



Town of Winchester
1 Richmond Road Winchester, NH 03470

**Minutes of the
Selectmen Meeting**
Wednesday, September 1, 2021

Board members present for the meeting: Herbert Stephens, Lindseigh Picard, James Rokes and Theresa Sepe. Also, present Officer Phillips & Rick Meleski.

First order of business: Minutes

The Vice Chairman opens the meeting at 6:30 pm.

The board reviews the minutes of 8/18/21 for approval. Selectman Picard makes a motion to approve the minutes. Selectman Rokes seconds the motion. Motion carries 4-0.

Nonpublic under RSA 91-A:3II

Selectman Picard makes a motion to enter nonpublic session under " b ". Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. The motion carries 4-0. A roll call vote was taken, and members vote "yes" individually, and the board convenes in non-public at 6:32pm.

The board reconvenes in public session at 7:13pm.

Second order of business: New Business

Senator Jay Kahn came to speak to the board on some things he will be working on and to see if the board has any concerns or questions. Senator Kahn did come to Winchester right after the July 18th flood to see the damage and explained the process with State of NH Homeland Security and FEMA. FEMA has not declared the event as of yet. Senator Kahn stated that the Small Business Administration has a loan program to help homeowners or rental properties with this type of damage. Senator Kahn said there are millions of dollars coming into NH through the American Rescue Plan Act and Infrastructure program. Senator Kahn said that he and Senator Bradley have been a big part of Broadband. The State has \$100 million dollars for broadband. Towns can qualify for up to 80% matching funds for unserved areas. Senator Kahn also is looking at Fire/Ambulance emergency response, so many towns are struggling to get volunteers/staff to cover their towns. These towns can't afford to start their own paid departments. Senator Kahn will be working with Fire & Standards to look for a possible solution. Todd Kilanski asked if Senator Kahn could speak to the State on the restrictions the State has put on live burns. They require a State Fire Marshall to be present. Also the fire I class is geared to hiring a fulltime firefighter for a larger city. Possibly look at 2 curriculums for the small rural towns. Senator Kahn said he will speak to Fire & Standards. Senator Kahn stated he did not vote for the budget. The school funding is not adequate and is working on a bill. 2022-2023 the school funding will be down \$500,000. Selectman Picard asked Senator Kahn to explain the voucher program. Senator Kahn said the voucher program will allow the funds to be given to students that maybe home schooled, go to another school, private school in or out of state. Parents do have to qualify but only once year. This will impact the schools with less funds from the State, but the schools will have the same costs. Selectman Stephens asked how much is the lottery putting into the school Trust Fund Acct. Senator Kahn said not sure the exact, \$150 million. 3.3 billion a year for the schools to operate and the state funding is not adequate throughout the State. Senator Kahn said if there is anything the board needs help with please reach out.

Selectman Rokes makes a motion to approve a firework permit for 5 Acorn Dr. on Sept 10th. Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. Motion carries 4-0.

Kevin Bazan gave the board an update on the Picklefest on Sept 25th. Changes have been made this year. The vendors will be spread apart and no parade to keep large groups from gathering. Kevin did ask the board to close Parker St & Durkee St from 10am to 4pm. Selectman Stephens makes a motion to close Parker St & Durkee St. Selectman Rokes seconds the motion. Motion carries 4-0. Kevin has been in contact with the PD, Fire & Ambulance for help with coverage. There will be 2 Police Officers from Winchester and the Picklefest Committee will hire other Officers from other Towns and a Security Company for the day. Selectman Sepe is not in favor of the having the Picklefest due to the increasing COVID cases, the large amount of people and the fact that everyone will not be wearing masks. Kevin stated that he had reached out to the Health Officer- Margaret for some guidance. Unfortunately the State has no current guidance, no mask mandate but the committee will be recommend people to wear mask. The committee is trying to take the steps to make it safe. There will be a vaccination clinic at the Picklefest. Kevin stated that he has been looking at other events in the area and no one has canceled their events. Selectman Sepe did read a statement by Margaret Sharra-Health Officer, "as a Health Officer, without direction from the State, I cannot tell you to cancel the Picklefest should occur or not". Kevin asked the board if he could place the picklefest sign out on the front yard near the monument. There will be 4x4 post into the ground and he will fill in the holes after the sign is removed. The board agreed that was fine.

