

**TOWN OF WINCHENDON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES
MONDAY, MARCH 26, 2012 7:00 P.M.
4th Floor Robinson-Broadhurst Conference Room
Town Hall, 109 Front Street, Winchendon, Mass.**

Present: Robert M. O’Keefe, Chairman
Elizabeth R. Hunt, Vice-Chairwoman
Keith R. Barrows
James M. Kreidler, Jr., Town Manager
Linda A. Daigle, Executive Assistant

C. Jackson Blair - Remote Participation

List of Documents Presented at Meeting:

- Annual Town Election Announcement (attached)
- Seasonal License Renewal Application: All Alcohol Restaurant/Common Victualler – The Winchendon School (filed)
- Appointments: Letter of Interest Cultural Council – Greg Vine (filed)
- Draft Board of Selectmen’s Toll Booth/Voluntary Boot Drive Policy (attached)
- Town Manager’s Report(attached)
 - Leon Rice employment application (filed)
 - Mike Antonellis employment application (filed)

Chairman O’Keefe called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America. The meeting aired live on local cable access channel 8.

Remote Participation: O’Keefe announced they would be using the newly allowed remote participation rule this evening due to geographical reasons and welcomed Selectman Jackson Blair who had called into the meeting.

O’Keefe asked if anyone would be audio or video recording the meeting this evening besides the Board. No response was heard.

Public Comments And Announcements: None.

Selectmen’s Comments: O’Keefe announced the annual town election will be held on Monday, May 7 from 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. at the Old Murdock Senior Center. On the ballot are two members of the Board of Selectmen for three year terms; also due to a vacancy there is a third seat for a one year term; two members of the School Committee for three year terms; two members of the Board of Health for three year terms and one member of the Housing Authority for a five year term.

Permit/License Applications, Hearings: All Alcohol Restaurant/Common Victualler Seasonal License Renewal – The Winchendon School: Mr. Tom Borden was present on his application on behalf of The Winchendon School. He introduced himself to the Board. There are no outstanding issues with Department Heads and the fees have been collected. Selectman Blair recused himself because of his wife’s association with the school. Hunt inquired if the applicant was all set with TIPS certification which Mr. Borden replied yes. Hunt commented she has heard

of no problems at the School and that he was managing it well. She then moved for approval; Barrows seconded. By roll call vote of Hunt aye, Barrows aye, Blair recuse, O'Keefe aye, the motion carried by majority vote. Mr. Borden informed the Board that he would be talking with the Headmaster at the School about the new Sunday law where you can serve alcohol an hour earlier at 10:00 a.m. He asked if he submitted the paperwork if he would be required to attend the meeting. The Board didn't see a problem with that.

Appointments/Resignations:

Appointment: Cultural Council – Gregory S. Vine – O'Keefe stated responses from some of the members of the Cultural Council are in favor of this appointment. Ms. Daigle informed the Board that Mr. Vine is working until 9:00 p.m. this evening and would not be in attendance but he was interested in serving on the Cultural Council. Barrows moved the appointment of Greg Vine stating he is a known commodity in the Town of Winchendon previously serving on the School Committee and other committees and welcomed him back. Hunt seconded. By roll call vote of Blair aye, Hunt aye, Barrows aye and O'Keefe aye, the appointment was approved unanimously.

New Business: None.

Old Business:

Draft Toll Booth/Voluntary Boot Drive Policy – 1st Reading: Kreidler pointed out that one part was missing from this draft policy that was mentioned at the last Selectmen's meeting. It was a requirement to state if there are public safety vehicles approaching the collectors are to expeditiously but safely move out of the way. He said he could insert this as number seven and move seven and eight respectively. Blair moved approval of the amended policy; Barrows seconded. By roll call vote of Blair aye, Hunt aye, Barrows aye and O'Keefe aye, the new policy passed unanimously.

