



TOWN OF WINCHESTER
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
Regular Meeting Agenda
January 03, 2022 7:00PM
P. Francis Hicks Room
Streamed live on YouTube and Channel 194

In case meeting must be held virtually:
Meeting ID: 892 2256 8091
Passcode: 110254

Phone: 1-929-205-6099

FILED
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

DEC 30 2021

SHEILA S. SEDLACK
TOWN OF WINCHESTER, CT

1. **CALL TO ORDER** (Turn your cell phones off)
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **AGENDA REVIEW**
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - A) Minutes of Regular Meeting on December 20, 2021
5. **CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

The Board of Selectmen welcomes public comments, speakers will be limited to three (3) minutes or less and may speak only once. Please give your name and address.
6. **TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**
7. **CORRESPONDENCE**
8. **BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**
9. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
10. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A) 22-01 Refunds as Recommended by Collector of Revenues (Town Manager Kelly)
 - B) 22-02 Approve Resolution in Support of the Communities Challenge Grant application (Town Manager Kelly)
11. **CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

The Board of Selectmen welcomes public comments, speakers will be limited to three (3) minutes or less and may speak only once. Please give your name and address.
12. **SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS AND REPORTS**
13. **ADJOURNMENT**

Winchester 250th Anniversary 1771-2021

Town of Winchester *
Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting
December 20, 2021

Item 1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Arcelaschi

Attendance: Sel. Arcelaschi, Sel. Bouchard, Sel. Perez, Sel. Sedlack

Absent Sel. Bourque, Sel. Groppo, Sel. Morhardt.

Item 2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

Item. 3. Agenda Review

Motion by Sel. Sedlack, seconded by Sel. Bouchard

To move Item 10C under New Business to the first item before 10A under New Business

UNANIMOUS

Item 4. Approval of Minutes

A). Minutes of Regular Meeting on December 6, 2021.

Motion by Sel. Sedlack, seconded by Sel. Bouchard

To approve the minutes of the regular meeting on December 6, 2021.

UNANIMOUS

Item 5. Citizens' Comments NONE

Item 6. Town Manager's Report.

The Town Manager gave an update regarding 508 Main Street and any proposals, American Rescue Plan Act update, any business growth, COVID-19, any agreement with C-PACE, Economic Development, Fire Departments approval and updates regarding Union Negotiations and the Winsted Newsletter.

Item 7. Finance director's Report.

Bruce Stratford, Finance Director reviewed revenue and expenditures through November 30th along with a period for answers and questions.

Item 8. Correspondence NONE

Item 9. Boards and Commissions

Sel. Sedlack acknowledged the resignations of Glen Albanesius from the Board of Assessment Appeals and Marc Gizzi as a member of the Conservation Commission and thanks them for their time and service.

Item 10. New Business

C). 21-86 Consideration and Possible Action for Purchase of Fire Apparatus

(Fire Chief Lagassie) Moved up on the agenda

Sel. Sedlack seconded by Sel. Bouchard

I move that the Board of Selectmen approve the proposal to purchase a new pumper for the Winsted Fire Department.

UNANIMOUS

A). Presentation on the state of Town Roadway Infrastructure.

(Town Manager Kelly & Staff Members).

The Town Manager and staff gave a Power Point presentation and overview of the Town's Roadway infrastructure. No action taken.

B). Approval of Board of Selectmen meeting schedule.

Motion by Sel. Sedlack, seconded Sel. Bouchard

Move to approve the Board of Selectmen meeting schedule for the year 2022 as presented.

UNANIMOUS

Item 11. Citizens' Comments - Glenn Albanesius, Stuart Jones asked that his letter be read at this meeting.

Item 12. Selectmen's Comments and Reports

Sel. Bouchard: Gave a Streeting lighting update regarding Eversource, noted battery operated holiday lights on the poles, thanked JB Appliance for doing the lighting in the East End Park and thanked businesses for their Main Street efforts.

Sel. Arcelaschi noted that he and Sel. Perez participated in the Wreaths Across America event and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Item 13. Adjournment

Motion by Sel. Sedlack, seconded by Sel. Bouchard

To adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

UNANIMOUS

ATTEST:

Sheila S. Sedlack, CCTC, CMC



TOWN OF WINCHESTER – CITY OF WINSTED

Town Hall – 338 Main Street

WINSTED, CONNECTICUT 06098

TO: Board of Selectmen
FROM: Josh Kelly, Town Manager
SUBJECT: Manager's Report
DATE: January 3, 2022

Below you will find a list of updates that highlight activities occurring around town since the Board last met. If you have any questions about these items or items that do not appear on this list, please email me at townmanager@townofwinchester.org.

