

Town of Winchester

Board of Selectmen - Regular Meeting

Tuesday January 20, 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)	Cheryl Heffernan McGlynn (Selectwoman)
	Paul Marino (Selectman)	William Pozzo (Selectman)
	Troy Lamere (Selectman)	Kevin Bishop (Selectman)
	William Hester (Selectman)	

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

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 January 5 , 2026

Motion - Sel. Hester / Second - Sel. Lamere

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

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

* Frank Oliveri - Spoke about the upcoming Municipal budget exercise

* Multiple speakers read prepared statements accusing the Town of mishandling the Smolak dog case.

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

* The FY2027 budget preparation moves into the department request review phase. The Budget Office continues to analyze utility and commodity costs. Stay tuned for the numbers to take shape.

* The Town has picked a firm to act as coordinator and consultant for the SS4A Committee. Once compensation negotiations are complete the firm will be announced and the Committee will begin its mission.

* Work is underway to develop an updated Strategic Plan for Roadway Infrastructure Construction. The Town Manager is working with Finance and Public Works to compile a master list of roadway needs factoring in costs and Paser-Ratings.

* The Wayfinding Signage Project is waiting for CT DOT's response to the required encroachment application. Signs will be ordered as soon as State approval comes thru.

* The School Safety Committee continues to meet. All committee members are now connected thru the Everbridge Alert System.

* The Town continues to press the Northwest Transit District for better Budget assessments. Board member Perez and Paul Harrington are actively working on improving local bus routes.

* The Sitestream team is working on the Towns final application to DOT for approval of speed camera installations. The State has 60 days to review and render a decision.

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

Revenues	Current FY - (YTD)		Last FY	
	Amount	%	Amount	%
Current Property Taxes	\$19,520,434.00	66.87	\$16,651,827.00	60.89
MV Supplemental	\$2,793.00	0.8	\$9,545.00	4.24
Past Due Taxes	\$237,289.00	67.8	\$216,343.00	36.06
Total Revenues	\$23,668,366.00	57.7	\$20,199,812.00	49.5
Expenditures	\$21,133,248.00	51.52	\$20,146,293.00	49.37
Municipal Aid	\$1,196.00	Property Tax - Disabled		
	\$4,930.00	Property Tax - Veterans		
	\$16,491.00	PILOT		
	\$3,651.00	Distressed Municipality		
	\$22,000.00	DWSRF Tank Reimbursement		
Cash Flow	\$22,634,279.00	GF as of December 31, 2025		
Investments	\$458,187.00	NWCB SWEEP		
	\$2,614,125.00	STIF (State Investment Fund)		
	\$15,934,381.00	NWCB Money Market (9127)		
	\$19,006,693.00	Total		
Capital Expenses - Nov 25	\$1,249.00	Town Hall Repairs / Upgrades		
	\$84,924.00	Annual Road Maintenance		
	\$91,859.00	Chapel/Dayton Road (Reclaim and Pave)		
	\$236,677.00	Price Road (Mill and Pave)		
	\$299,189.00	PW Wheeled Excavator		
	\$112,745.00	Wahnee Road (BOND)		
	\$1,431.00	Hubbard Street (BOND)		
		Spring Street (BOND)		
	\$17,588.00	West Wakefield Blvd		
	\$26,138.00	Drainage (BOND)		
	\$3,750.00	Pearson Roof		

Item 8 **Correspondence** None

Item 9 **Boards and Commissions** - No Actions

Item 10 **Unfinished Business** -

A) Charter Revision Panel Applications

Discussion amongst Board members resulted in an initial motion to set a Panel Membership Application deadline of February 2, 2026. This was amended to February 13, 2026 by 11am.

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

Vote to approve - Unanimous (7 - 0)

New Business -***A) Budget Priorities***

Town Manager Harrington opened the discussion and asked Board members to articulate any priorities that should be considered as the Budget for FY26 - 27 gets crafted. Responses are summarized as follows.

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Sel. Marino - | ROADS, ROADS, ROADS
Establishment and funding of a Lieutenant Position on the Police Force |
| Sel. Lamere - | Roads with a \$1,000,000 funding target and "paving" designation |
| Sel. Bishop - | Continued investment funding into the School System at or above inflation rate |
| Sel. Heffernan McGlynn - | Support for school investment |
| Sel. Hester - | Cautioned the Board not to lose sight of Revenue realities |
| Sel. Pozzo - | Only asked that the Bd of Ed produce a detailed Budget similar to the Towns format |
| Mayor Arcelaschi - | Urged respectful and responsible negotiations with a focus on protecting the taxpayers in Town |

At 8:39pm Sel. Marino requested a short recess before the next Agenda item. Mayor Arcelaschi granted a 5 minute break after which the meeting proceedings resumed at 8:45pm.

