

**TOWN OF WINCHENDON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES
THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 2011 – 5:00 P.M.
4th Floor Robinson-Broadhurst Conference Room**

Present: C. Jackson Blair, Chairman
Elizabeth R. Hunt, Vice-Chairwoman
Robert L. Zbikowski
Keith R. Barrows
Robert O’Keefe

James M. Kreidler, Jr., Town Manager
Linda A. Daigle, Executive Assistant

List of Documents Presented at Meeting:

Chairman Blair called Executive Session to order at 5:16 p.m.

O’Keefe stated at the last meeting it was agreed that he have the discussion with the Town Manager regarding his outside employment issue. He stated they had come to an agreement and wanted to present it to the Board for their consideration. He moved the Board approve the Town Manager engaging in private consulting services relating to renewable energy procurement negotiations and in consideration of that, he asked Mr. Kreidler relinquish raises in his contract in year four and five, valuing \$12,000, and in addition, he set up a scholarship fund for the benefit of the children of Winchendon. It would be named after a deceased employee of the Town. Barrows seconded for discussion.

The Board discussed the scholarship part of the agreement. Kreidler stated the scholarship would be \$5,000 each fiscal year as long as he was employed by the town. It would be awarded to a graduating senior at Murdock and he hoped to limit it to public service. The award would be recommended by his company. Barrows asked the Town Manager if this was something he was amenable to since this part occurs outside of his contract. Kreidler answered, “Yes.” Hunt asked about the scholarship wondering who would manage it and gave him advice on handling the funds. Kreidler admitted the scholarship thing bothered him a bit. He said he and his wife have thought of what we would do in regards to charity, but to tie it into negotiations, colors it a little bit.

O’Keefe spoke about the automobile. If the Town Manager gave that up, it would be at a loss to the town. The town owns the vehicle and we would have to pay him mileage. The raises total quite a bit more then the automobile. He feels the raises are enough and would want to let him choose the charities. Zbikowski questioned the amount of the raises he would be relinquishing. Kreidler stated he has a spreadsheet and could go it. At 5:28 p.m. the Board took a short recess for the Town Manager to get the spreadsheet.

The Board reconvened at 5:41 p.m. with the Town Manager having computer difficulties and not able to provide the spreadsheet. O'Keefe said we'll just strike the dollar amount for the raises until that can be confirmed. The Town Manager will relinquish the raises in year four and five. The motion was changed to just strike the value. Barrows agreed with the second. Hunt felt the scholarship is up to the individual and didn't feel the Board had the grounds to do that. Zbikowski questioned binding anyone to a scholarship, asking what if MuniSun isn't there? O'Keefe stated he would like to retract the original motion and start over. *He moved that the Board approve the Town Manager engaging in private consulting services related to renewable energy and, in consideration for us doing that, he relinquish anticipated raises in year four and five of his contract and in his discussion with the Town Manager that he also offered and would be willing to, on his own personally or through MuniSun, provide a \$5,000 annual scholarship to a graduating senior of Winchendon Public Schools. Barrows seconded.*

Hunt asked the Town Manager if he was satisfied with that. Kreidler replied that he would commit it to writing and make it an official binding document using his company letterhead. Blair said the scholarship softens the deal and will palpable to those reading about it. Barrows said the way he is looking at it, within the contract, we tried to negotiate something that's good for the town, like the raises. It should be communicated that the Town Manager offered it up in addition to and on his own and it should be viewed that way. I don't want it to be perceived that we tried to strong armed him, something so generous and good for the community shouldn't be colored by any insinuation that we twisted someone's arm.

O'Keefe clarify his views said he's not in favor of it because there is a scholarship involved. I'm not in favor of it because the Town Manager is willing to give up his raises in year four and five; I'm in favor of it because the Charter allows it. We have a good employee that has given no reason to not to. However we allowed it in September and he has come back before us for more time therefore, this time, he wanted to see what he could get for the people. We came up with relinquishing raises. Jim came up with wanting to do a scholarship for the people. It is not going to be contractual. It is a gift from the Town Manager.

The Executive Assistant was asked to read the motion again.

Zbikowski asked to meet without the Town Manager being present. O'Keefe said he had to leave and called the motion. Blair and Zbikowski voted to continue the meeting without the Town Manager present; O'Keefe, Hunt and Barrows voted no.

The amended motion from O'Keefe was then voted: O'Keefe aye, Hunt aye, Zbikowski no, Barrows aye and Blair no. The motion carried by majority vote.

Barrows moved to adjourn from Executive Session and reconvene in Open Session in two minutes; Hunt seconded. By roll call vote of all aye, the meeting adjourned from Executive Session at 5:53 p.m. and reconvened in Public Session at 5:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda A. Daigle
Executive Assistant