- **508 Main Street:** The Request for Qualifications closed on December 22, 2021. I am reviewing the materials that were submitted and hope to have an action step prepared for you at the next Board of Selectmen meeting.
- **Communities Challenge Grant:** This grant is due no later than January 14th, and Town staff members are working tirelessly to ensure that Winsted is submitting an application that is high-quality and puts our best foot forward.
- **COVID-19 Conditions:** Hospitalizations and deaths around the state continue to rise. At the time that this update was authored, on Thursday, December 30th, there were 1,113 hospitalizations around the state and a positivity rate of 17.78%. This is up from 837 hospitalizations and a positivity rate of 6.85% when this Board last met on December 20th. State deaths now total 9,161. Positive COVID-19 cases have continued to severely impact Town and school operations these past two weeks. Winchester Public Schools was forced to go to remote learning prior to the holiday break due to their high level of COVID-19 cases in their facilities, and the Recreation Department is monitoring its own activities very closely. Multiple town employees have also contracted COVID-19 in the past month, making operations difficult. Masking is required and will be strictly enforced in Town buildings, and the Emergency Management Director and I will continue to monitor COVID conditions and will change our policies accordingly.
- **COVID-19 Home Test Distribution:** As many of you have heard, the State purchased 500,000 home test kits to be distributed to residents of the state this past week, and each town is supposed to be responsible for distributing a certain number of kits. Winchester has been allocated 1,350 kits for distribution. Once those kits are received, we will have a number go to community partners that will assist us in the distribution of the kits, we will have some kits remain with the Town for use by

Winchester 250th Anniversary 1771-2021

emergency services, including the Police and Fire departments, and we will release the rest to the public at a public drive-through distribution event. 1,350 tests is only enough to cover approximately 13% of our population, and by no means is there going to be a test provided for every resident. The State's shipment from California, as of the time that this report was authored, has been delayed, and we are not certain of when the shipment will arrive and be made available to Winchester. I hope to provide good news on this subject at the Board meeting itself.

- **Economic Development:** In coordination with the Mayor, the Economic Development Commission, and all of you, I am planning to hold a press conference on Friday, January 14th that will announce details of the two forgivable loan programs that we will be launching: the Façade Improvement Program and the Business Start-Up Program. I expect that the press conference will be held at or after 3pm that day, and it will either be preceded or followed by a Zoom call with any/all businesses or prospective business owners who are interested in learning more about the programs. Please keep all this in mind and be on the lookout for more information from me on that subject.
- **Economic Development Personnel:** We have officially posted for the part-time Director of Economic Development position, and applications will be accepted until noon on January 5th. If you know someone who is a good fit for this, please have them apply!
- **Town Newsletter:** The winter edition of the Winchester Wire was distributed in the last couple weeks in December. The next edition is scheduled to go out by March 15, 2022. If you have information that you would like to see included in the next edition, please email it to townmanager@townofwinchester.org.
- **Union Negotiations:** The Supervisors Union has not yet approved the tentative agreement that we reached, and thus that agreement is not appearing on this agenda for Board approval.

Here are a few upcoming events to mark on your calendars:

- Friday, January 14th: Press Conference regarding economic development opportunities.
- Monday, January 17th: Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Town Facilities Closed)
- Tuesday, January 18th: Board of Selectmen Meeting

Respectfully submitted,



Joshua Steele Kelly
Town Manager

CC: Terry Hall, Administrative Assistant

Winchester 250th Anniversary 1771-2021

Boards & Commissions

CONSIDERATION

| Date | Name | Board/Commission | Party Affiliation | Permanent/Alternate | Term Dates | Appointing Authority |
|------|------|------------------|-------------------|---------------------|------------|----------------------|
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |

NOMINATIONS

| Date | Name | Board/Commission | Party Affiliation | Permanent/Alternate | Term Dates | Appointing Authority |
|------|------|------------------|-------------------|---------------------|------------|----------------------|
| | | | | | | |

APPOINTMENTS

| Date | Name | Board/Commission | Party Affiliation | Permanent/Alternate | Term Dates | Appointing Authority |
|------|------|------------------|-------------------|---------------------|------------|----------------------|
| | | | | | | |

