

# Town of Winchester

Board of Selectmen

Regular Meeting

Monday, November 7, 2022

Item 1

## **Call to Order**

Meeting called to order by Mayor Todd Arcelaschi at 7:10pm

Attending Members	Todd Arcelaschi (Mayor)	Jonathan Morhardt (Selectman)
	Candy Perez (Selectman)	Linda Groppo (Selectman)
	Steve Sedlack (Selectman)	Jack Bourque (Selectman)

Absent Excused            Candace Bouchard (Selectman)

Staff Members            Josh Kelly (Town Manager)  
   Glenn Albanesius (Town Clerk)

Item 2

**Pledge of Allegiance**    Boy Scout Troop 1027 opened the meeting with a presentation of the American flag and led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item 3

## **Agenda Review** -

\* Selectman Perez questioned Item 10A (Discussion of Water Department Project Referendum) as being premature in the order of action. No changes to this agenda item were made.

\* Separate discussion led to the following vote

Motion Statement - To swap the order of Items 12 and 13 with the intent of making the Executive Session the last order of business.

Motion - Sel. Sedlack / Second - Sel. Morhardt

Vote to approve - Unanimous (6 - 0)

Item 4

## **Approval of Minutes**

\* Minutes of Regular Meeting on October 17, 2022

Motion - Sel. Morhardt / Second - Sel. Sedlack

Vote to accept minutes - Unanimous (5 - 0 -1) Sel. Bourque abstaining

Item 5

## **Citizens Comments**

\* Resident David LaPointe spoke regarding the proposed FOIA ordinance

\* Resident Jerry Martinez spoke regarding the proposed FOIA ordinance

Item 6 **Town Manager's Report** - Josh Kelly reported to the Board on the following topics. . .

- \* The recent EDC Job Fair was heralded as a tremendous success.
- \* Final allocations and documents will be completed this week for all the businesses that were awarded funds thru the Façade and Business Start Up Program.
- \* Winchester has applied for a \$50,000 grant to fund overtime payments for the Police Department to focus on Speed Enforcement.
- \* Fit Together, a collaboration of the Town of Winchester, the local YMCA and Charlotte Hungerford Hospital is planning an informational session to review it's plan to develop land at the Mad River Dam into a State Recreational Park.
- \* The Town has hired new personnel to fill several key open positions in the Assessors and Collector of Revenue offices. These new employees will be introduced to the Board at an upcoming meeting.
- \* The Town has gone live with a new On Line Permitting program. This enhanced service will improve the process by which permit applications move thru their review stages and give applicants the ability to track progress.
- \* Winchester's new website will be up and running on November 14th. This change will bring much needed format improvements and ease of posting and adding information.
- \* The Town has reached a tentative agreement with the Clerical Union. Ratification should be finalized over the next several weeks bringing it to the Board for a vote.

Selectman Perez requested an updated report on the Towns Revaluation project.

Selectman Bourque asked for a clarification of funding use should we be awarded the Speed Enforcement Grant.

Mayor Arcelaschi was assured that our charging station was close to going live.

Item 7 **Correspondence** - A letter written and submitted by resident David Lapointe was received and given to each Board of Selectman member.

Item 8 **Boards and Commissions** - Sel. Sedlack introduced the following actions.....

- \* Kate Sherwood (D) is Appointed as a Member of the Architectural Review Committee by the Planning and Zoning Commission with a term to expire 12/2024
- \* Charlene Lavoie (U) is Appointed as a Member of the Architectural Review Committee by the Planning and Zoning Commission with a term to expire 12/2023
- \* Lynn Kessler (R) is Re-Appointed as a Member of the Ethics Commission with a term to expire 1/2025  
Motion - Sel. Sedlack / Second - Sel. Bourque  
Vote to approve - Unanimous (6 - 0)
- \* Anita Garnett (D) is Re-Appointed as a Member to the Ethics Commission with a term to expire 1/2025  
Motion - Sel. Sedlack / Second - Sel. Groppo  
Vote to approve - Unanimous (6 - 0)
- \* Donna Davis (U) is Re-Appointed as a Member of the Architectural Review Committee by the Planning and Zoning Commission with a term to expire 12/2025

- \* Doug Pfenninger (D) submitted an E-mail note on October 13, 2022 resigning his Membership position on the Architectural Review Committee.
- \* Thomas Sullivan (D) submitted an E-mail note on October 24, 2022 resigning his Alternate Membership position on the Zoning Board of Appeals.
- \* The following groups have position openings. Interested candidates are urged to apply!
  - Board of Assessment Appeals - 1 Alternate Seat
  - Arch. Review Committee - 1 Permanent Seats and 2 Alternate Seats
  - Economic Development Commission - 1 Alternate Seat
  - Conservation Commission - 2 Permanent Seats
  - Laurel City Commission - 5 Permanent Seats

