

**TOWN OF WINCHENDON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES
MONDAY, APRIL 30, 2012 7:00 P.M.
109 Front Street, Winchendon
Town Hall, 2nd Floor Auditorium**

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

Absent: Keith R. Barrows

List of Documents Presented at Meeting:

- Winchendon Public Schools FY 2013 Proposed Budget Brooke Clency, Supt. of Schools (blue binder) (filed)
- Winchendon Public Schools FY2013 Proposed Budget April 19, 2012 spreadsheet (filed)
- Annual Town Meeting Warrant May 21, 2012 (filed)
 - Winchendon Community Action Team (WCAT) “Snapshot of Survey Data” (filed)
 - Lt. Dave Walsh’s memo regarding the training of the WPD regarding underage drinking issues (filed)
 - Article 1 Finance Committee’s Report (filed)

Chairman O’Keefe called the meeting to order at 7: 04 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. No response came forth from the audience when the Chairman asked if anyone other than the Board would be audio or video recording the meeting this evening.

Public Comments and Announcements: None

Selectmen’s Comments: None

Appointments/Resignations: None this evening.

Permit/License Applications, Hearings: None this evening.

Joint Meeting with School Committee: FY13 School Dept. Budget – Present for the School Committee were: Chairman Michael Barbaro, John McDonough, Crystal Murphy, Supt. Brooke Clenchy, Business Manager William Frangiamore and Secretary Barrie Martins. Barbaro called the Joint Meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. He spoke of the miscommunication with the Finance Committee in regards to the net school spending budget documents and referenced the spreadsheet presented tonight was an attempt to meet the Finance Committees request. He proposed going forward that they meet with the Finance Committee four times a year so this type of

misunderstanding no longer happens and everyone is on the same page. Seeing a couple members of the Finance Committee in the audience, Chairman O'Keefe asked if anyone would like to speak. Chairman Maillet said he was there just to observe.

Barbaro said the school is pleased to present the net school spending budget. Due to the savings over the past year with their school choice in and special education money in, they are plugging in an additional \$1.1 million. No one will be cut, all programs will be kept and they are observing contractual obligations in this budget.

Supt. Clenchy spoke about some line items that were spiked down or budgeted lien: the fuel line, the custodian services and keyboarding. If they have any additional money in January, those line items would be the first places it would be put back into. O'Keefe inquired about the column on the Proposed School Budget titled "\$\$ DIFF BETWEEN FY'12 & FY11" and Frangiamore corrected the heading stating it should be "\$\$ DIFF BETWEEN FY13 & FY12".

Supt. Clenchy reiterated, even though there is an increase but because of school choice in to the district and special education in to the district, these numbers along with the circuit breaker reimbursements is why the budget is beyond net school spending; but we are not asking anything beyond net school spending. The Board/Committee had some discussion on the change in special education clients, the loss of the Edujobs Grant, the change of staff and the salary changes. O'Keefe asked if there were any changes in athletic fees. Supt. Clenchy said one of her missions was to continually lower the user fees. As our number of dollars per family went down, the number of participants has gone up. She hopes to take the fee schedule down even more and will know more within the next two School Committee meetings. She explained this also ties in with the food services program that runs similarly. It was barely making it but they are 20% to free and reduced to almost 50% free and reduced. At 52% their grants will go up. They are aiming for 52% participation. Kreidler told the Superintendent, Business Manager and School Committee members that they have done a nice job. It's a testament of a lot of work that didn't just start in January but back several years and now you are reaping those benefits. He asked the Committee if they could explain the special education shown on page 7 showing a net gain of \$20,000.00 and how it is tracked year to year as it relates to circuit breaker. Clenchy thanked the Town Manager first for his kind words. She commented the administrative team has been the same players for the last four years. It was clock work this year because they are comfortable in the environment. Kreidler responded that his comments are narrowly focused as they are stating they have done an outstanding job as a group; however you distribute that credit is yours. He added he knew there is frustration and is not speaking to that, we can all do better. We all have room to improve to communicate things but the deliverable is outstanding. Frangiamore said he appreciated the comments. He explained that these two budgets FY12 and FY13 represent a fixed point in time and is based on a certain number of kids. Circuit breaker is a reimbursable special education grant program from the state for specific services for specific students above a threshold of \$40,000.00. We are reimbursed for expenses over \$40,000.00 for students depending on how long the student is in the district and what services have been provided; it's variable and complicated and it's a year behind. Frangiamore said our total special education reimbursement cost is right around \$1,000,000.00. The state through the circuit breaker grant will reimburse at a variable rate. FY12 it was 65%. It changes from September to June. Whatever is leftover in June gets divided out to the towns. We are anticipating 65%. Clenchy spoke of one of the problems a couple years ago and debated each year on the floor. They came out of nowhere that we should plan on 60%, and then it went down to 44% six months later. That's a lot of money for us to absorb, she said. At the end of the day, we are mandated to provide those services.