Selectman Rokes makes a motion to approve the MS-1. Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. Motion carries 4-0.

Selectman Picard makes a motion to approve a timber tax for map 4 lot 50&51 in the amount of \$150.70. Selectman Rokes seconds the motion. Motion carries 4-0.

Selectman Rokes makes a motion to approve giving the 2008 Police Cruiser the Paul's as payment for removing all of the equipment form the cruiser. Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. Motion carries 4-0. Selectman Picard asked what the cost was to remove the equipment and is the car worth that cost. Selectman Rokes said he thought it was \$500.00.

The board reviews and approves the following financial documents:

Selectman Picard makes a motion to approve Forest Fire payroll in the amount of \$876.10 for the State of NH. Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. The motion carries 4-0.

Selectman Rokes makes a motion to approve a payment to the CAG in the amount of \$945.42. Selectman Sepe seconds the motion. Motion carries 4-0.

Selectman Picard makes a motion to approve payment from the Sewer Capital Reserve acct. in the amount of \$5,452.00 to HACH. Selectman Rokes seconds the motion. The motion carries 4-0.

Selectman Picard makes a motion to approve payment from the Cemetery Donation Fund in the amount of \$556.42. Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. The motion carries 4-0.

Selectman Rokes makes a motion to approve a payment to Worldwide Computers in the amount of \$1,876.00 from the Ambulance Memorial Fund. Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. Motion carries 4-0.

Selectman Rokes makes a motion to approve a payment to Worldwide Computers in the amount of \$1,417.95 from the Computer Capital Reserve Acct. Selectman Sepe seconds the motion. Motion carries 4-0.

Selectman Stephens makes a motion to sign the annual Fund Balance Policy. Selectman Picard seconds the motion. The motion carries 4-0.

Amy informed the board that the Town is protected with Cyber Insurance through Primex.

Cheshire County Classic Concerts will be hosting a concert on Friday, Sept 10th @7pm at the Town Hall.

Emergency Management-Dick Lapoint will be having a meeting on Sept 7th @ the EOC Building.

Third order of business Other:

Selectman Picard said that next week the board needs to revisit the options for the livestreaming. We are not doing what the people voted for.

Selectman Picard announced there is a School Board meeting Thursday, Sept 2nd @6:30.

Fourth order of business public comment:

Todd Kilanski stated that the Picklefest Committee shouldn't present the vaccination clinic as a plan to protect people at the Picklefest. Also, asked the board about the money that was voted on for the ACCESS program what will happen to those funds now that there is no ACCESS. Selectman Sepe said that they are advertising for a new Director. Natalie Quevedo is on the ACCESS board and stated that the board is looking for a new Director and Sire coordinator.

Rick Meleski gave an update on the Water/Sewer Dept. The dept has been working on Michigan St raising manholes & gate valves. The pole barn is almost completed. Next week we will be working on South drive and Warwick Rd on water connections.

Nonpublic under RSA 91-A:3II

Selectman Picard makes a motion to enter nonpublic session under "a, b, c & e". Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. The motion carries 4-0. A roll call vote was taken, and members vote "yes" individually, and the board convenes in non-public at 8:27pm.

Adjournment:

The board reconvenes in public session at 9:00pm.

Selectman Picard makes a motion to seal the minutes under "a & b"-Personnel. Selectman Sepe seconds the motion. The motion carries 4-0.

The board accepted Roy Faulkner & Edmund Burke resignation letter. Also, the board removed BJ Amidon from the Fire Dept for no attendance for over a year.

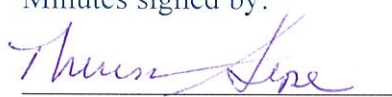
The board hired Jonathan Bebey-Fire Dept.

Selectman Picard makes a motion to adjourn at 9:03pm. Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. The motion carries 4-0.

Minutes respectfully submitted:

Karey Miner, Town Administrator

Minutes signed by:


Theresa Sepe, Vice Chairman


Karey Miner