RE-APPOINTMENT

| Date | Name | Board/Commission | Party Affiliation | Permanent/Alternate | Next Term Exp | Appointing Authority |
|-------------|-------------|-------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|---------------|----------------------|
| 01/03/2022 | John Cooney | Planning & Zoning Comm. | R | Permanent | 10/2026 | BOS |
| *01/03/2022 | Ronald Dew | Zoning Board of Appeals | | Move from Alternate to Permanent | 12/2026 | BOS |

RESIGNATION

| Date | Name | Board/Commission | Party Affiliation | Permanent/Alternate | Next Term Exp | Appointing Authority |
|-------------|------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| 01/03/2022 | Henry Centurelli | Architectural Review Board | U | Permanent | No terms listed | BOS |
| *01/03/2022 | Hal Wilkes | Zoning Board of Appeals | U | Permanent | 12/2021 | BOS |

Terry Hall

Subject: FW: P&Z board

From: John C <johnc0064@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 27, 2021 3:08 PM
To: Terry Hall <thall@townofwinchester.org>
Subject: Re: P&Z board

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

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Good Afternoon, Terry.

It would be my pleasure to continue to serve.

Regards,

John Cooney, REALTOR®
Town & Country Real Estate, LLC

7 Elm Street
Winchester, CT 06098
Direct - (860) 626-9534

December 27, 2021

Dear Board of Selectmen,

Zoning Board of Appeals member, Hal Wilkes moved away from Winsted after selling his home on 8/18/2021 and has missed 4 consecutive meetings. Chairman Philip Allen has yet to receive a formal resignation letter and would like the board of Selectmen to remove him as a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals for lack involvement. Chairman Allen is asking for Ronald Dew to fill Hal Wilkes' position moving from an alternate member to a permanent member with term to expire 12/2026. This would leave an Alternate position unfilled.

David Carter would have been next in line to fill Hal's position but was not interested in moving from his alternate position. This is reflected in the October 26th Zoning Board of Appeals meeting minutes.

Thank you,

Terry Hall

for

Chairman Philip Allen

Attachments

October 26, 2021, ZBA minutes



TOWN OF WINCHESTER ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
Town of Winchester Town Hall
338 Main Street – 2nd Floor, P. Francis Hicks Room – Winsted
October 26, 2021 – 7:00PM
Regular Meeting Minutes

Chairman Phillip Allen called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

1. ROLL CALL:

Mr. Allen noted that the following individuals were present in addition to himself: Aubrey English, Paul Marino, John Pollack, Alternate Ron Dew.

Mr. Wilkes was absent. Mr. Dew was seated in his stead.

2. EXPLANATION OF PROCEDURE:

Mr. Allen explained that approvals from this Board require four affirmative votes. He noted that five members are seated and that an application needs a vote of approval from four. Mr. Allen outlined the process of the meeting including the opportunity for the applicant to present their proposal, a chance for the Board to ask questions followed by the same opportunity for any member of the public that might be present wishing to do so.

3. PUBLIC HEARINGS – VARIANCE APPLICATIONS & DECISIONS; APPEALS:

A. ZBA #21-5275 – Variance Location: 362 West Wakefield Boulevard Applicant/Owner: Brian Godin Proposal: Setback Variance for Deck.

MOTION: Mr. English, Mr. Marino second, to continue Application ZBA #21-5275 – Variance Location: 362 West Wakefield Boulevard Applicant/Owner: Brian Godin Proposal: Setback Variance for Deck to the next regular meeting; unanimously approved.

It was noted that the next regular meeting of this Board was scheduled for November 23, 2021 at 7PM in the P. Francis Hicks Room of the Winchester Town Hall.

B. ZBA#21-5282 – Variance Location: 169 West Wakefield Boulevard Applicant/Owner: Jeffrey Olson and Kathi Olson Proposal: Side Yard Setback Variance for 20'x29' Garage.

Jeffrey Olson appeared before the board regarding this application. Mr. Olson explained that he had a temporary garage tarp shed last winter for his vehicle which while it was supposed to be rated for snow, it did not work for 18" of snow and had \$8K worth of damage to his car. Due to the narrow width of his lot, a variance was necessary for the garage, according to Mr. Olson.

