

Town of Winchester

Board of Selectmen - Regular Meeting

Monday June 2, 2025

Winchester Town Hall - Hicks Room

Noticed in Town Clerks Office and on Towns Website

Item 1 **Call to Order**

Meeting called to order by Mayor Todd Arcelaschi at 7:00pm

Attending Members	Todd Arcelaschi (Mayor)	William Hester (Selectman)
	Candy Perez (Selectwoman)	William Pozzo (Selectman)
	Troy Lamere (Selectman)	Linda Groppo (Selectwoman)

Absent Excused Paul Marino (Selectmen)

Staff Members Paul Harrington (Town Manager)
Glenn Albanesius (Town Clerk)
Jim Rollins (Public Works Director)

Item 2 **Pledge of Allegiance** The Pledge was recited by all

Item 3 **Agenda Review** - Sel. Perez offered a motion to add discussion about the May 27 Referendum to the agenda. Discussion to occur after the Town Manager's report.

Motion - Sel. Perez / Second - Sel. Groppo

Vote to approve - Unanimous (6 - 0)

Item 4 **Approval of Minutes**

* Minutes of Regular Meeting on May 19, 2025

Motion - Sel. Hester / Second - Sel. Lamere

Discussion followed and included a written statement read by Sel. Groppo that disputed the minutes as written. She stated that Sally Chesney, Addie Mehl, Stewart Pollens and Anita Garnett were omitted from the May 19th meeting and should not appear in the Minutes. The resignation and appointment reflected in the Minutes should remain. "This correction should be made to reflect the accuracy, accountability and transparency of the May 19th meeting."

Vote to accept minutes - No vote or action was taken (Motion neither approved, denied or withdrawn)

Sel. Hester offered a motion to table the vote on the May 19th minutes until a review is made.

Motion - Sel. Hester / Second - Sel. Lamere

Vote to approve - Yes (5) / Abstain (1) Sel. Perez

* Minutes of Special Meeting on May 22, 2025

Motion - Sel. Hester / Second - Sel. Pozzo

Vote to accept minutes - Yes (5) / Abstain (1) Sel. Groppo

Item 5 **Citizens Comments** - The following people addressed the Board

* Frank Oliveri - Expressed concern about the Memorial parade attendance

* Michael Farrell - Thanked the Board for their Budget efforts. Asked for immediate attention to a dangerous sidewalk hazard at the Town owned property on the corner of Birdsall and Hurlbut Streets. Also requested the Town Department Directory Boards be updated with corrected spelling and lastly explained that the Town Hall Elevator Service Lights continue to be out which creates a compromised safety situation.

* Frank Oliveri - Made the Board aware that the Clerks office had explained to a Property Owner living in Florida that a May 27th Referendum Ballot could not be mailed to them.

Item 6

Town Manager's Report - Town Manager Paul Harrington reported on the following topics.

* The FY 25-26 Municipal Budget passed the May 27th Referendum vote. This years budget was the result of many late nights and much hard work.

* The Town has several key Economic Development wins to report. The property at 108 East Lake Street has closed with new owners planning to build 20 - 30 higher end condominiums. Domino's Pizza will be setting up shop on Main Street with planned renovations of an existing building.

* Grand List growth will be major priority during the coming year. Focus will be on several sites that have good chances of yielding significant results. These opportunities include.

1) Wallens Hill

3) Sue Grossman Trail Area

2) Legacy Buildings on Main Street

4) Traffic and DOT Collaboration

* The Sarah Smolek dog case continues to be litigated in court. Ten of the dogs have been released back to the Town and are eligible for adoption. A court date in 2 weeks will hopefully yield resolution for the remaining 11 dogs.

* The Eversource project to replce gas lines along Main Street is in motion. Traffic control has been successful with a shout out to the flaggers and officers for keeping everyone safe so far. The Winsted Police Union did approve a mutual aid agreement with Torrington which will help with safety coverage during the busy summer period. Torrington still needs to OK the agreement.

Item 6A

Discussion of May 27th Referendum

This item was added to the agenda

* Sel. Perez raised concerns about the hand counting of ballots and the unadvertised addition of Town Clerk hours for absentee Voting on Saturday May 24th. She suggested a bi-partisan group of Selectmen investigate these 2 issues.

Item 7

Correspondence - None

Item 8

Boards and Commissions - Sel. Lamere introduced the following actions.

1) Mike Farrell (U) is submitted for Re-Appointment to the Water and Sewer Commission with a term to expire 6/2030.

Motion - Sel. Perez / Second - Sel. Lamere

Vote to approve - Unanimous (6 - 0)

2) A Letter of Resignation was received and accepted from the following volunteer.

George Closson (D) from the Water and Sewer Commission

George's time and service to the Town is acknowledged with gratitude.

