



Town of Winchester  
1 Richmond Road Winchester, NH 03470

**Minutes of the  
Selectmen Meeting**

Wednesday, August 26, 2020

**Board members present:** Ben Kilanski, Jack Marsh, Herbert Stephens, James Rokes Sr. and Gloria Leustek.

**First order of business: Public Hearing**

The Chairman opens the meeting at 7:00 pm.

Selectman Kilanski reads “Notice is hereby given that the Town of Winchester Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, August 26, 2020 at 7:00pm in the Winchester Town Hall for the purpose of accepting additional CARES Act Funding for the Federal Elections.” Selectman Leustek makes a motion to open the public hearing. Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. The motion carries 5-0. CARES Act has additional funds for the processing and the cost of absentee ballots for the Primary & General Elections. The amount given to each town is based on the total absentee ballots from the 2016 Primary & General Elections. The grant is an 80/20 match with the maximum allocation from the state of \$6,845.56. Lindseigh Picard asked if these funds are separate from the GOFERR Grant. Selectman Kilanski said yes. Selectman Leustek makes a motion to close the public hearing. Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. The motion carries 5-0. Selectman Leustek makes a motion to approve and sign the grant. Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. The motion carries 5/0.

Selectman Leustek makes a motion to reconvene the public hearing on the Social Media Policy. Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. The motion carries 5/0. Selectman Kilanski stated that we added most of the recommendations into the policy. There was a comment 3 weeks ago about sending the policy to NH Municipal Assoc. Southwest Regional Planning Commission sent a letter stating they had referenced NH Municipal Assoc., other NH Towns and the American Communication Guide. Selectman Leustek said she has reviewed the policy and approves the changes. Natalie Quevedo stated that the social media policy has no reference to the employee handbook and asked that the board makes the change to the policy. Lindseigh thanked the board for the changes. Colleen Duquette asked the board if there needs to be a hearing on making or changing policy, the board has the right to do so. The school doesn't. Selectman Kilanski said no hearing is necessary. Selectman Leustek makes a motion to close the public hearing. Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. The motion carries 5-0. Selectman Stephens makes a motion to approve the policy as written. Selectman Rokes seconds the motion. The motion carries 5-0.

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

The board reviews the minutes for 8/19/20. Selectman Leustek makes a motion to approve the minutes. Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0.

A report from Winchester Economic Development with the challenges they have been overcome for the Stone Mt Business Park project.

Aug 30<sup>th</sup> will be the last day for the lifeguards at the Town Beach.

Resident sent a thank you to the PD-Brendan Bosquet for his help.

Sept 2<sup>nd</sup> Mike Kowalczyk of Monadnock Regional Rail Trail Collaborative will be giving a presentation at 7pm.

The Church Steeple project will be starting the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of September.

Selectman Leustek makes a motion to approve the firework permit for 253 Back Ashuelot Rd. on 9/6/20 from 8-11pm. Selectman Rokes seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0.

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

N/A

**Third order of business Board comment:**

Selectman Rokes attended the meeting with WEDC at Stone Mt Business Park today. The project is moving along, and the water/sewer lines will be connected next week.

Selectman Stephens stated the Richmond Rd water line started this week and is going well.

Selectman Leustek stated that the Fitzwilliam Steeple looks amazing and that Robert Morgan Co did a great job. Also, Dunkin Donuts has started this week and is moving right along.

**Fourth order of business Public comment:**

Lindseigh Picard-Winchester School Board gave an update on the School. The Board has voted to appoint Emily Holmes to fill the vacant School Board seat. The board will be rolling out what the return to school will look like. The teachers will be reaching out to the students & parents. The survey results show 25%-fully remote, 75%-hybrid model and out of the 75%, 41% needed transportation. The board has chosen to do 2 days in school and school starts September 13<sup>th</sup>. The summer projects that have been completed: repair to the gym roof, repointed the chimney, main entrance, asphalt project, oil tanks removed & propane conversion.

Lindseigh thanked the board for the increase of the school payment to help with the overall cash flow. Sept 2<sup>nd</sup> the school board will finalizing their budget process and will start to look at the budgets on Sept 10<sup>th</sup>. NHTI host a summer intensive program at the school and were grateful to Ian & the Principal for being accommodating. NHTI are out in communities and taking about Winchester School in very positive ways. Lastly there is some information on education funding and there was an educational study recently done by an independent firm. It shows that NH has not been funding education in the appropriate manner and they recommended a statewide property tax. Not sure how this would impact the lawsuit that the school has entered into. It's important for all of us the be aware and informed because it will continue to be a concern as we enter into the next budget season.

