

Town of Winchester

Board of Selectmen - Regular Meeting

Monday February 2, 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 7pm

Attending Members	Todd Arcelaschi (Mayor)	William Pozzo (Selectman)
	Paul Marino (Selectman)	Kevin Bishop (Selectman)
	William Hester (Selectman)	Cheryl Heffernan McGlynn (Selectwoman)

Absent Excused Troy Lamere (Selectman)

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

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

Item 3 **Agenda Review** - The Town Manager requested that an Item B (Health Insurance) get added to Agenda Item 11 Executive Session
Motion - Sel. Marino / Second - Se. Hester
Vote to approve - Unanimous (6 - 0)
Sel. Marino requested an opportunity to amend the Meeting Minutes of the January 5th Selectmen's meeting during Approval of Minutes.

Item 4 **Approval of Minutes**

* Minutes of Regular Meeting on January 20, 2025

Motion - Sel. Marino / Second - Sel. Hester

Vote to approve - Unanimous (6 - 0)

* A request to correct the minutes of the January 5th Regular Board of Selectmen meeting was offered. Sel. Marino found that the written minutes errantly included an incorrect interpretation of a motion that set Charter Revision Committee membership qualifications. The correct motion was NOT intended to exclude relatives of sitting Board and Commission members other than the Board of Selectmen.

Motion - Sel. Marino / Second - Sel. Hester

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

Item 5 **Citizens Comments** - None

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

* The efforts of Public Works, Sewer and Water Department crews far exceeded expectations as they won praise from just about everyone with their snow removal accomplishments. Residents and travelers thru Town were able to navigate safely as snow filled roads and sidewalks were given consistent attention. Leading up to the storm the Police Department and Emergency Management Director strategically worked to get the roads cleared of parked vehicles well in advance of the snowfall.

* The Assessors Office has filed their 2025 Grand List Report. The numbers show that a positive overall increase was somewhat muted by existing and some new Motor Vehicle and Personal Property exemptions

* The FY2027 Budget exercise has moved into one on one meetings with each Department Head

- * Senators Blumenthal and Murphy were instrumental in securing locally directed funds thru the FY 2026 Congressionally Directed Spending earmark for our Southern Sewer Network Expansion project. The money will help extend sewer mains on Rowley Street all the way to the Town's Public Works facility. The efforts and focus of Tom Heuschkel have been greatly instrumental in securing this pivotal funding win.
- * The Town and Board of Ed team has partnered with Downes Construction to help craft a vision plan for adding Pre-K classrooms to Hinsdale School. Downes has a stellar reputation for successfully bringing initiatives like ours to reality. Their initial consultation came in well under budget at \$13,000.
- * Placement efforts for the Smolak dogs continues as the Town has contracted with Happy Dog Rescue to help find safe and loving homes. HDR will vet all applications and even conduct site visits to ensure each dog is properly adopted and securely placed.
- * Winsted Ambulance has offered a "Ride-Along" opportunity to anyone serving on the Board of Selectmen. This offer is intended to increase awareness of the daily challenges they routinely face.

Item 7 **Correspondence** - None

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

- 1) Stewart Pollens is submitted for Re-appointment to a Member seat on the Historic Commission with a term to expire December 2028
 Motion - Sel. Hester / Second - Sel. Heffernan McGlynn
 Vote to approve - Unanimous (6 - 0)
- 2) David Pines (D) is submitted for Re-appointment to a Member seat on the Ad Hoc Water Level Committee with a term to expire January 2028
 Motion - Sel. Hester / Second - Sel. Heffernan McGlynn
 Vote to approve - Unanimous (6 - 0)
- 3) James Lagassie is submitted for Re-appointment to a Member seat on Retirement Administrative Board with a term to expire February 2030
 Motion - Sel. Hester / Second - Sel. Heffernan McGlynn
 Vote to approve - Unanimous (6 - 0)
- 4) A Letter of Resignation was received and accepted from the following volunteer.
 Lauren Dombrowski (D) from the Historic Commission
 Lauren's time and service to the Town is acknowledged with gratitude.

