

Town of Winchester

Board of Selectmen - Regular Meeting

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

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

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

Item 3 **Agenda Review** - A motion to move Item 8 (Selectmen's Comments and Reports) up to follow Citizen's Comments was offered.
Motion - Sel. Marino / Sel. Hester
Vote to approve - Unanimous (7 - 0)

Item 4 **Approval of Minutes**

* Minutes of Special Meeting on September 17, 2026

Motion - Sel. Hester / Sel. Pozzo

Vote to approve - Yes (2) Abstained (5) (Sel. Pozzo / Heffernan McGlynn / Marino / Bishop / Lamere)

* Minutes of Regular Meeting on September 21, 2026

Motion - Sel. Heffernan McGlynn / Sel. Bishop

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

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

* Tom Carter	* Candace Bouchard
* Mike Connoles	* Jay Markwell

Item 6 **Selectmen's Comments & Reports**

Item moved by Agenda Review vote

* Mayor Arcelaschi - Reminded everyone that the Annual Household Waste Collection day will be on Saturday October 24th at the Torrington Pollution Control Center in Harwinton.

* Sel. Lamere Suggested that an abbreviated Public Comments Rule Statement be considered. Also voiced concerns that proposed, season-end paving is still undone.

* Sel. Bishop Agreed with a point that Candace Bouchard made about Main Street storefront façade repairs as it related to the Cultural Districts Commission efforts to get State recognition of Winsted's Cultural District.

Item 7 **Town Manager's Report** - Town Manager Paul Harrington reported on the following topics.

* Paul Harrington made point to promote Breast Cancer Awareness Month with his pink attire. His mom is a breast cancer survivor and they are both very grateful for support and research that has helped so many families fight this awful disease.

- * Winchester was awarded \$749,000 to help complete the final stages of the Sue Grossman Trail. These critical funds came from DEEP's 2025 Recreational Trails Grant and puts the completion of the Trailway planning phase finally in sight.
- * Winchester won another financial victory with the recent "Local Match Waiver" from the EPA. Initially the Town was required to put up \$158,750 of local funds to complete an award of \$635,000. The waiver was issued because of Winchester's Distressed Municipality designation with the funds being used for expansion of our Southern Section Sewer Network.
- * The Fire Department just won funding from the Northwest Auxiliary for Community Health. The \$41,613.48 award is the largest grant to date ever issued by the NACH. The money will be used to purchase new battery operated rescue equipment.
- * Winchester Housing Authority just won \$1.7 million of Federal funding to put new bathrooms in their facility apartments.
- * The new Speed camera's have a go live date of October 19th.
- * Winchester earned another Bronze level certification as part of the Sustainable CT program.
- * The Safe Streets for All (SS4A) committee will meet on Tuesday October 6th to unveil its draft "Data Collection and Safety Analysis Report. This phase is critical for identification of our key safety needs and determining a path to pursue corrective funding.
- * We are currently gathering information and reviewing improved Town Hall security options. Accessibility to the building for meetings and after hour events continues to be a major concern. With pending elevator upgrades, greater flexibility with door control will become a necessity.
- * The recent EDC (Economic Development Commission) Job Fair held on Sept. 24th was deemed successful with nearly 30 local employers and a solid number of attendee's.
- * Paul Harrington was just appointed to the Governors Municipal Employees Retirement System as a member Trustee. This is not only an honor for Mr. Harrington but elevates Winchester as a Town of interest.

Item 8 **Correspondence** - The Town received a letter from Gravestone Guardians thanking Steve Dew and Virginia Schultz Charette for hosting a cemetery reparations event.

Item 9 **Boards and Commissions** -

- 1) Charlene Lavoie (D) is submitted for Re-Appointment to an Alternate seat on Planning & Zoning with a term to expire in October 2031.
Motion - Sel. Bishop / Second - Sel. Pozzo
Vote to approve - Unanimous (7 - 0)
 - 2) Willie Platt (U) is submitted for Re-Appointment to a Member seat on Planning & Zoning with a term to expire in October 2031.
Motion - Sel. Bishop / Second - Sel. Lamere
Vote to approve - Unanimous (7 - 0)
 - 3) Jack Bourque (D) is submitted for Re-Appointment to a Member seat on Board of Assessment Appeals with a term to expire in October 2029.
Motion - Sel. Bishop / Second - Sel. Hester
Vote to approve - Yes (5) / Abstain (2) Sel. Lamere / Sel. Pozzo
- * A Letter of Resignation was received and accepted from the following volunteer.
John Cooney from Planning and Zoning
John's time and service to the Town is acknowledged with gratitude.

