

Town of Winchester

Board of Selectmen - Regular Meeting

Monday October 19, 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

Prior to the attendance roll call the Mayor acknowledged the passing of Sue Closson, a long time community volunteer and wife of Selectman George Closson. He then read a touching Town Resolution honoring the unexpected loss of Dennis Dressel. His passion for professionalism, athleticism and commitment to community betterment was read into the record and will be part of these minutes.

Attending Members	Todd Arcelaschi (Mayor)	Kevin Bishop (Selectman)
	Paul Marino (Selectman)	Cheryl Heffernan McGlynn (Selectwoman)
	Troy Lamere (Selectman)	
Absent Excused	William Hester (Selectman)	William Pozzo (Selectman)
Staff Members	Paul Harrington (Town Manager)	
	Ann Marie Rheault (Finance Director)	
	Glenn Albanesi (Town Clerk)	

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

Item 3 **Agenda Review** No changes

Item 4 **Approval of Minutes**
* Minutes of Regular Meeting on October 5, 2026
Motion - Sel. Lamere / Sel. Bishop
Vote to approve - Unanimous (5 -0)

Item 5 **Citizens Comments** - The follow people addressed the Board
* Dewees Yeager * Elinor Bishop * Virginia Schultz-Charette

Item 6 **Selectmen's Comments**

Sel. Bishop	* Pointed out that the Town Clerk and Registrars were not policy making positions. He felt that the charter changes related to these 2 jobs were not intended to eliminate voters ability to choose local governance. He went on to express hope that all 5 changes would be approved for the betterment that each question was intended to offer. * He attended the Carries Walk event and shared that a new "Carries Law" legislative proposal was under consideration to help strengthen domestic violence laws. * He and Mayor Arcelaschi were invited to the Gilbert "Bus Loop" reconstruction project groundbreaking.
Sel. Marino	* Thanked Sel. Heffernan McGlynn for her Rodenticide prohibition initiative. * Offered several clarifying points regarding the Charter Revision questions on the November 3rd ballot. * Noted that the BOE study recently submitted failed to include a contracted

- request for an estimate of operational costs to run a new High School.
- Mayor Arcelaschi
- * Thanked Town Manager Harrington for his State of the Town event held at the the Little Red Barn on Nov. 15th
 - * Reminded everyone about the Wreaths Across America event and the fundraising needed to make this happen each year.
 - * Several local Halloween events are scheduled including the Lions Club, Winsted Youth Services Bureau and the Town's Recreation Board holding the ever popular Trunk or Treat party at Rowley Street.
- Sel. Heffernan McGlynn
- * Commented that the Charter Revision regarding the Town Clerk would not effect current Clerk Glenn Albanesius's employment and explained that the cost of retraining a new Clerk that resulted from an election shift was very expensive not to mention the loss of job experience.
 - * Requested that the Town Manager install clearer signage directing visitors arriving after hours to the elevator.
 - * Echoed a public comment about fencing needing to be replaced before it became an insurance liability.
 - * Announced that a resident had made her aware of Organic fertilizers being used at Highland Lake.
 - * Asked Board members to remember as elected officials they represented all voters and that political criticism of other board members should not be allowed.
 - * Complimented Sel. Bishop for joining her on the "Carries Walk" event and wished other Board members would have been there to participate in this very important and meaningful experience.

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

- * A Water Main break was reported early this morning. Homes and businesses near the Wastewater Plant did experience loss of service but a repair team was dispatched right away and an alert that the system was back up and functional was posted by day's end.
- * The Water and Sewer Commission approved nearly \$1 million of capital improvement spending. The much needed work was financed by FY26 project surpluses. Reinvesting into our infrastructure truly does help mitigate future breakdowns and improve reliability.
- * A huge round of applause for our own Alex Combes who was named Wastewater "OPERATOR OF THE YEAR" by the Connecticut Rural Water and Wastewater Association!
- * Several weeks back the Selectmen approved spending from the Towns "Nipper Fund" to clean the brush overgrowth along the Mad River section on Main Street. James Doyle and his Innovative Lawn & Landscape team cleared from the Ambulance Barn to Noli's Restaurant, cutting back all the thicket and saplings and applying a State approved herbicide to help prevent regrowth. The work was completed promptly and has received rave reviews from many of our local travelers.
- * The new mural on ABC Pizza's has been completed. This initiative was funded through the Communities Challenge Grant.
- * Our SS4A Committee is having a "Build a Main Street Workshop" on Tuesday the 20th. The intent is to help create a vision of a reimagined Main Street corridor. Factors that will be discussed and considered include angled parking, wider sidewalks and improved traffic management. As this plan begins to take shape it will help provide a design blueprint for future funding applications.

