

Town of Winchester

Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting
Monday December 4, 2023

Item 1 **Call to Order**

Meeting called to order by Mayor Todd Arcelaschi at 7:06pm

Attending Members	Todd Arcelaschi (Mayor)	Troy Lamere (Selectman)
	Steve Sedlack (Selectman)	Paul Marino (Selectman)
	Candy Perez (Selectwoman)	William Hester (Selectman)
		William Pozzo (Selectman)

Staff Members	Robert Geiger (Interim Town Manager)
	Glenn Albanesius (Town Clerk)
	Jim Rollins (Public Works Director)

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 November 20, 2023

Motion - Sel. Hester / Second - Sel. Lamere

Vote to accept minutes - Unanimous (7 - 0)

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

* Candace Bouchard

Item 6 **Town Manager's Report** - Interim Town Manager Bob Geiger reported to the Board on the following topics.

* Holiday decorations were hung on Main Street over the weekend. Bob complimented the Selectmen that spearheaded the effort.

* Mr. Geiger listed the following Economic Development updates

- 1) Kens Spirit Shoppe on North Main has changed ownership and is now called Winsted Wine and Spirits
- 2) The River Eatery will be reopening after a brief hiatus. A revised menu is anticipated.
- 3) The Little Red Barn has teamed up with the Riverton Inn to provide a new barbecue menu cooked and served on site at the Brewery.
- 4) The Winsted Edgeworks Ax House is scheduled to open within the next several weeks.
- 5) A new Peruvian restaurant has begun to renovate the building previously operated by Wendy's and anticipates opening by the end of the year.

Item 7 **Correspondence** - Mayor Arcelaschi read into the record a letter from Ryan Antonowicz praising the skills and timely response by Winchester Police officer to an emergency on Meadow Street. Ryan is the NW Region EMS Operations Manager for Hartford Healthcare.

Item 8

Boards and Commissions - Sel. Sedlack introduced the following actions.

- 1) Dave Pines (D) is submitted for consideration as a Member of the Ad Hoc Water Level Committee with a term to expire 3/2024
- 2) Christina LaGrave (R) is submitted for consideration as a Member of the Ethics Commission with a term to expire 1/2026
- 3) Rista Malanca (U) is submitted for consideration as an Alternate to the Planning and Zoning Committee with a term to expire 10/2024
- 4) Matt Closson (R) is submitted for consideration as a Member of the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission with a term to expire 4/2024
- 5) David Lapointe (R) is submitted for consideration as a Member of the Historic Commission with a term to expire 12/2025
- 6) Jamie Giantonio (R) is submitted for Nomination as a Member of the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission with a term to expire 4/2025
- 7) Todd Skutnik (R) is submitted for Nomination as an Alternate on the Zoning Board of Appeals with a term to expire 12/2025
- 8) Alla Kravchenko (D) is submitted for Nomination as a Member of the Cultural District Commission with a term expiration to be determined.
- 5) Lynn Kessler (R) is submitted for Appointment as an Alternate of the Board of Assessment Appeals with a term to expire 10/2024
Motion - Sel. Sedlack / Second - Sel. Marino
Vote to approve - Unanimous (7 - 0)
- 5) Jack Bourque (D) is submitted for Appointment as a Member of the Board of Assessment Appeals with a term to expire 10/2026
Motion to table this appointment - Sel. Lamere / Second - Sel. Hester
Vote to approve - Unanimous (7 - 0)
- 6) A motion was made to table filling two inactive Commissions (Persons with Disabilities and Veterans Commission.)
Motion - Sel. Lamere / Second - Sel. Pozzo
Vote to approve - Unanimous (7 - 0)
- 7) Formal resignations were received and accepted from the following volunteers.
 - * William Hester - Water and Sewer Commission
 - * Paul Marino - Zoning Board of Appeals
 - * Melissa Bird - Laurel Commission
 - * Linda Groppo - Laurel Commission
 - * Lara Green - Kalouskas - Laurel CommissionBill, Paul, Melissa, Linda and Lara's time and service to the Town is acknowledged with gratitude.
- 8) Sel. Sedlack took time to explain to the new Board members that an Ad Hoc Board and Commission Vetting Committee was in place and active. He also outlined the criteria by which applicants are reviewed for approval. Bill Hester and Troy Lamere asked to join the Vetting Committee.

