

Town of Winchester

Board of Selectmen - Regular Meeting

Monday January 5, 2026

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)
	Paul Marino (Selectman)	William Pozzo (Selectman)
	Kevin Bishop (Selectman)	

Absent Excused	Cheryl Heffernan McGlynn (Selectwoman)
	Troy Lamere (Selectman)

Staff Members	Paul Harrington (Town Manager)
	Glenn Albanesius (Town Clerk)

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 December 15, 2025

Motion - Sel. Hester / Second - Sel. Pozzo

Vote to approve - Unanimous (5 - 0)

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

* Terry Tanner - Read a prepared statement accusing the Town of willfully mishandling the care and placement of Sarah Smolek's impounded dogs.

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

* Our launch of the new "Winsted Cares" program has been greatly successful so far. December of 2025 recorded 62 clients in 74 encounters. Referrals to the service came from Social Media posts, family and local partners. The Program Coordinator is also connected with the PD, Ambulance Service and local Businesses and Organizations.

* The FY2027 Budget process will become a primary focus over the coming weeks as the Town Manager's proposal is due on March 15th. The Budget office is currently seeking efficiencies and savings for electricity, telecommunications, software and shared service costs. Identification of project priorities is strongly encouraged and input from the Selectman will be part of the January 20th meeting.

* EDC completed a rare Triple Ribbon Cutting Ceremony by welcoming Kawa & Company, Sacred Beauty Salon and The Zen Den to Winchester's Business Community.

* Winchester has submitted an application to DEEP's Recreational Trails Grant Program. If awarded, the funds will be used to complete that last 2 phases of the Sue Grossman Greenway.

* The Town's new IT Service recently completed an upgrade to all computers that need to run Windows 11 or have Windows 10 Security Extensions installed.

* A Public Hearing was held on December 18th to discuss ramifications of installing Speed Camera's in Town. During the hearing a suggestion was made to increase the number of camera's to a total of 4. The decision was made to place a test unit along Main Street in front of Town Hall, however the analysis unit was recently damaged while gathering data in Norfolk.

Item 7 **Correspondence** - While a hardcopy was unavailable for distribution, Mr. Harrington took a moment to verbally acknowledge receiving a resident's letter complimentary of the progress Winsted is making.

Item 8 **Boards and Commissions** - The following action was taken
* Kevin Burgio is submitted for approval to an Member seat on the Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission with a term to expire April 2027.
Motion - Sel. Bishop / Second - Sel. Hester
Vote to approve - Unanimous (5 - 0)

Item 9 **Unfinished Business** -
A) Charter Revision Panel Membership and Continued Discussion
* A list of 6 volunteers who want to serve on the Charter Revision Panel was given to the Board of Selectmen. Ensuing discussion included the following suggestions and guidelines to the Panel framework.
1) Panel should be comprised of 5 Voting Members and 2 Non-Voting BOS Ex-Officio Members
2) Panel members should not be currently seated on any of the following Boards and Commissions
 * Board of Assessment Appeals *Zoning Board of Appeals
 * Planning & Zoning * Inland Wetlands
 * Parks and Recreation * Water and Sewer
3) Panel Members should not be related to any Selectperson or current Board or Commission member
4) Panel Members should not be Political Town Committee leaders
5) Panel Members should be Full Time Residents and Electors
6) A brief explanation of the Charter Revision process should be drafted and be part of the member recruitment campaign.
* A motion encapsulating the above points was offered.
Motion - Sel. Marino / Second - Sel. Bishop
Vote to approve - Unanimous (5 - 0)

Item 10 **New Business** -
A) Discussion regarding addition of Automatic Traffic Enforcement Safety Devices (ATESD) Ordinance
Tonight's meeting was the third of three meetings required to enact a new Ordinance. As no new discussion or correspondence was submitted the following motion was offered.
Motion statement - "Following duly noticed public meetings held by the Board of Selectmen on December 1st 2025, December 15th 2025, and January 5th 2026, and a Public Hearing held on December 18th 2025 and pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §14-212, as amended, and the authority granted under the Winchester Town Charter, to approve and adopt an ordinance entitled "An Ordinance Authorizing the Use of Automated Traffic Enforcement Safety Devices (ATESD)." The Ordinance shall take effect on 1/20/2026, and the Town Manager is hereby authorized to take all actions necessary to implement the Ordinance, including submission to the Connecticut Department of Transportation with all applicable state agencies.
Motion - Sel. Hester / Second - Sel. Marino
Vote to approve - Unanimous (5 - 0)

B) Appointment of Town Attorney

Upon the recommendation of the Town Manager a motion to name Kevin Nelligan as the Town Attorney for the Town of Winchester was offered.

Motion - Sel. Marino / Second - Sel. Hester

Vote to approve - Unanimous (5 - 0)

C) Police Revolving Fund for Police Acquisition

Motion Statement - " I move to approve the expenditure of \$66,602.10 from the Police Revolving Fund for the purchase of one (1) 2026 Ford Police Interceptor, contingent upon availability and in accordance with State purchasing requirements."

Motion - Sel. Marino / Second - Sel. Pozzo

Vote to approve - Unanimous (5 - 0)

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

* Willie Platt - Explained that the Town Charter prevents Town Employees from serving on any Charter Revision Panel.

Item 12 **Selectmen's Comments -**

Sel. Bishop - Attended a recent BOE sponsored Holiday luncheon at both Pearson and Hinsdale Schools and wanted to acknowledge the staff for all the extra duties they perform for events like this.

Mayor Arcelaschi - Announced the early morning swearing in of Officer Peter Tiemann to the Winchester Police Department.

Item 13 **Adjournment**

Motion - Sel. Marino / Second - Sel. Hester

To adjourn the meeting at 8:00pm

Vote to approve - Unanimous (5 - 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.