Mr. Allen questioned the status of the existing shed as depicted on the plans. Mr. Olson noted that as far as he knew, it had been there twenty or thirty years. Mr. Allen questioned whether it was possible to add on to that, rather than adding an additional new building. It was noted that the new proposed structure was in addition to the depicted building. Mr. English questioned whether the proposed structure was a two-car garage with storage. Mr. Olson confirmed noting that it will be for two cars and for lawn mowers. Mr. Marino questioned whether the structure could be centered, which would likely eliminate the need for a variance. Mr. Olson noted that it

would then be an increase in impervious surface as the proposed area is already paved. Mr. English questioned whether the existing shed would be torn down. Mr. Olson indicated that there would be no change to the existing building and that the proposal was for an additional building. Mr. Allen questioned whether it would be connected to the existing building. Mr. Olson confirmed.

The hearing was open to the public.

Ted Danson of 171 West Wakefield Boulevard spoke in favor of the application, noting that he sympathizes with the applicant for the damage sustained to his car and for having to give up part of his driveway.

The public hearing was closed.

MOTION: Mr. Marino, Mr. English second, to grant a variance pursuant to Section II.G.b.ii. of the zoning regulations for Application #21-5282 for a southerly side yard setback for a 20'x29' garage per the drawings submitted for the property located at 169 West Wakefield Boulevard; unanimously approved.

The reason cited for the approval of the variance was that it was a reasonable request.

C. ZBA#21-5281 – Variance Location: 120 Coe Street Applicant/Owner: Sandra Silva Proposal: Side Yard Setback and Impervious Coverage Variances for 24'x30' Addition.

Sandra Silva, accompanied by her husband and architect, Craig Chasse, appeared before the board regarding this application. Mr. Chasse explained that a sideyard variance was necessary for this existing house in order to accommodate the addition for the extended family. Mr. Chasse noted that various options were explored, explaining that the home was already at the front yard setbacks and there was only a small yard at the side yard setback. Mr. Chasse explained that there was a slope dropping off at the back of the house with no feasible way to put an addition on at the back of the house. He noted that the only option remaining was the proposal that will put the structure at 14.5' away from the side boundary.

Mr. Dew reported having visited the site, agreeing that the back slope was very steep. Mr. Allen questioned whether the cottage had begun as a fishing cottage. Ms. Silva did not think so. Mr. English questioned whether the shed would be relocated as depicted on the plan. Ms. Silva indicated that the shed was being removed altogether.

The hearing was open to the public.

Jean Marshall of 130 Coe Street spoke in favor of the application, noting that she was eager to see the addition to allow the family to live together.

The hearing was closed.

MOTION: Mr. Marino, Mr. English second, to grant a variance pursuant to II.F.b.ii. of the zoning regulations for Application #21-5281 for a 15.4' southerly side yard setback and a 1.9% impervious surface coverage for a 24'x30' addition, per the drawings submitted, for the property located at 120 Coe Street, noting that the existing shed depicted on the site plan is to be removed; unanimously approved.

The reason cited for the approval of the variance was a hardship with the slope of the land, noting the topography that exists behind the house.

D. ZBA#21-5283 – Variance Location: 107 Rugg Brook Road Applicant/Owner: Elizabeth Raniere and Karl Zimmerman Proposal: Front Yard Setback Variance for Proposed Screen Porch and Covered Overhang and Rear Yard Setback Variance for Deck.

Elizabeth Raniere, accompanied by her husband Paul, appeared before the board regarding this application. She explained that her home is very small and explained that they need more room so that when their family visits, they have space. Ms. Raniere explained that they are looking to make their kitchen larger and to have a screened porch. She noted that their lot is only a one-half acre parcel. Ms. Raniere explained that they had already approached the Torrington Area Health District and that there was not a lot of room on the site for the proper clearances.

The hearing was open to the public.

Ms. Raniere distributed correspondence from her neighbors. Mr. Allen read them aloud. Communications from James Lockton of 3 Woods Lane, Gayle Moraschi of 109 Rugg Brook Road, Kimberly and Brett Marchand of 102 Rugg Brook Road, and Jeannie St. Peters of 1 Rugg Brook Road were noted as having been received, all of which were in favor of the application.

The hearing was closed.

MOTION: Mr. Marino, Mr. English second, to grant a variance pursuant to Section II.F.b.ii. of the Zoning Regulations for Application #21-5283 for a 17' front yard setback for a 4'x28' overhang, a 1.4' rear yard setback for a 15'x5' addition, and a 11' rear yard setback for a 12'x8' deck with stairs, per the drawings submitted for the property located at 107 Rugg Brook Road, and a 12' front yard setback for a 12.5'x14.45' proposed screen porch; unanimously approved.

