



Town of Winchester
1 Richmond Road Winchester, NH 03470

**Minutes of the
Selectmen Meeting**

Wednesday, September 2, 2020

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

First order of business: Work Session

The Chairman opens the meeting at 6:30 pm. Jenny Rhodes & Margaret Sharra came back to the board with the changes discussed at the last work session on the housing standard ordinance. Also reviews the Attorney comments to the questions the board asked. The board confirmed the fine amount of \$500 and to leave the inspections of owner-occupied units and remove accessory structures. Margaret would ask that the board to vote & support placing the housing standard ordinance on the ballot. Jenny will make the final changes/corrections for the board to review and approve.

Second order of business: Minutes & New Business

The board reviews the minutes for 8/26/20. Selectman Leustek makes a motion to approve the minutes. Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0.

Selectman Rokes makes a motion to approve the raffle permit for the Jenny Rhodes- Smith & Wesson Gun on 10/18, Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0.

Conservation gave an update on the working being done at Musterfield Park from the storm damage. This fall and next spring there will be trees planted. The plan is to build a small pavilion and add picnic table & trash cans. Selectman Marsh is concerned with planting a line of trees as a barrier on Rt 119. Putting a fence up of trees is asking for trouble and the Police Department will need to patrol more often.

Selectman Rokes a motion to approve an oath of office for Conor Hill as Deputy Clerk for the Sept & Nov Elections. Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0

Southwest Regional Planning Commission is finishing the feasibility study for the Town Beach Ramp and would like to hold the public hearing for the application on Sept 23rd at 7pm. The board agrees.

The Health Officer sent an update on COVID. For Sept 2nd the NH COVID-19 Dashboard states 1-4 active cases and a total to date of 10. The State has 23 new cases, none in Cheshire or Sullivan Counties. Cheshire County to date has had 129 cases, 12 Hospitalizations and 3 deaths. Cheshire County has 11 active cases. The State publishes an update to the Universal Guidelines. Some changes are definitions, employer requirements regarding exposer, traveling and tests. The State also published material on when it is advised for schools to transition from one type of learning to another and the parameters. The Federal Government announced that it will temporarily halt evictions of renters.

The board reviews and approves the following financial documents:

Selectman Rokes makes a motion to approve payment from the Town Beach to the Town of Winchester in the amount of \$75.00. Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0

Selectman Rokes makes a motion to approve payment from Police Outside Activity to the Town of Winchester in the amount of \$700.00. Selectman Leustek seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0

Selectman Rokes makes a motion to approve payment from Ambulance billing fund to the Town of Winchester in the amount of \$700.00. Selectman Leustek seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0

Selectman Rokes makes a motion to approve payment from Ambulance billing fund to CAG in the amount of \$723.54. Selectman Leustek seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0

Selectman Rokes makes a motion to approve payment from Cemetery donation fund to Hamshaw Lumber in the amount of \$6,171.05. Selectman Leustek seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0

Third order of business Board comment:

Selectman Rokes stated that the Richmond Rd water line project is ahead of schedule. Rick Meleski gave an update and let the board know it has been going well. They are moving fast, laying 400-500ft of pipe a day.

Selectman Rokes stated that he met with Jim Tetreault and there was some concern with COVID that the revenue from taxes might be affected. As of Aug-2019 the outstanding was \$483,000 and as of Aug-2020 the outstanding is \$463,000. So the collect has been better.

Fourth order of business Public comment:

Jen Bellan stated her concerns on COVID and how we need to be proactive. COVID is not going away. The mortality rate 3.1% that's 8 people in Winchester will die. Also, we need to look at broadband. 81.3% of Cheshire county residents have access to broadband. 1-5 students don't have internet. With online learning this is a need that should be looked at for the community.

Mike Coope asked Selectman Leustek about the clock and what used for lubricant. Selectman Leustek has it at home and will email the info. Mike also asked about the plexiglass face and the arm. Selectman Kilanski said it would be best to talk to Brian who had helped put the clock back together. Selectman Marsh made a motion to remove Paul Hubbnier as the clock custodian. Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0. Selectman Leustek made motion to appoint Mike Coope as clock custodian. Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0.

Natalie Quevedo asked for wipes for the microphone. Natalie asked if those were new COVID State guidelines. Margaret said that it was a brief update on changes that were released on Aug-27/28. Natalie said that the guidelines stated that people should wear masks if sitting 6ft from each other. Does that mean that the select board now have to wear masks. Selectman Rokes said not as far as I am concerned. Natalie said so again you are endangering the public. Margaret said the board sitting closer than 6ft, that is their choice. The guidelines say should not shall. In the Universal Guidelines its clearer on how they recommend wearing masks and when they should be worn. Retail or restaurants have to wear masks, but it not the same for every business or municipal government. Natalie asked why not make it safer for people to come to the meeting. The people that elected you are unconformable coming to the meeting. Selectman Rokes said that people didn't come to the meetings before. Why weren't they here before. Natalie said they are online and want to get involved. Selectman Kilanski said that we are keeping the public away from us by sitting 6ft away. Natalie asked to form

a committee, people do not feel safe even with the social distancing in a room with no circulation to be able to attend virtually so they can be informed as well. Would the board recommend a committee to establish a virtual or live stream a meeting. Selectman Kilanski said that he has been trying to push for tablets. Natalie said that it's not just computers, the board did a good job with the social media policy we should be able to live stream. Karey will look to see if the COVID funds can purchase any equipment for live streaming. Natalie asked about the amount of outstanding, it is \$1.2 million. Selectman Rokes clarifies it is just for the 1st issue of 2020. Natalie referred to the church steeple and said that plexiglass is not allowed at the school per the Fire Chief because of the fumes. Does that not apply to the church steeple. Selectman Kilanski said he doesn't believe it does because its not occupied space. Natalie lastly asked the board to form a committee to expand broadband. Selectman Kilanski said he would be ok with forming a committee to look into how we would expanding broadband and the cost. The board will advertise for Volunteer Interest Form to be submitted to board. Karey will posted the request for Committee Volunteers on the website, Town Hall & Post office.

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 b & 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 7:40pm.

Sixth order of business: Adjournment

The board reconvenes in public session at 8:35pm.

Selectman Marsh makes a motion to seal the minutes under c. Selectman Rokes seconds the motion. The motion carries 5-0.

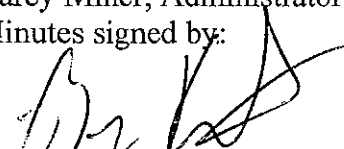
The Select Board hired Jonah Merkel to the Police Dept as a full time Officer & Tina Riddell as a part-time officer. Also, accepted the resignation from Pete Bowers.

Selectman Stephens makes a motion to adjourn at 8:40pm. Selectman Kilanski seconds the motion. The motion carries 5-0.

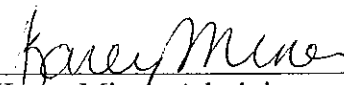
Minutes respectfully submitted:

Karey Miner, Administrator

Minutes signed by:



Ben Kilanski, Chairman



Karey Miner, Administrator