Item 9

**Unfinished Business**

A) 22-58 FOI Draft Ordinance

- \* Town Manager Kelly submitted a "Red Line" copy of the proposed FOIA ordinance detailing the review and recommendations by both Town Attorney Kevin Nelligan and Tom Hennick from the State of Connecticut's FOIA Commission.
- The Board agreed to take no action at this time but did restate a request for historical data of FOIA requests presented to Town officials.

B) Discussion on Batcheller School RFP Responses

- \* Town Manager Kelly summarized the Batcheller School "walkthru exercise" from Saturday November 5th. Residents and curious parties were given a tour of existing conditions at the decommissioned school. This done in context of the two repurposing proposals received by the Town in response to it's recent RFP. A Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held immediately after the tour with attendees given the opportunity to hear the specific renovation plans offered by Mr. George Noujaim and Northwest Senior Housing Corporation. Attendee's asked questions, made observations and critiqued each plan.
- \* Town Manager Kelly explained in greater detail what each proposal would look like and its impact on the community. He also emphasized the property upkeep costs that were now the responsibility of the Town.
- \* The Board asked for clarification of NSHC's property tax proposal and solicited further input from the community as they weigh whether to advance one of the plans to P & Z for review or request another RFP.

Item 10

**New Business**

A) Discussion on Resolution to go to Referendum on increased Winsted Water Works project budgets

- \* Public Works Director Jim Rollins gave a summary overview of the funding shortfall effecting several of the major Water and Sewer projects. A separate entity, the Water and Sewer Department requested an opportunity to explain why proposing a Town referendum to raise additional funds may be necessary. Recent bids would better predict what amount would have to be raised to keep projects in motion.

B) 22-59 Refunds as recommended by Collector of Revenues

Motion Statement - I move that the Board of Selectmen authorize the refunds recommended by the Collector of Revenue in the amount of \$3525.96.

Motion - Sel. Sedlack / Second - Sel. Morhardt

Vote to approve - Unanimous (6 - 0)

Item 11

**Citizens Comments**

- \* Resident John Wiarda expressed concern that the second floor drinking fountain wasn't working.
- \* Resident David LaPointe spoke again about the proposed FOIA ordinance.
- \* Resident Jerry Martinez spoke about increasing and improving the data content on the Town's website. He felt this would be an easy way to help minimize the expense of FOIA requests.

Item 13

**Selectmen's Comments and Reports**

- \* Sel. Perez offered a reminder that Veteran's would be honored at Forest View Cemetery on Friday the 11th. She asked the Town Manager for a Road Bond update and reported on the recent discussions by the Walker Field lighting committee. In closing Sel. Perez reported that she had reached out to the State for assistance cleaning up the trash and graffiti that are impacting the Sucker Brook dam area.
- \* Sel. Bourque announced that Soldiers Monument has a reading of the Gettysburg Address scheduled for Veterans Day. The Monument will be open from 2 - 4pm. Regarding road projects Sel. Bourque suggested that a quarterly report detailing each job and its progress status would be helpful.
- \* Sel. Sedlack drew attention to the west end entrance to downtown and voiced support for any initiative to slow auto and truck traffic down as it descends the hill into our populated areas. On the heels of the recent gas tanker accident in Norfolk, slowing incoming traffic should be a priority.
- \* Mayor Arcelaschi applauded the success of this years Recreation Department "Trunk or Treat" event. Over 500 kids and 32 vehicles attended. The Mayor also spoke of the recent passing of Mr. Daniel R. Smith. A Winsted resident and graduate of Gilbert High School, Mr. Smith was a heroic Army medic in the Korean War and was responsible for saving a life during the Flood of 1955. To honor his life and bravery in the face of danger, the Mayor suggested that the Town put up a Memorial Plaque or consider naming a street or Town facility after Mr. Smith.

Item 12

**Executive Session**

A) Contract Discussions

Motion Statement - To enter into Executive Session and include the Town Manager at 8:57pm

Motion - Sel. Morhardt

Vote to approve - Unanimous (6 - 0)

Board returned from Executive Session at 9:47pm with no action taken

Item 14

**Adjournment**

\* Motion - Sel. Sedlack / Second - Sel. Morhardt

To adjourn the meeting at 9:47pm

Vote to approve - Unanimous

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.