The reason cited for the approval of the variance was that it was a reasonable request and the effort made to minimize impact in the proposal.

E. ZBA#21-5284 – Variance Location: 205 Perch Rock Trail Applicant/Owner: Ingrid A. Pierce Proposal: Rear Yard Setback and Side Yard Setback Variance and Impervious Surface Variance for Deck and Addition to Back of Dwelling; Front Yard Setback and Side Yard Setback Variance and Impervious Surface Variance for Addition to Front of Dwelling.

It was noted that as the notices to the abutting property owners had been mailed only 8 days prior to the hearing, the applicant agreed to continue the hearing so that all neighbors were afforded a chance to review the application and attend the public hearing if inclined.

MOTION: Mr. Marino, Mr. Dew second, to continue Application ZBA#21-5284 to the November 23, 2021 regular meeting; unanimously approved.

4. OLD BUSINESS:

None.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A. September 28, 2021 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Mr. Dew, Mr. English second, to approve the September 28, 2021 Minutes; approved with Mr. Marino, Mr. English, Mr. Dew voting in favor while Mr. Allen and Mr. Pollack abstained.

6. BILLS PRESENTED:

None.

7. CORRESPONDENCE:

Mr. Allen queried the Board regarding their availability for a Special Meeting at 6PM at the December 28, 2021 regular meeting for a training session on Low Impact Development (LID).

8. OTHER BUSINESS:

A. 2022 Regular Meeting Schedule.

MOTION: Mr. Allen, Mr. English second, to approve the 2022 regular meeting schedule as presented; unanimously approved.

9. DISCUSSION WITH ZONING ENFORCEMENT OFFICER:

Staff reported an additional board member alternate being currently considered by the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Allen noted that Hal Wilkes has missed at least four regular meetings and shared his understanding that he was no longer an elector in the Town of Winchester. He reminded the Board that Mr. Carter was not interested in changing his member status from alternate to regular and therefore, Mr. Dew would be next in line for the seat.

MOTION: Mr. Allen, Mr. Allen second, that the chairman communicate to the town manager and the Board of Selectmen the recommendation that Mr. Wilkes be removed as a Zoning Board of Appeals member and Mr. Dew serve in that spot; unanimously approved.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: Mr. English, Mr. Dew second, to adjourn at 7:51PM; unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Pamela A. Colombie
Recording Clerk

From: Josh Kelly
Sent: Wednesday, December 22, 2021 10:18 AM
To: Terry Hall
Subject: FW: Moving on

Hi Terry,

Please see Hank's message below and include notice of his resignation in the next Board packet.

All my best,
-Josh

Joshua Steele Kelly
Town Manager & CEO
Town of Winchester, CT

Connect with the Town online:
Facebook | Nextdoor | YouTube
Instagram | Twitter | LinkedIn

-----Original Message-----

From: Pam Colombie <pcolombie@townofwinchester.org>
Sent: Wednesday, December 22, 2021 10:09 AM
To: Henry Centurelli <hcenturelli@snet.net>
Cc: Doug Pfenninger <3dtangent@att.net>; Donna Davis <dmagdavis@gmail.com>; Linda Pfenninger <lindapfe@att.net>; Lara Kazlauskas <lgreenkaz@yahoo.com>; Josh Kelly <jskelly@townofwinchester.org>
Subject: RE: Moving on

Hank,
This is great news for you while sad news for Winchester! Your service to Winsted has been very much appreciated. Best wishes to you and Joanne both on the purchase of your new home.

Thank you for the email regarding your resignation from the Architectural Review Committee. I am including Town Manager Josh Kelly on the email so that this can be communicated at the next Board of Selectmen meeting.
Sincerely,
Pam

-----Original Message-----

From: Henry Centurelli <hcenturelli@snet.net>
Sent: Tuesday, December 21, 2021 5:13 PM
To: Pam Colombie <pcolombie@townofwinchester.org>
Cc: Doug Pfenninger <3dtangent@att.net>; Donna Davis <dmagdavis@gmail.com>; Linda Pfenninger <lindapfe@att.net>; Lara Kazlauskas <lgreenkaz@yahoo.com>
Subject: Moving on

