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.
* Tatro's 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.