- * Our new Speed Camera program has officially been activated. Two locations - one on Main Street and one located near the dry dam will begin monitoring the speed of each vehicle that passes thru these zones. A 30 day grace period will give speed limit violators a warning after which citations will be issued. The intent is to finally address dangerous speeding that has plagued Main Street for years.
- * Newly enacted Early Voting legislation begins on Monday November 21. Voters can access the polls in person at Town Hall for 14 days leading up to the November 3rd Election Day.
- * Explanatory sheets related to the 5 Charter Revision questions will be posted on the Town's website.

Item 8 **Finance Director's Report**

	Current FY - (YTD)		Last FY	
Revenues	Amount	%	Amount	%
Current Property Taxes	\$16,469,696.00	54.51	\$16,176,677.00	55.42
MV Supplemental				
Past Due Taxes	\$105,655.00	19.21	\$148,073.00	42.31
Total Revenues	\$17,663,449.00	41.77	\$17,309,665.00	42.2
Total Exp. w/Encumber.	\$9,310,187.00	22.01	\$11,552,403.00	28.16
Municipal Aid Received	\$136,056.00	Supplemental Municipal Assistance Grant		
	\$230,756.00	Tiered PILOT		
Cash Flow (September)	\$25,573,813.00	in GF as of September 30, 2026		
Investments	\$461,626.00	NWCB SWEEP		
	\$2,688,125.00	STIF (State Investment Fund)		
	\$17,384,550.00	NWCB Money Market (9127)		
	\$20,534,301.00	Total		
September 2026 Cap Exp	\$27,620.00	Soldiers Monument Upgrades		
	\$9,195.00	NEXGEN Records Management System		
	\$5,600.00	Fire Station Repairs and Upgrades		
	\$122,852.00	Annual LOCIP Road Repairs		
	\$3,958.00	Forest View Shed and Chapel		
	\$1,500.00	Communities Challenge Wayside Signs		
	\$7,714.00	Annual Road Maintenance		
	\$25,000.00	Safe Street for All Roadway Safety Action Plan		
	\$25,268.00	Western Spillway Walking Bridge Replacement		
	\$101,079.00	PW Mini Loader		
	\$2,206.00	Senior Center Repairs and Upgrades		
	\$19,105.00	South Road (Bond Funded)		
	\$2,400.00	Spring Street (Bond Funded)		

Item 9 **Correspondence** - None

Item 10 **Boards and Commissions** -

- 1) Candy Perez (D) is submitted to the Board of Selectmen for Re-Appointment as a member of the NW CT Transit Authority with a term to expire in March 2030
 Motion - Sel. Bishop / Second - Sel. Heffernan McGlynn
 Vote to approve - Yes (4) / Abstain (1) Sel. Lamere
- 2) A Letter of Resignation was received and accepted from the following volunteer.
 Lara Green-Kazlauskas from the Cultural Commission
 Lara's time and service to the Town is acknowledged with gratitude.

3) Isadora Xaspis (R) is submitted for Appointment to a Member seat on the Historic Commission with a term to expire in December 2031

Motion - Sel. Bishop / Second - Sel. Lamere

Vote to approve - Unanimous (5 - 0)

4) The Michael Kelly (D) appointment to a seat on the Planning and Zoning Commission needs to be tabled.

Motion - Sel. Bishop / Second - Sel. Marino

Vote to approve - Unanimous (5 - 0)

5) Nicole Waldron (R) is submitted for Appointment to a Member seat on the Laurel Commission with a term to expire in October 2031

Motion - Sel. Bishop / Second - Sel. Lamere

Vote to approve - Unanimous (5 - 0)

Item 11 **New Business -**

A) Discussion on Anticoagulant Rodenticide Ordinance

A motion was offered to recognize tonight's assembly as Meeting 1 of 3 of this Ordinance initiative.

Motion - Sel. Marino / Second - Sel. Lamere

Vote to approve - Unanimous (5 - 0)

B) 26-07 Resolution Authorizing Town Manager Harrington to Execute and Deliver Documents on behalf of the Town of Winchester in Connection with Grant Funding from the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS).

