

Town of Winchester

Board of Selectmen - Regular Meeting

Monday December 1, 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)
	Troy Lamere (Selectman)	Cheryl Heffernan McGlynn (Selectwoman)
	Kevin Bishop (Selectman)	William Pozzo (Selectman)
	Paul Marino (Selectman)	

Staff Members	Paul Harrington (Town Manager)
	Glenn Albanesius (Town Clerk)
	John Field (Fire Chief)

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

Item 3 **Agenda Review** - No Changes

Item 4 **Approval of Minutes**

* Minutes of Regular Meeting on November 05, 2025

Motion - Sel. Hester / Second - Sel. Lamere

Selectman Bishop asked for a correction of the Meeting time to 10:02 am

Vote to approve - Unanimous (7 - 0)

* Minutes of Regular Meeting on November 17, 2025

Motion - Sel. Lamere / Second - Sel. Hester

Vote to approve - Yes (6) / Abstain (1) Sel. Marino

Meeting temporarily recessed for a Livestream feed check from 7:04pm to 7:05pm

Item 5 **Citizens Comments** - None

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

* Both Wallens and Crystal Lake Water Tanks are reporting as fully functional. The better news is that just over \$2.4 million dollars has been reimbursed by the Fed's.

* The roof at Pearson School is undergoing a series of professional tests to determine what scope of work will be required. It does appear that the existing roof cannot sustain an overlay. The decision has been made to hire an expert consultant to process and manage the Towns Grant application to the State.

* Recent talks with the Northwest Transit District have yielded positive reactions to proposed route changes intended to improve stop selections in Winsted.

* Budget work for FY27 continues to ramp up. Municipal departments can expect their planning worksheets in the coming weeks.

* The Town has hired **BL Companies** to prepare a historical review of 2 properties on Meadow Street that have been named in the \$200,000 Round 20 Brownfield Assessment Grant awarded to Winchester. The data gleaned from this review will help facilitate future funding for cleanup and repurposing of these two key locations.

- * Discussions are underway with the State to determine if the recently awarded Bridge Street Intersection grant funding can be modified to include engineering a complete redesign of the area. Potentially, an abutting parcel of private property may prove critical to expanding possible redesign options.
- * An RFP for Town Attorney services has been issued. Sealed proposals are due by December 11th at 10am.
- * The State legislature just passed House Bill 8002 "An Act Concerning Housing Growth". This law substantially changes the State's rules regarding housing strategies and municipal control of development plans. Regional entities will become the authority for approval and State compliance.

Item 7 **Correspondence** - None

Item 8 **Boards and Commissions** - The following action was taken

- * Glenn Albanesius is submitted for Re-Appointment to a Member seat on the RRDD#1 Board of Directors with a term to expire December 2028.
Motion - Sel. Hester / Second - Sel. Marino
Vote to approve - Unanimous (7 - 0)
- * John Prevuznak is submitted for Re-Appointment to an Member seat on the RRDD#1 Board of Directors with a term to expire December 2028.
Motion - Sel. Lamere / Second - Sel. Hester
Vote to approve - Unanimous (7 - 0)
- * Linda Groppo is submitted for approval to an Member seat on the Winchester Housing Authority Board with a term to expire April 2028.
Motion - Sel. Lemere / Second - Sel. Marino
Vote to approve - Unanimous (7 - 0)

Item 9 **Unfinished Business** - None

Item 10 **New Business** -

A) Discussion regarding addition of Automatic Traffic Enforcement Safety Devices (ATESD) Ordinance
(First of 3 meetings)

Board discussion resulted in a Motion being offered to move this initiative to the second of three meetings to be held at the December 15th Selectman's meeting.
Motion - Sel. Heffernan McGlynn / Second - Sel. Marino
Vote to approve - Unanimous (7 - 0)

B) Charter Revision Discussion

The Town Manager gave each member a packet detailing the CT State Laws regarding formation and function of a Charter Revision Committee. Sel. Marino listed several changes that he was willing to support - 1) Town Clerk position from elected to hired 2) Lengthening the Selectmen's term to 4 years 3) New rules regulating service on multiple Boards and Commissions. Paul Harrington added some thoughts regarding the current Charter rules related to Budget vote timing. Sel. Heffernan McGlynn observed that there seemed to be positive sentiment to move this proposal to a broader discussion and suggested each member be prepared to discuss details at the next regular meeting. The Town Manager urged the Board to deliberate cautiously and set a realistic timeline before establishing a formal Committee and charging them with specific tasks.

C) 25-40 Proposed Line Item Transfers by the Director of Finance

Prior to this order of business, Town Manager Harrington invited Fire Chief John Field to spend a couple minutes to give Board members some background information that precipitated the transfer necessity.

Chief Fields proceeded to explain how critical Equipment Maintenance was for his department and cited recent specific instances of misdiagnosis and service malpractice that had left the Town and important apparatus in various states of dangerous compromise. He went on to illustrate examples of corrective measures he had started to implement but warned the Board that his current budget for Routine Maintenance was already exhausted and next year's number needed to be increased. Board members asked Town Manager Harrington to investigate what legal recourses might be available to mitigate some of the service misconduct the Fire Department had endured.

Motion Statement - "By recommendation of the Town Manager, I move that the Board of Selectmen approve **Action Step 25-40 (FY2026-01)**, a budget transfer totaling \$10,000.00"

Motion - Sel. Hester / Second - Sel. Heffernan McGlynn

Vote to approve - Unanimous (7 - 0)

D) 25-41 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 \$112.47."

Motion - Sel. Marino / Second - Sel. Hester

Vote to approve - Unanimous (7 - 0)

E) Set Public Hearing Date for Automatic Traffic Enforcement Safety Devices for December 18, 2025

A motion was offered to establish a Public Hearing for ATESD to be held at Town Hall in the Hicks Room on December 18, 2025 at 6pm.

Motion - Sel. Marino / Second - Sel. Hester

Vote to approve - Unanimous (7 - 0)

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

* Chris King - Offered some personal thoughts, suggestions and warnings regarding the Speed Camera initiative and potential ordinance.

Item12 **Selectmen's Comments -**

Sel. Lamere	Noted that P & Z would be forwarding a letter to the BOS regarding the Towns' dock and mooring ordinance.
Sel. Bishop	Questioned whether the previous meetings request for Atty Services RFP during Selectmans comments was appropriate.
Mayor Arcelaschi	Thanked supporters of his Salvation Army "bell ringing" stint. Reminded all that the "Freezin for a Reason" event will be held on Dec 12th and Wreaths Across America on Dec. 13th. Closed by asking the Town Manager for suggestions on alternate ways to promote the Towns Business and Activities since local newspaper coverage has all but disappeared.
Sel. Hester	Spoke about the Historic Commission's Wayside Sign project
Sel. Pozzo	Promoted the Recreation Departments upcoming Dec. 13th Holiday Event

Item 13 **Adjournment**

Motion - Sel. Heffernan McGlynn / Second - Sel. Marino

To adjourn the meeting at 8:35pm

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.