As a result of Sel. Groppo's challenge to the May 19th Boards and Commissions Minutes the scheduled action of voting for Appointments was reverted back to the following names being placed into Consideration.

* Sally Chesney (D) is submitted for Consideration to a member seat on the Conservation Commission with a term to expire 5/2027.

* Addie Mehl (U) is submitted for Consideration to a member seat on the Conservation Commission with a term to expire 5/2029.

* Stewart Pollens (Resident) is submitted for Consideration to a member seat on the Historic Commission with a term to expire 12/2025.

* Anita Garnett (D) is submitted for Consideration to a member seat on the Winchester Housing Authority with a term to expire 4/2028.

Item 9 **Unfinished Business** - None

Item 10 **New Business** -

A) Bridge Street Update

Public Works Director Jim Rollins gave the Board a detailed review of the reconfiguration plans for the Bridge, Willow and Prospect Street intersection.

B) 25-11 Proposed Line Item Transfer

Motion Statement - "I move that the Board of Selectmen approve the line-item transfer of \$88,000.00 from (1-311-194-0000-0000) General to \$38,000.00 for (1-311-197-0000-0000) Overtime, \$30,000.00 for (1-311-826-0000-0000) Maintenance of Vehicles and \$20,000.00 (1-311-826-0001-0000) Fleet repairs for a transfer total of \$88,000.00

Motion - Sel. Lamere / Second - Sel. Hester

Vote to approve - Unanimous (6 - 0)

C) 25-18 Proposed Line Item Transfer

Motion Statement - "I move that the Board of Selectmen approve the line-item transfer of \$300.00 from (1-120-191-0000-0000) Assistant Town Clerk and \$750.00 (1-120-809-0002-0000) in the amount of \$750 to \$300.00 for (1-120-197-0000-0000) Compensatory Time, \$200.00 for (1-120-806-0000-0000) Office Supplies and \$550 (1-120-828-0002-0000) Indexing System for a Transfer total of \$1050.00

Motion - Sel. Hester / Second - None made

Vote to approve - Unanimous (6 - 0)

D) 25-19 Refunds as recommended by the Collector of Revenue

Motion Statement - "I move that the Board of Selectmen authorize the refunds recommended by the Collector of Revenue in the amount of \$9,824.28."

Motion - Sel. Hester / Second - Sel. Groppo

Vote to approve - Unanimous (6 - 0)

E) Action on items related to finalizing the Town's FY2025-2026 mill rate

A motion was offered to set the Towns Mill Rate at 29.17 for the coming fiscal year.

Motion - Sel. Hester / Second - Sel. Lamere

Vote to approve - Unanimous (6 - 0)

E) Town Manager Contract Addendum

Motion Statement - "I make a motion to approve the amendment with the caveat of the April 22, 2025 effectiveness."

Motion - Sel. Lamere / Second - Sel. Hester

Sel. Perez summarized the details of the addendum.

Vote to approve - Unanimous (6 - 0)

Item 11 **Citizens Comments** - The following people addressed the Board

* Frank Oliveri - Asked if the repair of Shore Drive was still part of the Road Bond schedule.

* Mike Farrell - Congratulated the Board for the Sue Grossman Trail progress. Asked why Town Hall's doors get locked after closing time. He felt that attendees to nightly meetings should be able to access building thru the front door.

* Jaye Markwell - Suggested that the Everbridge communication tool be promoted and expanded as much as possible.

Item 12 **Executive Session**

A) Discussion on Town Owned Properties - 48 Bridge Street, 99 Hubbard Street, 124 Rockwell Ave.

B) Discussion regarding selection of a site, or the lease sale or purchase of Real Estate (CGA § 1-200 (6) (D)

Motion Statement - "Motion to enter Executive Session to discuss A and B, taking the Town Manager at 8:21pm.

Motion - Sel. Lamere / Second - Sel. Hester

Vote to approve - Unanimous (6 - 0)

Item 13 A) Possible Action on Executive Session Items

The Board returned at 9:10pm with no formal action taken.

Item 12 **Selectmen's Comments** -

Sel. Lamere Commented that 2 priority issues that drove approval of the Budget were schools and roads. He hoped that paving would begin soon.

Mayor Arcelaschi Thanked the voters for coming out to participate in the Referendum decision. Also reminded everyone about the upcoming Laurel Ball on Friday the 13th at Crystal Peak.

Sel. Perez Asked if the new Public Works "Clerk of the Works" could be scheduled to meet with the Board.

Item 13 **Adjournment**

Motion - Sel. Lamere / Second - Sel. Hester

To adjourn the meeting at 9:12pm

Vote to approve - Unanimous

ATTEST:

Glenn Albanesius, Town Clerk

These Minutes are subject to formal approval at the next scheduled meeting. Any amendments, corrections or revisions will be noted in the next Meeting Minutes.