Motion - Sel. Marino / Second - Sel. Lamere

Vote to approve - Unanimous (5 - 0)

C) 26-52 Proposed FY26 Year End Line Item Transfers by the Director of Finance

Motion Statement - "By recommendation of the Town Manager, I move that the Board of Selectmen approve the above Action Step 26-52 budget transfer 2026-28 totaling \$11,999.00"

Motion - Sel. Bishop / Second - Sel. Lamere

Vote to approve - Unanimous (5 - 0)

D) 26-53 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 \$1118.28"

Motion - Sel. Lamere / Second - Sel. Marino

Vote to approve - Unanimous (5 - 0)

E) Discussion regarding Future Meeting with Gilbert School

Acting on the Boards direction Mayor Arcelaschi and Town Manager Harrington extended an invitation to The Gilbert School Board chair to set up a public meeting to discuss several critical questions in preparation for the coming FY 27-28 Budget negotiations. This request was considered, but ultimately approved for a private setting. The meeting has been scheduled for Thursday Nov. 12th at 2pm.

F) Board of Selectmen 2027 Meeting Schedule, Dates and Times

Town Manager Harrington explained that the previously approved time change for 2027 BOS meetings from 7pm to 6:30pm was in violation of Town Ordinance 130-1. This forced a motion to approve a 2027 Meeting schedule back to a 7pm start to be in line with the Ordinance.

Motion - Sel. Marino / Second - Sel. Bishop

Vote to approve - Unanimous (5 - 0)

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

* Kim Higgins

Item 13 **Executive Session**

A) Discussion regarding Sale of Town Owned Property - 281 Walnut Street, 508 Main Street, Wallens Hill.

Motion to enter Executive Session taking Town Manager Harrington at 8:15pm.

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

Vote to approve - Unanimous (5 - 0)

The Board returned from Executive Session at 8:35pm

Item14 **New Business**

A) Discussion and Possible Action on Executive Session Items

A motion was offered to start proceedings for the sale of 281 Walnut Street to Habitat for Humanity.

The Special Town Meeting to approve the sale will be held at Town Hall on November 19, 2026 at 5pm.

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

Vote to approve - Yes (4) / Abstain (1) Sel. Lamere

Item 15 **Selectmen's Reports** None

Item 16 **Adjournment**

To adjourn the meeting at 8:36pm

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

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.



RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND PUBLIC SERVICE OF DENNIS DRESSEL

WHEREAS, the Town of Winchester mourns the passing of Dennis Dressel on October 10, 2026, a respected community leader, dedicated public servant, and cherished friend whose contributions to our community will long be remembered and,

WHEREAS, Dennis Dressel demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the Town of Winchester through his many years of volunteerism, civic engagement, and public service, always working to strengthen the community he proudly called home; and

WHEREAS, Dennis served with distinction on the Town of Winchester Economic Development Commission, dedicating his time, knowledge, and energy to supporting local businesses, encouraging economic growth, and advancing the long term prosperity of Winchester; and,

WHEREAS, Dennis also faithfully served for many years as Moderator of the Town's Annual Budget Meeting, carrying out this important responsibility with professionalism, fairness, and a deep respect for the democratic process and the residents he served; and,

WHEREAS, beyond his public service, Dennis was an accomplished athlete, having swum the English Channel, and his lifelong passion for swimming reflected the determination, discipline, and perseverance that characterized his life; and,

WHEREAS, Dennis was a familiar and welcome presence at Winchester Town Hall, frequently visiting with Town employees and officials following his swims at the YMCA, sharing his thoughts, offering encouragement, and building friendships that extended well beyond his official responsibilities; and,

WHEREAS, Dennis exemplified the very best qualities of public service through his generosity, kindness, integrity, and genuine concern for the well-being of his neighbors and the future of his community; and,

WHEREAS, his passing leaves a profound void in the Town of Winchester, but his legacy of service, friendship, and community spirit will continue to inspire those who had the privilege of knowing and working alongside him;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Winchester, Connecticut, hereby expresses its deepest appreciation and gratitude for the life, dedication, and distinguished public service of **Dennis Dressel**; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Selectmen extends its heartfelt condolences to the Dressel family, recognizing that Dennis's contributions to Winchester were immeasurable and that his friendship, wisdom, and Presence will be deeply missed; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution be entered into the official minutes of the Winchester Board of Selectmen meeting of October 19, 2026, as a permanent expression of the Town's respect, appreciation, and remembrance; and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that a signed copy of this Resolution be presented to the family of Dennis Dressel as a lasting tribute to his extraordinary commitment to the Town of Winchester.

ADOPTED by the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Winchester, Connecticut, this 19th day of October, 2026 .

TOWN OF WINCHESTER - BOARD OF SELECTMEN