B) Pearson School Roof Project

Superintendent Luby introduced Roger LeFleur as a Consultant from PM Resources. She explained the BOE had hired Roger to offer professional guidance related to Pearson's replacement roof project. Roger brings 11 years experience as the School Construction Director for CREC (Capital Region Education Council). His company PM Resources was established to help smaller communities navigate the State Grant funding process and selection of contractors for school construction projects.

Dr. Luby proceeded to summarize the current state of Pearson School's roof, stating that it was 26 years old and 6 years past its designated life span. Recent testing had uncovered moisture seepage, water leakage and minimal presence of asbestos all of which confirmed the roof is currently compromised and needs to be replaced. State reimbursement rates for funding the estimated 2.8 to 2.9 million dollar project are running at 72% leaving the Town's exposure somewhere between \$840,000 and \$870,000.

The Town Manager suggested the Board consider sending this project to Referendum on March 24th. He also asked for their blessing to seek approval for the vote to be scheduled at Town Hall using PAPER ballots. Discussion ended after the Finance Director confirmed from Bond Counsel that the ballot question would need to state the TOTAL amount of the project with the reimbursement statement included. The Town Manager estimated that debt service of 4.5% on \$850,000 would be about \$69,000 annually for a 20 year note. With Board approval he promised to have everything written up and prepared for final decisions at the February 2nd BOS meeting.

C) Potential Pre-School Expansion

Dr. Luby introduced an opportunity created by the State of Connecticut to offer FREE universal Pre-School for 4 year olds. She explained that recent Special Education and Early Childhood Programming Grant Funding established by the Legislature incents Towns to establish these programs by covering 100% of Construction costs. She further explained that a Hinsdale School site walk around with an architect uncovered a location that would allow 3 new Classrooms to be constructed. These classrooms would measure out at about 3700 square feet. Much discussion ensued regarding the certainty of FREE and the added educational value to the community. After hearing the State could eventually mandate the proposed program and even include 3 year olds; a formal motion was offered to spend up to \$40,000 to compile as much verified data as possible including construction schematics to validate consideration of pursuing this opportunity. The Superintendent will report back to the Selectmen as soon as she could.

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

Vote to approve - Yes (4) / No (3) Sel. Lamere , Sel. Hester, Sel. Pozzo

D) 26-01 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 \$947.57."

Motion - Sel. Marino / Second - Sel. Pozzo

Vote to approve - Unanimous (7 - 0)

Item 12

Executive Session

A) Discussion regarding 48 Bridge Street

B) Discussion regarding Smolak case

C) Discussion regarding ratification of Union Contracts

Motion to enter Executive Session at 9:53pm taking the Town Manager, Realtor David Sartirana and Town Attorney Kevin Nelligan.

Motion - Sel. Marino / Second - Sel. Hester

Vote to approve - Unanimous (7 - 0)

Item 13

New Business -

A) Discussion/Possible Action regarding Smolak case

Motion Statement - "I move that the Board of Selectmen approve the stipulation regarding the disposition of dogs as reviewed by Town Counsel and authorize the Town Manager to execute the stipulation on behalf of the Town of Winchester".

Motion - Sel. Marino / Second - Sel. Lamere

Vote to approve - Unanimous (7 - 0)

B) Discussion/Possible Action regarding 48 Bridge Street

No action taken

C) Discussion/Possible Action regarding ratification of Union Contracts

Motion Statement - "Mr. Mayor, I move that the Board of Selectmen approve the tentative Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Town of Winchester and the Winchester Supervisors Association (NAGE) Local RARI370 as presented. This agreement sets forth the terms and conditions of employment for the Supervisory Bargaining Unit, including wage, benefits work conditions, and duration effective upon execution through June 30, 2028. Further I move to authorize the Town Manager to execute the final agreement on behalf of the Town and take all necessary actions to implement its provisions."

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

Vote to approve - Unanimous (7 - 0)

Motion Statement - "Mr. Mayor, I move that the Board of Selectmen hereby approve the tentative agreement between the Town of Winchester and the United Public Service Employees Union known as UPSEU representing Department Head Assistants, Secretaries, Receptionists and Clerical employees as presented. This agreement covers all terms and conditions of employment for the Bargaining Unit, including wages, benefits, hours, and other working conditions and shall be effective upon execution through June 30th 2028. Further I move the Town Manager, Paul Harrington is authorized to execute the final agreement on behalf of the Town to take all necessary actions to implement its provisions."

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

Vote to approve - Unanimous (7 - 0)

Item 14 **Citizens Comments** - The following people addressed the Board

* Terry Taylor

Item 15 **Selectmen's Comments -**

* Mayor Arcelaschi - Urged residents to properly vet any phone or mail solicitations they receive

* Sel. Hester - Announced that the Soldiers Monument Commission is sponsoring a "Winter Lecture Series" at the Beardsley Library. Three monthly lectures will be held starting January 24, then February 21st and finally March 21st.

Item 13 **Adjournment**

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

To adjourn the meeting at 11:02pm

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.