Hi Pam,

Today a sign went up at 136 Walnut Street and we have purchased a new home in a 55+ community out of town, so I will need to resign from the Architectural Review Committee. It has been a pleasure and an honor to meet alongside you and also work with a wonderful group of positive minded committee members. I have learned so much from you about how things can and should be in our town, so I know that under your guidance the town will continue to grow and improve. Thank you so much for assuring that our committee does things correctly in its efforts to serve our town.
Hank

Sent from my iPad

BOARD OF SELECTMEN ACTION REQUEST

No.: 22-01

Date: January 03, 2022

Topic: New Business (A)- Refunds as Recommended by the Collector of Revenue (with attachments)

From: Josh Kelly, Town Manager

Background: The Town Collector of Revenue has recommended that the refunds described in the attached correspondence be authorized in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Section 12-129.

Requested Action: The Board of Selectmen should authorize the Town Manager to approve the described refunds.

Fiscal Implications: The described refunds total \$222.68

Manager's Recommendation: I recommend that the Board of Selectmen authorize the refunds recommended by the Collector of Revenue.

Recommended Motion: *I move that the Board of Selectmen authorize the refunds recommended by the Collector of Revenue in the amount of \$222.68.*

Attachment:

Grand List 2020 Refunds



The attached list represents taxes that have been corrected by authority of the provision of Section 12-129 of the General Statutes, and by the Assessor or Public Works Director of the Town of Winchester. The taxes/water and/or sewer amounts shown below have been paid and requests received for refunds of the same.

| LIST #/GL YR | TAX TYPE | TAXPAYER | AMOUNT OF REFUND/REASON |
|--------------------------|-----------|---|-------------------------|
| 19049 | 2020 MV | | \$211.20 |
| | JP MORGAN | P O BOX 901098 FORT WORTH, TX 761010 | C OF C |
| 19047 | 2020 MV | | \$11.48 |
| | LAZARUS | JOHN P O BOX 63 DIVIDE, CO 80814 | C OF C |
| | MV | TOTAL REFUNDS BY TYPE | \$222.68 |
| NUMBER OF REFUNDS | 2 | TOTAL REFUNDS | \$222.68 |

It is recommended that refunds in the amount as stated above be made to the taxpayers listed, in accordance with the provisions of said General Statutes, Section 12-129.

12/29/2021

Date of Report


Halaree Monnerat, Collector of Revenue

APPROVED FOR PAYMENT:

DATED: _____

Town Manager

I have received from Town Accountant the above checks to cover the refunds as stated above.

Date: _____

Collector of Revenue

BOARD OF SELECTMEN AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

No.: 22-02

Date: January 3, 2022

Topic: New Business (B)- **Resolution Supporting Communities Challenge Grant Applications**

From: Josh Kelly, Town Manager

Background & Information: The Communities Challenge Grant is a competitive grant offering from the State of Connecticut's Department of Economic & Community Development. Applicants can request between \$1 million and \$10 million from this grant fund to support projects related to downtown development, public space improvement, transit-oriented development, mobility improvements, housing, and essential infrastructure. The grant will dispense \$100 million between two application periods, and at least half of those total funds are expected to go to "distressed municipalities," a designation that pertains to Winchester. The application calls for proposed projects to focus on improving community livability, vibrancy, convenience, and appeal. The State wants applications to include some level of public-private partnership(s) and to have the capacity to create jobs. For non-distressed communities, this grant provides a 50%-50% match; for distressed municipalities, like Winchester, this grant provides a 75% match, leaving the Town and private partners to produce the final 25% of the cost. The grant application is due before January 14th, which falls before the next time that the Board will hold a regular meeting.

A group of Town Staff and EDC members have reviewed possible projects the Town would like to take on that could be covered by this grant program. After much deliberation, we have determined that the following projects would qualify for coverage under this grant program, and we ask that the Board consider passing a resolution in support of these projects. *Please note that all of the projects listed below are concepts for inclusion in the grant applications at this point – designs and site plans are not necessarily available at this time.* The projects are listed below in order from least to most expensive:

- **Main Street Signs & Placemaking - \$25,000 Total**

This project would allow the Town to directly help beautify our Main Street/downtown corridor. Signs promoting Winchester as a destination to shop, eat, and enjoy would be created, and they could be placed in vacant storefronts in an effort to help keep them looking beautiful and even to help advertise the fact that they are ready to have a new business call them home. The 25% match that we need to provide for this would total \$6,250 and would be able to come from the \$40,000 that the Town allocated to economic development activities from the American Rescue Plan Act funds.