Hunt asked if there was any further information regarding Comcast. Kreidler advised the Board that Comcast has a statewide permit for door to door solicitation but the Executive Assistant has advised him that he is required to get a local permit and will proceed to do so. Kreidler said there could be an argument that the statewide permit supersedes ours but felt they will be responsible and obtain local approval as well. In terms of the Draft Cable Contract renewal, the concerns Mr. White raised will be addressed in the public hearing. If during the public hearing at your next meet meeting, significant issues or concerns are raised, you have the right to not agree to execute.

Town Manager's Report:

1. Personnel Updates:

- a. Fire Chief: Kreidler informed the Board that he, along with Chief Lafrennie, interviewed six candidates and both their top choices matched. The top candidate is undergoing a background check and a medical check prior to discussions around terms and conditions. He expected by the next meeting he would name the candidate and seek the Board's affirmation.
- b. Transfer Station: – Six candidates were interviewed by the Town Manager and the DPW Superintendent John Deline for the position of Foreman and Truck Driver-Laborer. One internal qualified applicant who was to be offered the position declined. The position then was offered to their top jointly rated candidate Leon Rice. Mr. Rice was born and raised in town and has been employed in the solid waste and recycling business for close to twenty years.

Next their mutual choice for the top candidate for the truck driver-laborer position is Michael Antonellis. Mr. Antonellis was also born and raised in Winchendon and has experience in driving truck in the solid waste field. Kreidler felt both candidates would do an outstanding job for the town and asked the Board to affirm these appointments. Hunt moved to affirm Mr. Rice and Mr. Antonellis; Barrows seconded. Hunt liked that the two gentlemen are from Winchendon. O'Keefe agreed it's nice to have local people but it's not a requirement. By roll call vote of Blair aye, Hunt aye, Barrows aye, and O'Keefe aye, the motion carried unanimously.

2. Financial Updates:

a. FY13 Budgets: Kreidler read from his report that he has completed the second pass at balance and is hovering at a projected working deficit of \$100,000.00. He has faith in his staff and the municipal finance team and is certain they will be able to wrestle this to the ground and be able to present the balanced budget by the Board's next meeting. The last meeting it was a \$250,000 deficit. O'Keefe was pleased with the progress. Kreidler stated all the credit goes to your employees and Department Heads who have either made recommendations or were willing to step forward and offer money from their budgets. O'Keefe mentioned that the School Board also has put forth a balanced budget.

3. Project Updates:

a. Solar Farm: Kreidler reported that we have received and executed the interconnection application, and more importantly, Sun Edison has paid the first \$311,000.00 payment due to National Grid to move the project from paper to poles and wires. Kreidler is excited about this update because it is real money they put down and a real indication that this is going forward. They are on site doing some geotech work. We are still tracking late spring in the ground and through the summer for construction looking at Q2 to be operational. O'Keefe said this is still in line with the Streetlight committee to offer their report.

4. Miscellaneous Updates:

a. Boot Drive Policy – Already handled.

b. Draft Cable Contract - Kreidler informed the Board that we were scheduling the legally required public hearing on the Draft Cable Contract for April 9, 2012.

Minutes:

Monday, February 27th, 2012, Regular Meeting - Hunt moved to approve; Barrows seconded. By roll call vote of Barrows aye, O'Keefe aye, Hunt aye and Blair abstain, the motion carried by majority vote.

Monday, March 12, 2012, Regular Meeting - Hunt moved to approve; Blair seconded. By roll call vote of Barrows aye, Hunt aye, Blair aye and O'Keefe aye, the motion carried unanimously.

Communications:

Agenda Items: Hunt inquired about freezing the agenda for April 9th which is already heavy with the Draft Annual Town Meeting Warrant and Public Hearings scheduled. It was agreed that the Chair would work with the Town Manager and Executive Assistant on the upcoming agenda holding off what could be.

Adjournment: Blair moved to adjourn; Barrows seconded. By roll call vote of all Blair aye, Hunt aye, Barrows aye and O'Keefe aye, the meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Executive Session: None this evening.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Daigle
Executive Assistant