Item 9 **Unfinished Business** -

A) Charter Revision Panel Membership and Continued Discussion

- * Town Manager Harrington updated the Board with the latest list of Volunteers that had completed and submitted applications. The deadline for interested people to apply is Friday February 13, 2026 by 11 am.

Item 10 **New Business** -

A) Roadway Infrastructure Strategic Planning

Public Works Director Jim Rollins and UConn Intern Dan Kogstad gave a PowerPoint Presentation that explained some new technology that the Public Works Department is utilizing to better grade the condition of Winchester roads. The "Vialytics" Program utilizes digitized road management to evaluate infrastructure and centrally manage maintenance and reconstruction projects. Dan and Jim showed a color coded map of Town roads and the 1 to 10 rating system that the Town trucks had compiled using AI and photography uploads. Potholes, cracked asphalt, road patches, signs, manhole covers and drains are all documented with GPS data and timestamped every 10 feet. This compilation of data now allows the Town to track and strategize how money should be best spent to keep roads safe and usable.

B) Pearson Roof Referral to Planning and Zoning per CGS 8-24, 8-22

A Motion to refer the Pearson School roof project to Planning & Zoning was offered.

Motion - Sel. Marino / Second - Sel. Hester

Vote to approve - Unanimous (6 - 0)

C) School Roof Bond Resolution, Set Meeting date and Referendum Date

Motion Statement - "**Be it resolved**, that the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Winchester hereby approves the setting of a Special Town Meeting to be held on Tuesday, March 17, 2026 at 7:00pm at the Winchester Town Hall, 338 Main Street Winsted, Connecticut, for the purpose of considering and discussing a proposed appropriation and authorization for the issuance of bonds or notes for the Isabelle M. Pearson School Roof Project, as presented to this meeting.

Further Resolved, that said proposed appropriation shall be in the amount of \$2,898,670 and shall be for the purpose of funding the design, construction, replacement, and related costs associated with the Isabelle M. Pearson School Roof Project.

Further Resolved, that said Special Town Meeting shall be adjourned at its conclusion to submit such appropriation and borrowing authorization to a referendum vote to be held on Tuesday March 24, 2026 between the hours of 8:00am and 8:00pm at the Winchester Town Hall, 338 Main Street Winsted, Connecticut, in accordance with the Town Charter and applicable provisions of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Further Resolved, that the notice of such Special Town Meeting and referendum, substantially in the form presented to this meeting, is hereby approved, and that the Town Clerk is authorized and directed to cause such notice to be posted, published, and distributed in the manner and within the time required by law.

Further Resolved, that a copy of said notice shall be attached to and made part of the minutes of this meeting."

Motion - Sel. Marino / Second - Sel. Pozzo

Vote to approve - Unanimous (6 - 0)

D) Request for Additional State Aid

A Motion to authorize the Mayor to send a formal letter to the State of Connecticut requesting additional Town aid was offered.

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

Vote to approve - Unanimous (6 - 0)

Item 11

Executive Session

A) Discussion regarding 48 Bridge Street and Town Health Insurance

Motion to enter Executive Session at 9:07pm taking the Town Manager and Realtor David Sartirana for only the Real Estate discussion.

Motion - Sel. Marino / Second - Sel. Hester

Vote to approve - Unanimous (6 - 0)

New Business

A) Discussion/Possible Action regarding 48 Bridge Street

The Board returned from Executive Session at 9:29pm with the following action requested.

Motion Statement - "I move that we accept the offer for 48 Bridge Street from the last name Nash for \$27,000 and we'll send this property sale to Town meeting to be held here at Town Hall on March 17, 2026 at 7pm."

Motion - Sel. Marino / Second - Sel. Hester

Vote to approve - Unanimous (6 - 0)

Item 13 **Citizens Comments** - The following people addressed the Board

* Deb Jablonski asked the Town Manager if he could share the status of the Wallens Hill development opportunity.

Item14 **Selectmen's Comments** - None

Item 13 **Adjournment**

To adjourn the meeting at 9:33pm

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

Vote to approve - Unanimous (6 - 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.