Item 10 **Unfinished Business** - None

New Business -***A) Discussion on Anticoagulant Rodenticide***

A graphic and compelling presentation by Lisa Shirk from the Newtown Conservation Commission and Cassandra McKenna took about 20 minutes to convince the entire Board that a policy outlawing placement of anticoagulant rodenticides at Town facilities was of immediate concern. The unintended consequences of (FGARS) and (SGARS) are heartbreaking when you begin to understand the chain of life for birds and animals that aren't rodents but secondarily subject to the effects of blanket chemical poisoning of rats and mice. The Board will consider a Town Ordinance banning rodenticides but motioned to have the Town Manager institute a policy that eliminates use in Town facilities by November 1, 2026.

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

Vote to approve - Unanimous (7 - 0)

B) 26-49 Discussion Possible Action on Nipper Funds/River Cleanup

Town Manager Harrington offered the Board a funding source for a Mad River foliage overgrowth cleanup. With a current "Nipper Fund" balance of over \$126K a Riverbank Cleanup RFP yielded a quote for \$83,295.00 that would clear a Main Street stretch from the Ambulance Barn to Noli's Restaurant. Unanimous consent by Board members fostered the following motion.

Motion Statement - "I move that the Board of Selectmen authorize the use of \$83,925 available nip funds for the Mad River Riverbank Cleanup Project."

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

Vote to approve - Unanimous (7 - 0)

C) 26-50 Elevator Emergency Appropriations

Recent breakdowns by the Town Hall elevator have caused significant safety and accessibility issues. Originally installed in 1980, the elevator has been experiencing recent and expensive breakdowns. Section 912 of the Town's Charter allows for emergency appropriations of up to \$500,000 needed to address issues that threaten "lives, health or property" of Town Citizens. The entire board felt strongly that continuing a patch repair strategy was no longer fiscally responsible. The following motion was made.

"I move that the Board of Selectmen invoke Section 912 of the Town Charter and authorize an emergency appropriation of \$300,000 from Fund Balance for the replacement of the Town Hall elevator."

Motion - Sel. Lamere / Second - Sel. Bishop

Vote to approve - Unanimous (7 - 0)

D) Town Facilities Upgrade

Town Manager Harrington offered a summary presentation listing the current physical condition of our Fire, Police and Public Works buildings. He itemized a number of unaddressed issues that over time have deteriorated into dangerous working conditions. A spreadsheet gave estimated replacement and PD relocation costs that totaled nearly \$45 million dollars. This number was offset slightly by Federal and State grants that were intended to help formal planning get started. Mr. Harrington cautioned the Board that the debt load to undertake all the projects on at once would be fiscally irresponsible. His recommendation was to seek "value engineered" proposals that would get costs in line with approved accounting and borrowing guidelines. The Board agreed that this topic needs to be an agenda priority going forward.

E) 26-51 Discussion Possible Action on ARPA Closeout Projects

A suggestion by Town staff to the "Town Hall Blue Room" was researched and developed into a formal plan. Funding to support the initiative will come from an ARPA balance that needed to be spent by the end of this year. Renovations will include flooring, paint, historic photo's, conference table and livestreaming electronics.

A motion to approve this expenditure was offered.

Motion - Sel. Hester / Second - Sel. Bishop

Vote to approve - Unanimous (7 - 0)

F) Board of Selectmen 2027 Meeting Schedule Approval

Discussion netted agreement on all the proposed meeting dates with a 6:30pm start time as the only major change.

Motion - Sel. Lamere / Second - Sel. Pozzo

Vote to approve - Unanimous (7 - 0)

G) Potential 2027/2028 Budget Issues

Selectwoman Heffernan McGlynn initiated discussion about Gilbert Schools recent organizational changes and the possibility that revenue shortages in the International Program may get shifted to Winchester taxpayers. There was agreement to have the Town Manager and or Mayor Arcelaschi initiate a meeting with the Superintendent's from Gilbert and Winchester Public Schools to preemptively begin Budget discussions for the coming year.

H) Discussion on Town Hall Access Control System

Town Manager Harrington shared information he had gathered regarding modernizing the Town Hall security and electronic access control system. Initial estimates put the cost for the necessary upgrades between \$15,000 and \$20,000. The Board asked for the Town Manager to formalize an RFP and move this project to an action item.

Item 12 **Citizens Comments** - The following people addressed the Board

* Deb Jabloski

* Candace Bouchard

Item 13 **Executive Session**

A) Discussion regarding Sale of Town Owned Properties - 508 Main Street, Wallens Hill and 16 Brook Street.

Motion to enter Executive Session taking the Town Manager Paul Harrington at 9:41pm

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

Vote to approve - Unanimous (7 - 0)

The Board returned from Executive Session at 9:48pm.

Item 14 **Adjournment**

To adjourn the meeting at 9:49pm

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

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.

