



Town of Winchester  
1 Richmond Road Winchester, NH 03470

**Minutes of the  
Selectmen Meeting**  
Wednesday, August 19, 2020

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

**First order of business: Minutes**

The board reviews the minutes for 8/12/20. Selectman Leustek makes a motion to approve the minutes. Selectman Rokes seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0.

**Second order of business: New Business**

Dean Beaman- Rail Trail Committee asked the board to approve Bill Patnode Excavating to brush hog a section of the rail trail from the Tannery Bridge to the Racetrack in the amount of \$6,000. Selectman Marsh makes a motion to approve the work. Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. The motion carries 5-0.

Selectman Rokes makes a motion to approve 3 solar exemptions 17 Clark Rd, 167 Ashuelot Main St & 164 Old Hinsdale Rd. Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. The motion carries 5-0.

The Rail Trails Committee has an opportunity to join Hinsdale and submit a letter of intent for grant funding. Selectman Rokes makes a motion to approve sending an intent letter. Selectman Marsh seconds the motion. The motion carries 5-0.

Selectman Marsh makes a motion to approve the Winchester Sports Booster on going raffle permit for a 50/50. Selectman Rokes seconds the motion. The motion carries 5-0.

Aug 26<sup>th</sup> work session on the Housing Standards Ordinance has been moved to Sept 2<sup>nd</sup>. Next week we have the continuation of the Social Media Policy and a hearing on additional CARES funding for Elections.

Selectman Marsh makes a motion to approve the water warrant-\$147,961.04 & sewer warrant-\$101,756.45. Selectman Rokes seconds the motion. The motion carries 5-0.

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

Selectman Marsh makes a motion to allow Karey and Amy to become signers on an account at Bank of America. The account was opened in 2007 and need to have updated signers. Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. The motion carries 5-0.

The board would like the Attorney to review the solar intent letter.

**Third order of business Board comment:**

Selectman Stephens said that the AC Lawrence site should be brushed hogged again and will get a quote from Bill Patnode.

**Fourth order of business Public comment:**

John Riedell made a few comments on the Housing Standards Ordinance, Owner occupied should be included in the ordinance, out buildings should also be included and over hanging trees should be look at.

Lindseigh Picard asked what the solar exemption was. Selectman Marsh stated that solar panels are not taxed and are seen as an incentive. Lindseigh asked if the solar for the Wastewater plant went out to bid. Selectman Kilanski stated that it did 2 years ago, and several companies did look at the site along with other sites in town. Lindseigh asked if a public hearing should be held. After 5 years the town would purchase/buy out for \$500,000. Would the board have more information on how they plan on pursuing that. Selectman Kilanski stated it won't be a post hearing but will be discussed once the board has more information. Selectman Rokes stated that the buy out is optional. Lindseigh said it would be nice learn about the expense and to have more information on solar alternatives. Lindseigh said that she had reviewed the town policies and there are some dated back to 1993/1994. Next week the board will be adding a new social media policy the board should take this opportunity to review all the policies. Start a sub committee to go thru all the policies and have an electronic version. Lindseigh stated the School Board will be interviewing candidates for the vacant School Board member seat at 5pm.

Rick Meleski stated that the solar did go out to bid and they were several reviewed by the board. The goal would be for the sewer to fund that project not the taxpayers.

Natalie Quevedo asked when did the solar project go out to bid. Selectman Kilanski said a year ago. Natalie asked if the town was looking for companies that offered PPA's? Rick said no. Natalie asked if we receive bids from developers. Rick said that Encore & Solar Garden. Natalie said that 67 solar companies moved into NH within the year. So I request that you put it out to bid to see if there are better options with tax incentives and lower taxes. Give it a year.

**Fifth order of business: Nonpublic under RSA 91-A:3II (a)(b)(c)(d)(e)**

Selectman Marsh makes a motion to enter nonpublic session under a, b & c. Selectman Leustek 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 7:25pm.

**Sixth order of business: Adjournment**

The board reconvenes in public session at 8:10pm.

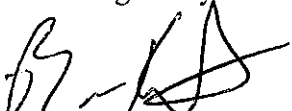
The board approved Justin Ruskowski as full-time for the Sewer Dept and Steven Hammond as part-time for the Sewer Dept & Building Inspector.


Selectman Stephens makes a motion to adjourn at 8:12pm. Selectman Leustek seconds the motion. The motion carries 5-0.

Minutes respectfully submitted:

Karey Miner, Administrator

Minutes signed by:

  
Ben Kilanski, Chairman

  
Karey Miner, Administrator