

Town of Winchester

Board of Selectmen - Regular Meeting

Monday August 18, 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

The Mayor read a moving tribute to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the 1955 Flood that impacted the Town of Winchester so significantly.

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

Staff Members	Paul Harrington (Town Manager)
	Ann Marie Rheault (Finance Director)
	Glenn Albanesius (Town Clerk)

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

Item 3 **Agenda Review** - Two requests were made and acted on.

* Mayor Arcelaschi asked for a motion to add Item 13B "Discussion / Possible Action related to Item 13.

Motion - Sel. Hester / Second - Sel. Marino

Vote to approve - Unanimous (7 - 0)

* Sel. Groppo asked to add Item 10A " Update on Proposed Ordinance to control Town Clerk office hours.

Motion - Sel. Groppo / Second - Sel. Marino

Vote to approve - Unanimous (7 - 0)

Item 4 **Approval of Minutes**

* Minutes of Regular Meeting on August 4, 2025

Motion - Sel. Lamere / Second - Sel. Pozzo

Vote to approve - Unanimous (7 - 0)

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

* Jaye Markwell - Questioned the Town's decision to entrust the care of 4 Smolak dogs with someone rumored to be connected with Sarah.

Item 6 **Town Manager's Report** - Town Manager Paul Harrington reported on the following topics.

* Union negotiations are making progress. Discussions have been productive and respectful with final agreements expected very soon.

* The Town's EDC has contracted with Awecast to produce a promotional film highlighting Winchester's attractions and investment potential. The Premiere is expected to debut at an upcoming Board of Selectman's meeting.

* An RFP has been issued for "Speed Camera Services". A review of submissions will set the course for the next phase of this initiative's evaluation.

- * Winchester has signed an agreement with the US Dept of Transportation which activates a "Safe Streets for All" grant. This funding will help establish an Action Plan designed to help reduce traffic fatalities and critical injuries. Anyone interested in working on the Committee charged with formulating Winchester's plan is encouraged to visit the Town Manager's office for details and sign up.
- * A Public Informational Session will be held to discuss the Bridge Street intersection re-design plan. Suggestions and feedback are critical to this projects success.
- * The Tiffany-Thompson Foundation donated \$4000.00 to the Senior Center's Active Aging programs.
- * Winchester recently submitted a request to the National Public Safety Drone Donation Program. If successful the donated drone will play a key role in search and rescue missions as well as incident evaluations.

Item 7 **Finance Director's Report** - Ann Marie Rheault's report is as follows.

Current FY - (YTD)			Last FY	
Revenues	Amount	%	Amount	%
Property Tax Collections	\$14,494,333.00	49.66	\$1,229,619.00	4.5
Motor Vehicle Supp.	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0
Past Due Taxes	\$83,299.00	23.8	\$48,206.00	8.03
Total Revenues	\$14,750,171.00	35.96	\$1,567,803.00	3.84
Expenditures & Enc.	\$5,743,059.00	14	\$3,926,465.00	9.62
Municipal Aid Received	\$170,175.00	Case Avenue Bridge Grant Reimbursement		
Bond Closing (7/8/2025)	\$8,000,000.00	Tranche #2		
	\$344,990.00			
Cash Flow (prior month)	\$28,619,601.00	GF Balance at April 30, 2025		
Investments	\$455,510.00	NWCB Sweep		
	\$2,568,801.00	STIF (State Investment Fund)		
	\$10,130,899.00	NWCB Money Market		

Item 8 **Correspondance** - None

Item 9 **Boards and Commissions** - The following action was taken

- * Sel. Perez offered a motion to move Mary Ann Marino from an Alternate to Full Member seat on the Zoning Board of Appeals. The motion was amended to include her term would finish out that of the resigning member John Pollack in December of 2028.
- Motion - Sel. Perez / Second - Sel. Pozzo
- Vote to approve - Yes (6) - Abstain (1) Se. Marino

Item 10 **Unfinished Business** - None

A) Update - Proposed Ordinance to control the Town Clerk's Office Hours

* Sel. Marino reported that he and Sel. Perez had met to discuss possible adjustments to the Town Clerk's office hours and subsequently forwarded their ideas to Town Attorney Kevin Nelligan for review. Attorney Nelligan advised that the Board of Selectmen does not have the authority to restrict or dictate the office hours of an elected official. Any proposal to provide extended hours specifically to process Absentee Ballots for mid-week Referendums would need to be addressed directly with the Town Clerk; and may also require negotiations with the union representing the Assistant Town Clerk.

New Business -

A) 25-08 Refunds as recommended by the Collector of Revenue

Item 11 Motion Statement - "I move that the Board of Selectmen authorize the refunds recommended by the Collector of Revenue in the amount of \$1486.08.

Motion - Sel. Lamere / Second - Sel. Pozzo

Vote to approve - Unanimous (7 - 0)

B) Connecticut Municipal Development Authority (CMDA)

Town Manager Harrington introduced an opportunity for Winchester to join the newly created Connecticut Municipal Development Authority (CMDA). This State entity is a branch of the Department of Economic and Community Development created to "help each communities unique vision for housing growth and downtown vitality". Paul explained that no action needs to be taken yet but the first BOS meeting in October offers the Board an opportunity to opt in and potentially apply for a slice of a nearly \$60 million dollar pool of development funding.

Citizens Comments - The following people addressed the Board

Item 12 * Jaye Markwell - Asked whether Sarah Smolek would be responsible for making restitution to the Town for expenses incurred from her alleged animal cruelty case.

Executive Session

A) Discussion regarding the Selection of a Site, or the Lease, Sale or Purchase of Real Estate

Item 13 Motion to enter Executive Session at 7:56pm taking the Town Manager and Realtor Dave Sartirana.

Motion - Sel. Marino / Second - Sel. Hester

Vote to approve - Unanimous (7 - 0)

B) Discussion / Possible Action regarding Executive Session.

The Board returned at 8:46pm with no formal action taken.

Item added - Agenda Review

Selectmen's Comments -

Item 13	Sel. Lamere	Reminded everyone about the Fireman's Parade
	Mayor Arcelaschi	Thanked everyone who participated in the PD School Supply Drive
	Sel. Hester	Spoke about the upcoming "Made in Winsted" presentation
	Sel. Perez	Announced a Greenwood's Trail Extension "Informational Meeting" to dispel misinformation that has been circulating as of late
	Sel. Pozzo	Thanked everyone involved with the Flag Football Fund Raiser held at Gilbert School to raise money for the Winchester Recreation Department.

Adjournment

Item 14

Motion - Sel. Lamere / Second - Sel. Pozzo

To adjourn the meeting at 8:48pm

Vote to approve - Unanimous (7 - 0)

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.