* The following groups have position openings. Interested candidates are encouraged to apply!

Arch. Review Committee - 1 Member Seat and 2 Alternate Seats
Board of Assessment Appeals - 1 Alternate Seat
Conservation Commission - 1 Member Seat
Cultural District Commission - 8 Member Seats
Economic Development Commission - 4 Alternate Seats
Ethics Commission - 2 Member Seats
Historic Commission - 2 Member Seats
Laurel City Commission - 4 Member Seats
Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission - 1 Member Seat
Recreation Board - 2 Member Seats

Item 9

Unfinished Business

A) 23-73A Consider and Possibly act on Historical Commission ordinance amendment.

(Second of three meetings).

The intent of this action is to expand the Commission membership to include electors and Town residents.

Motion Statement - "I move that the Board of Selectmen consider the change to the Ordinance allowing residents and landowners to serve on the Historical Commission to be effective after the third meeting as provided by the Town Charter."

Motion - Sel. Marino / Second - Sel. Hester

Vote to approve - Unanimous (7 - 0)

Item 10

New Business -

A) Boards and Commissions Liaison Assignments

Sel. Sedlack read the list of open Liaisonships and the following actions were taken.

* Board of Assessment Appeals - Sel. Lamere added / Mayor Arcelaschi stepping off

* Economic Development Commission - Sel. Perez added

* Winchester Housing Authority - Sel. Perez added

* Inland Wetlands - Sel. Lamere added / Sel. Perez stepping down

* Planning and Zoning Commission - Sel. Lamere added / Sel. Sedlack stepping down

* Recreation Department - Sel. Pozzo added

* Soldiers Monument Commission - Sel. Pozzo added

* Water and Sewer Commission - Sel. Hester added

* Zoning Board of Appeals - Sel. Marino added

* BOS Finance Committee - Sel. Hester added

B) Acceptance of the Board of Selectmen meeting schedule for 2024

Motion Statement - "Motion to accept the proposed Board of Selectmen's 2024 Meeting Schedule."

Motion - Sel. Marino / Second - Sel. Hester

Vote to approve - Unanimous (7 - 0)

C) 23-74 Bid Waiver for new police vehicle

Motion Statement - "I move that the Board waive the bid process and give the Town Manager the authority to purchase from a local dealership for the acquisition of one vehicle to be used by the Police Department staff."

Motion - Sel. Pozzo / Second - Sel. Hester

Vote to approve - Unanimous (7 - 0)

D) 23-75 Resolution authorizing the Town Manager to sign documents for the EMPG. (Emergency Preparedness Grant)

Motion Statement - "I move that the Board of Selectmen adopt the Resolution supporting the authorization for the Town Manager to sign documents to enter into with and deliver to the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security any and all documents which it deems to be necessary or appropriate."

Motion - Sel. Marino / Second - Sel. Hester

Vote to approve - Unanimous (7 - 0)

Item 11 **Citizens Comments** - The following people addressed the Board

* Candace Bouchard

* Deb Jablonski

Item 12 **Selectmen's Comments and Reports** -

* Mayor Arcelaschi Reminded everyone that applications for the Town Manager position were due on December 4th. All applicants will be reviewed by the hired search firm.
The Winchester PD toy drive is underway and ending on Dec 11th. On Saturday December 16th at Forest View Cemetery, Wreaths Across America will conduct a ceremony to place wreaths on the grave markers of Veterans. The Freezing for a Reason event will be held on Friday December 8th.

* Sel. Lamere Spoke in favor of putting the Town owned Bank of America building up for sale in an effort to get it back on the tax rolls.

Item 13 **Adjournment**

* Motion - Sel. Sedlack / Second - Sel. Lamere

To adjourn the meeting at 8:27pm

Vote to approve - Unanimous (7 - 0)

ATTEST:

Glenn Albanesi, 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.