Requirements met: Downtown development, public space improvement, promotes vibrancy and appeal, creates public-private partnerships, and has the capacity to help create jobs.

- **Public Mural Creation - \$25,000 Total**

This project would allow the Town, in partnership with private building owners, to commission a number of new murals around town in an effort to continue to beautify the town and provide opportunities for residents and visitors to enjoy public art. The 25% match needed for this project would total \$6,250 and would be raised by private partners, including but not necessarily limited to the Friends of Main Street.

attractions, and activities located on Whiting Street. Lastly, this would provide college students renting apartments east of the college to walk to class more easily. The 25% match needed for this project totals \$180,000 and would be covered by the money we already anticipate spending on the future repaving nearby.

Requirements met: Downtown development, public space improvement, mobility improvement, housing, promotes livability, vibrancy, convenience, and appeal, public-private partnership.

- **Bridge Street Intersection Redesign & Repaving - \$1,050,000**

This funding would allow the Town to redesign and repave what is currently a complicated five-way intersection at Bridge Street, which will allow traffic to run more smoothly and safely through the area and will increase the appeal of buildings in that area for businesses to open. If an opportunity presents itself to redesign the intersection in a manner than allows for parking in that area, that opportunity will be taken and covered by this total funding. The 25% match needed for this project totals \$262,500 and would be covered by the money we already anticipate spending on the future repaving nearby.

Requirements met: Downtown development, mobility improvement, essential infrastructure, promotes livability, convenience, and appeal.

- **Tatros Pond Essential Infrastructure Repair - \$1,900,000**

This funding would allow the Town to replace the dam at Tatros Pond, which, by State standards, is past due for replacement, and make other needed infrastructure improvements to the site. The 25% match needed for this project totals \$475,000. If awarded, the Town may need to consider borrowing or making a special allocation of that \$475,000, as there is no other place where that matching money could come from at this time.

Requirements met: Public space improvement, essential infrastructure, promotes livability, vibrancy, and appeal.

- **Sue Grossman Greenway & Rowley Street Sewer Line - \$2,600,000**

This funding would allow the Town to complete the Winsted side of the Sue Grossman Greenway (coming from the Torrington town line all the way down to Willow Street), and it would also allow the Town to run a sewer line up Rowley Street to the Public Works Department, which is sorely needed in that area. The 25% match needed for this project totals \$650,000. A portion of that would be covered by the Water & Sewer Commission, but the remainder would have to either come from borrowed funds or a special allocation, as there are no other resources currently at our disposal to help cover those costs.

Requirements met: Downtown development, public space improvement, mobility improvement, promotes livability, vibrancy, convenience, and appeal, capacity to help create jobs.

- **North Main Street Water Main Replacement - \$5,400,000**

This funding would allow the Town to completely replace the North Main Street water main, which has experienced numerous breaks in recent history, and the Water & Sewer Commission is of the opinion that a total replacement in that area will resolve the breaking issues. The 25% match needed for this project totals \$1,350,000 and would have to be covered by the Water & Sewer Commission.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

No.: 22-02

Date: January 3, 2022

Topic: New Business (B)- Resolution Supporting Communities Challenge Grant Applications

From: Josh Kelly, Town Manager



TOWN OF WINCHESTER – CITY OF WINSTED

Town Hall – 338 Main Street

WINSTED, CONNECTICUT 06098

22-01 Resolution Supporting Communities Challenge Grant Applications

WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut has launched the Communities Challenge Grant, a funding opportunity for municipalities across the state that will provide between \$1 million and \$10 million to applicants on a competitive basis; and

WHEREAS, the Communities Challenge Grant is seeking to fund projects that invest in downtown development, public space improvement, transit-oriented development, mobility improvements, housing, and essential infrastructure and further promote livability, vibrancy, convenience, appeal, public-private partnerships, and job creation; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Winchester is a distressed municipality and, as such, has great need for investment in its downtown spaces and essential infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Winchester has identified \$12,785,000 worth of projects that would improve the town's livability, vibrancy, convenience, and appeal, and seeks to have 75% of those costs covered by the Communities Challenge Grant; therefore be it

RESOLVED, by the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Winchester, that we do hereby support the Communities Challenge Grant applications that are submitted by the Town; and

