup>th</sup> @5:30.

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

Dan Flores & Jeff Murphy from SFC Engineering met with the board to discuss the Town Beach Feasibility Study, set up a timeline, introduce the SFC Team and look at what the boards vision is for the beach. Aug 3<sup>rd</sup> SFC will conduct a field survey with a drone, Aug 30<sup>th</sup> submit a data report, Sept 29 draft concepts, Oct 20<sup>th</sup> final draft and Oct 27 final presentation. SFC did stop at the beach before coming to the meeting and spoke to Liz-Head Lifeguard. Dan asked the board what some important criteria. Selectman Picard said she heard the board say cost, functionality, longevity & aesthetics. Dan recommends having public input including the Town Beach Committee. Selectman Sepe stated that she would like to also have the abutters attend the meeting. The board thanked SFC for attending the meeting.

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

Selectman Rokes makes a motion to approve sewer abatement for map 5 lot 104-1-\$82.98 & 28/1-\$77.23 for a pool fill. Selectmen Kilanski seconds. Motion carries 4-0-1.

Intent to cut map 1 lot 64-Burt Hill.

Selectman Rokes makes a motion to approve reimbursement for the State of NH Pisgah State Park. Selectmen Stephens seconds. Motion carries 5-0.

Selectman Rokes makes a motion to approve a raffle permit for a Calendar raffle for VFW Aux. Daily drawings will be in the month of September. Selectman Picard seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0.

Selectman Rokes makes a motion to approve tax abatement for map 2 lot 58 in the amount of \$838.98. Selectmen Picard seconds. Motion carries 5-0.

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

Selectman Rokes makes a motion to approve the transfer for the 2% merit salary increases. Selectman Picard seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0.

Selectman Rokes makes a motion to approve Bob's Fuel bid for pre-buy, oil-\$2.22 & Kerosene-\$2.85. Selectman Picard seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0.

Selectman Picard makes a motion to approve a 5year contract with Unifirst as long as there is an escape clause allowing the town to review prices if the price changes within the 5year period. Selectman Sepe seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0.

Selectman Stephens makes a motion to approve payment to Hamshaw Lumber-\$42.85 & Home Depot-\$215.81 from the Cemetery Donation Acct. Selectman Picard seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0.

Selectman Kilanski let the board know the draft audit is ready for the review.

At last weeks meeting the board discussed the "Resolution upholding commitment to Humans Rights and Inclusivity" document that was present to the board by several residents. The board wanted the Attorney to review the document. The Attorney has reviewed the document and stated The Declaration of Human Rights was adopted in 1948, so its concepts have been around a while. His only suggestion is the board should review the words "equality" & "equity". These words are not consistent in meaning. Selectman Kilanski feels that this is the same as the statement that the board made last year. Selectman Picard said that the community is asking the board to take a stand and to behind the laws. This shows the towns is being proactive.

**Third order of business Other:**

Selectman Picard asked if the swastika was removed from the bridge. Selectman Kilanski said yes, Amanda Lunt removed it.

Selectman Sepe stated that Old Westport Road was repaired and both lanes are back open.

Karey let the board know that Aqualogic divers were at the lake on 7/20 and removed about 75% of the milfoil. They will return late August or early September for a 2<sup>nd</sup> dive due to the all the rain has caused low visibility. Karey asked the board to consider purchasing a weather tight storage container in the amount of \$4050 to store all the equipment the State of NH donated to the town. Richard Lapoint Emergency Management Director said

that there is room in the Ashuelot Fire Station the crawl space. Chief Kellom was in favor of the container and to purchase a container. Karey said there are a few accounts that we can take the funds from to purchase it. 2 accounts have not been used in years, pandemic planning-\$1618.06, Fire donation acct.-\$1448.74 and \$984 would come from the Emergency Management. Selectman Sepe made a motion to approve the purchase of the container using the 3 accounts Karey stated. Selectman Picard seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0.

Selectman Rokes asked Rick if the Solar panels will be high enough if there was ever another flood. Rick stated that he has been in contact with Revision, and they are in the process of making any necessary changes need.

Selectman Stephens thanked Rick and the water/sewer dept for their hard work today lifting the manholes on Richmond Rd. Selectman Rokes thanked Selectman Stephens for helping water/sewer dept too.

**Fourth order of business public comment:**

N/A

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

Selectman Sepe makes a motion to enter nonpublic session under “ a ”. Selectman Picard 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 7:40pm.

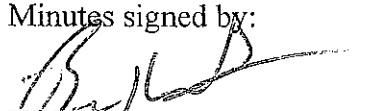
**Adjournment:**

The board reconvenes in public session at 8:42pm.

The Board met with the Police Chief hiring committee and are approaching the final stages.

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

Minutes respectfully submitted:  
Karey Miner, Town Administrator  
Minutes signed by:

  
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Ben Kilanski, Chairman

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Karey Miner