John Riedell asked if the GOFERR Grant include cell phones as a communication device and if the town issues the board cell phones. Would the purchase of phones change the no votes. Selectman Kilanski stated that maybe the grant would cover cell phones and the town doesn't issue the board phones. John stated that they should look at getting phones under the grant if possible.

Natalie Quevedo asked the board if the Winchester Sports Boosters could put a sign that shows the money, they have collected towards their goal out front. The board stated yes near the Kiwanis sign. Natalie thanked the board for the Social Media Policy but would recommend making changes to the employee handbook, so the employees are taking care of. Does the board have a plan to get the people on a payment plan that currently

have no plan. Karey went over the process and the owner need to come to the board and setup a plan. Natalie asked so what happens to if they don't make a plan. Karey said they would be tax dedeed. Natalie ask so why are there some properties that owe 2013 taxes that are not dedeed. Karey said it does depend on the property. If the property is contaminated the town will not take it because of the cost to the town to clean up. Selectman Kilanski stated without seeing the list it's hard to say why. Natalie said she has the list and will send it to Karey.

Mike Coope- Trustee of the Trust Fund request that Scully Architect have a more detailed invoice. The board agreed to ask. Mike asked about the winding clock. Selectman Marsh stated that he would show Mike how this Saturday.

Lindseigh Picard is concerned with the cases of COVID in Winchester and there being no information given out from the town. The citizens are concerned and are speaking. Also the board has not been taking any proactive measures from further exposure. There still is no policy or electronics to be able to go remote if necessary. Have you thought about if we need quarantine location and if we have equipment/supplies for that. Its not going away and has greatly impacted our community and how we educate our children. Lindseigh asked why Winchester was not on the list of receiving funding for broadband. Selectman Marsh said that he had reached out to Margaret on Monday asking about the cases and she was not a where. Selectman Marsh said he also reached out to a Police Chief and he said that they receive an AM & PM report from the State and as of Monday Winchester had zero reports. The Keene Sentinel & WMUR report the numbers and are unclear where the numbers come from. Lindseigh stated that the board could mandate wearing masks for businesses. The board needs to be more proactive. It doesn't matter where they are coming from. The reality is we have open tracks, a campground, 1 grocery store that everyone stops at and a handful of restaurants. Selectman Marsh said that the businesses in town have been really good and have signs posted. Lindseigh said that you are not really doing anything to support those businesses in their efforts to be safe and mandate masks. Selectman Marsh said that we are lucky that we don't need to step in and tell business to wear masks. They have taken upon themselves and proactive.

Selectman Kilanski said that Karey researched the broadband. Chesterfield had been working on broadband before the funding came out for over a year. The application was extensive, and the timeframe was short. There was to much information to gather to submit for the grant. Jennifer Riedell said that she would love her son who will be remote learning will always have broadband and I can speak personally as someone who is able to live in this town because I work remotely. It would be fantastic if my employers top concern about me living out in the country that my internet could go out at any moment. Do we the information or are we gathering the information so we can have it for the next broadband proposal. Selectman Kilanski stated its not ready but will work on it now that we have the platform to work with. Karey stated that it will be a process. Natalie Quevedo asked Karey to send the information to her and that could have all the information in a week. Natalie thanked Selectman Marsh for doing some work on COVID and reaching out to people. Yes businesses are putting signs but is not being enforced by our local officials. COVID is here and masks will help. How long has the grant writer been employed by the town. Selectman Kilanski said 3 years. Natalie asked how much is he paid. Karey said by the job. Natalie asked why wasn't the grant writer looking for a grant for broadband. Selectman Kilanski said not sure. Natalie suggests we look for a new grant writer.

Jonathan Gallup said he commends the board for not mandating masks and to let the businesses run their businesses.

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

Selectman Leustek makes a motion to enter nonpublic session under c. 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 7:50pm.

**Sixth order of business: Adjournment**

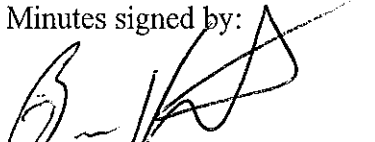
The board reconvenes in public session at 8:19pm.


Selectman Stephens makes a motion to adjourn at 8:21pm. Selectman Leustek seconds the motion. The motion carries 5-0.

Minutes respectfully submitted:

Karey Miner, Administrator

Minutes signed by:

  
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Ben Kilanski, Chairman

  
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Karey Miner, Administrator