RESOLVED, that we support requesting funds for the following projects: Main Street Signs & Placemaking, Public Mural Creation, 35 Willow Street Brownfield Remediation, Downtown Walking Tour Educational Panels, 508 Main Street Site Beautification, Essential Sidewalk Repair, Pedestrian Bridge from Community College to Whiting Street, Bridge Street Intersection Redesign & Repaving, Tatros Pond Essential Infrastructure Repair, Sue Grossman Greenway Completion & Rowley Street Sewer Line Placement, and North Main Street Water Main Replacement; and

RESOLVED, that the Board of Selectmen encourages, in the strongest possible terms, the Connecticut Department of Economic & Community Development to approve the grant requests made by the Town of Winchester; and

RESOLVED, that the Town Manager is authorized to apply for funding through the Communities Challenge Grant on the projects identified herein on the condition that a final acceptance of the grant award must come back before the Board of Selectmen for review and final approval.

SS: _____

Date: _____

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|-------|-------------|-------|-------|--------------|---------|--------------|---------|-----|
| 2019 | Year Total: | 100 | 53 | \$5,148.22 | \$51.48 | \$1,915.77 | \$19.16 | 27% |
| 2020 | Jan-20 | 13 | 6 | \$532.00 | \$40.92 | \$329.73 | \$25.36 | 38% |
| 2020 | Feb-20 | 8 | 6 | \$391.95 | \$48.99 | \$260.54 | \$32.57 | 40% |
| 2020 | Mar-20 | 9 | 4 | \$377.92 | \$41.99 | \$143.34 | \$15.93 | 27% |
| 2020 | Apr-20 | 9 | 6 | \$341.05 | \$37.89 | \$109.82 | \$12.20 | 24% |
| 2020 | May-20 | 9 | 5 | \$367.22 | \$40.80 | \$232.64 | \$25.85 | 39% |
| 2020 | Jun-20 | 12 | 5 | \$349.04 | \$29.09 | \$116.56 | \$9.71 | 25% |
| 2020 | Jul-20 | 10 | 3 | \$231.12 | \$23.11 | \$99.59 | \$9.96 | 30% |
| 2020 | Aug-20 | 8 | 4 | \$181.74 | \$22.72 | \$51.99 | \$6.50 | 22% |
| 2020 | Sep-20 | 11 | 3 | \$332.63 | \$30.24 | \$128.67 | \$11.70 | 28% |
| 2020 | Oct-20 | 6 | 3 | \$149.14 | \$24.86 | \$36.81 | \$6.14 | 20% |
| 2020 | Nov-20 | 9 | 4 | \$222.71 | \$24.75 | \$45.33 | \$5.04 | 17% |
| 2020 | Dec-20 | 13 | 4 | \$347.79 | \$26.75 | \$127.49 | \$9.81 | 27% |
| 2020 | Year Total: | 117 | 53 | \$3,824.31 | \$32.69 | \$1,682.51 | \$14.38 | 31% |
| 2021 | Jan-21 | 7 | 3 | \$164.89 | \$23.56 | \$39.06 | \$5.58 | 19% |
| 2021 | Feb-21 | 13 | 5 | \$354.11 | \$27.24 | \$53.98 | \$4.15 | 13% |
| 2021 | Mar-21 | 16 | 5 | \$483.36 | \$30.21 | \$182.21 | \$11.39 | 27% |
| 2021 | Apr-21 | 11 | 5 | \$251.36 | \$22.85 | \$90.30 | \$8.21 | 26% |
| 2021 | May-21 | 11 | 5 | \$344.55 | \$31.32 | \$97.85 | \$8.90 | 22% |
| 2021 | Jun-21 | 16 | 6 | \$582.27 | \$36.39 | \$242.28 | \$15.14 | 29% |
| 2021 | Jul-21 | 10 | 4 | \$322.17 | \$32.22 | \$118.20 | \$11.82 | 27% |
| 2021 | Aug-21 | 14 | 5 | \$432.73 | \$30.91 | \$144.84 | \$10.35 | 25% |
| 2021 | Sep-21 | 10 | 5 | \$318.03 | \$31.80 | \$133.78 | \$13.38 | 30% |
| 2021 | Oct-21 | 13 | 6 | \$412.07 | \$31.70 | \$155.08 | \$11.93 | 27% |
| 2021 | Year Total: | 121 | 49 | \$3,665.54 | \$30.29 | \$1,257.58 | \$10.39 | 26% |
| Total | | 2,922 | 1,651 | \$128,433.65 | \$43.95 | \$116,502.76 | \$39.87 | 48% |