

# Town of Winchester

Board of Selectmen

Regular Meeting

Tuesday January 16, 2024

Item 1 **Call to Order**

Meeting called to order by Mayor Todd Arcelaschi at 7:00pm

Attending Members	Todd Arcelaschi (Mayor)	William Hester (Selectman)
	Steve Sedlack (Selectman)	William Pozzo (Selectman)
	Troy Lamere (Selectman)	

Absent Excused	Paul Marino (Selectman)
	Candy Perez (Selectwoman)

Staff Members	Robert Geiger (Interim Town Manager)
	Glenn Albanesius (Town Clerk)
	Ann Marie Rheault (Finance Director)

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

Item 3 **Agenda Review** - Item 12 requested for removal from agenda  
Motion - Mayor Arcelaschi / Second - Sel. Hester  
Vote to approve - Unanimous (5 - 0)

Item 4 **Approval of Minutes**  
\* Minutes of Regular Meeting on January 02, 2024  
Motion - Sel. Pozzo / Second - Sel. Lamere  
Vote to accept minutes - Unanimous (5 - 0)

Item 5 **Citizens Comments** - None

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

- \* Several new business ventures have opened up or will be in the next couple months.
  - Edgeworks Ax House
  - Peacocks and Lilacs
  - Little Red Barn Dining Space
- \* Northwestern Community College and the Economic Development Commission are cosponsoring a local Manufacturers Breakfast at the American Museum of Tort Law on February 1st.
- \* Efforts to expand the Sue Grossman Trail are continuing. Work to secure property access agreements is underway.
- \* The new Mad River Recreation Area is planning it's trailhead parking space.
- \* Tatros Pond reclamation efforts are continuing. The State is requiring that the existing dam be rebuilt so planning and funding for this phase is under discussion.

- \* The Town is looking to fill the Building Inspectors position as Mr. Pietrefase has accepted a position in Torrington.
- \* The DPW is focusing on drainage issues around Town.
- \* Staffing at the Police Department is a priority. The contract is currently in negotiation and hopefully will be an incentive to attract and add officers to the force. A reserve program has been brought forward as a method of filling personnel gaps using retired officers who are not part of the union and work for wages only without the overhead cost of benefits.

Item 7 **Finance Director's Report** -

- \* Finance Director Ann Marie Rheault reviewed current General Fund, Cash Flow and CIP data.

Item 8 **Correspondence** - None

Item 9 **Boards and Commissions** - Sel. Sedlack introduced the following actions.

- 1) An E-mail confirming his Resignation was received and accepted from the following volunteer.  
Tim McGrane (U) from the Recreation Board  
Tim's time and service to the Town is acknowledged with gratitude.
- 2) Carrie Stetson (D) is offered for Nomination as an Alternate Member of the Economic Development Commission with a term to expire 4/2027.  
Hamish Lutris (Resident) is offered for Nomination as a member of the Historic Commission with a term to expire 12/2025
- 3) David Pines (D) is offered for Appointment as a Member of the Ad Hoc Water Level Committee with a term to expire 3/2024.  
Motion - Sel. Sedlack / Second - Sel. Lamere  
Vote to approve - Unanimous (5 -0)
- 4) Christina LaGrave (R) is offered for Appointment as a Member of the Ethics Commission with a term to expire 01/2026.  
Motion - Sel. Sedlack / Second - Sel. Lamere  
Vote to approve - Unanimous (5 -0)
- 5) Rista Malanca (U) is offered for Appointment as an Alternate Member of the Planning and Zoning Commission with a term to expire 10/2024.  
Motion - Sel. Sedlack / Second - Sel. Lamere  
Vote to approve - Unanimous (5 -0)
- 6) Matthew Closson (R) is offered for Appointment as an Alternate Member to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission with a term to expire in 4/2024.  
Motion - Sel. Sedlack / Second - Sel. Lamere  
Vote to approve - Unanimous (5 -0)
- 7) David Lapointe (R) is offered for Appointment as a Member of the Historic Commission with a term to expire 12/2025.  
Motion - Sel. Lamere / Second - Sel. Pozzo  
Vote to approve - Yes (2) Sel. Lamere / Sel. Pozzo No (2) Sel. Sedlack / Mayor Arcelaschi  
Abstain - Sel. Hester
- 8) Thomas Heuschkel (Employee) is offered for Appointment as a Member of the Retirement Board with a term to expire 02/2025.

Motion - Sel. Sedlack / Second - Sel. Hester

Vote to approve - Unanimous (5 -0)

- 9) Paul Mitchell (U) is offered for Appointment as a Member (moving from an Alternate) to the Zoning Board of Appeals with a term to expire 12/2028.

Motion - Sel. Sedlack / Second - Sel. Hester

Vote to approve - Unanimous (5 -0)

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

Arch. Review Committee - 1 Member Seat and 2 Alternate Seats

Conservation Commission - 1 Member Seat

Cultural District Commission - 7 Members

Economic Development Commission - 3 Alternate Seats

Historic Commission - 3 Member Seats

Laurel City Commission - 3 Member Seats

Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission - 1 Member Seat

Recreation Board - 2 Member Seats

Item 10 **Unfinished Business**

- A) Remaining Board Liaison Appointments

Cultural Commission - Mayor Arcelaschi

Laurel Commission - Mayor Arcelaschi

Item 11 **New Business -**

- A) Winsted Fire Department Bid Waiver and Appropriation - related to purchase of a new Air Bottle Fill Station for SCBA (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus)

Motion Statement - "I move that the Board of Selectmen authorizes a waiver of the requirement to bid and authorize this ARPA allocation for the Winsted Fire Department."

Motion - Sel. Pozzo / Second - Sel. Hester

Vote to approve - Unanimous (5 -0)

Item 12 **Executive Session**

This Item was voted unanimously to remove from the agenda

- A) Discuss and possibly Act on pending litigation regarding KJ Fracasso Industries vs. the Town of Winchester

- B) Discuss Personnel Matter - Town Manager Search

Item 13 **Citizens Comments** - None

Item 14 **Selectmen's Comments and Reports -**

- \* Sel. Hester - Commented on several Water and Sewer Commission initiatives to improve Water Main Pipes and the mandated replacement of Lead Service Lines. A bonding request will eventually be up for discussion.

- \* Sel. Lamere - Asked the Town Manager for update on RFP's for Town Attorney and sale of 508 Main St.

Item 16 **Adjournment**

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

To adjourn the meeting at 7:30pm

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.