Hunt asked about funding retirement obligations, if it was in their budget. Clenchy said they look at variables that they can anticipate. Applications for retirement are filed a year ahead and she builds into the budget what is expected in buyback. Kreidler pointed out that there was an error in the formula on Page 7 looking at the School Committee line. The (\$91,000.00) listed in the difference column appeared to be an error. Frangiamore said he'd check the formulas.

O'Keefe thanked the Committee for coming in. Barbaro noted that he has said their Superintendent has handed in her resignation. He commented how she has done an outstanding job for the community and they will be sad to

see her go. He said Mr. McDonough is also leaving us after three years and wanted to say thank you. Winchendon Public Schools have come a long way in the last few years and it has done so because of the hard work and passion of our Superintendent along with the administrative team and I'd like to say thank you to her. All applauded. Supt. Clenchy said "thank you" and that she leaves with no regrets and has had an incredible journey in Winchendon. She will be one of Winchendon's biggest cheerleaders. She has so much faith in our district, our teams, our teachers and said she had one of the best administrative teams she would ever have. She also wanted to acknowledge publicly Mr. Kreidler thanking him so much stating he was outstanding to work with and even though they sometime sparred she respected what he brought to the table and for being there for her. She thanked the committee and the Board of Selectmen and said one blessing she is going to take away with her is that relationships don't start and stop in Winchendon. Kreidler quoted the Superintendent's reference to Oprah's magazine "these things I know are true" stating the system is built to foster discord between us. Unfortunately, that's the way the system is structured here in Massachusetts. He's been thirteen budgets here, and the ones he's had the pleasure of working with her on, while not always free of discord, have been pleasurable because there has been mutual respect for the professional positions we have to take. It was not taken personally and he thanked the Superintendent.

Murphy motioned to adjourn the joint School Committee/Board of Selectmen meeting; McDonough seconded. By roll call vote of all aye, the School Committee adjourned at 7:42 p.m. The Board of Selectmen recessed.

Public Hearing:

Annual Town Meeting May 21, 2012 Warrant: Chairman O'Keefe called the meeting back to order at 7:50 p.m. and opened the public hearing on the ATM Warrant. Articles were taken out of order in consideration of those present to speak about them.

Article 19 –Kreidler explained that this year besides this article for support of the CAC and the Clark Memorial YMCA we are also including support for a cat shelter for feral and stray cats. Sarah Fearing, our Animal Control Officer, is here tonight wearing a different hat representing the non-profit cat shelter. Ms. Fearing spoke of the great need for a shelter in Winchendon to address the issue of the abandoned stray cats. Our Animal Shelter was not built to house cats, she stated. She has tried to find temporary housing before them being rescued or adopted out but the numbers are going through the roof. After placing an ad in the paper, Brooks has donated a store front at 22 Central St. for cats to be housed temporarily until adopted out. She has developed a non-profit entity to meet the needs of the community. She will be able to house a maximum of thirty cats. Discussion was had on how she was going to manage the shelter. Blair wanted to make clear that the article is suggesting a \$3,000 donation but it is not a town sponsored shelter.

Article 24 – Conservation Restriction on Marchmont Estate – Dr. Eric White came before the Board again to answer any questions they might still have. O'Keefe stated the Board of Selectmen have already signed off on some of the documents relating to this and that they support it. Dr. White added that the paperwork is progressing and on schedule and that a map will be disseminated to the Winchendon Courier feeling it's important for the town to visualize. Kreidler commented that folks need to look beyond the "Cost" column listing a cost of \$633,750 and see the "Source" column which reflects this will be a temporary borrowing for the town. We are being asked to authorize the borrowing anticipating the state and federal funds which are obligated to be on hand prior to closing. We will be receiving every dollar back in a matter of weeks. Dr. White was thanked.

Supt. John Deline came forward to represent Articles 25, 26, 27 of the General Bylaw Articles.

Article 25 – Water Discharge – Kreidler informed the Board that the word permit was removed as requested at the last meeting. Deline said what he found this past winter numerous people were discharging their sump pumps onto sidewalks creating a hazard. This bylaw will allow him to persuade people not do this with a potential of a fine. He's not a big fan of fines but hopes to persuade homeowners to seek another option for the water. He is willing to work with them to resolve a situation economically.

Article 26 – Parking Ban – Deline informed the Board the date was changed for the start of the winter parking ban to be December 1st instead of the first snowfall due to the discussion at the last meeting. Kreidler offered also the word “discretion” was added from the discussion at that last meeting so common sense will be able to be used if there is no snow after December 1st. This Bylaw gives us a tool to enforce it.

Article 27- Snow and Ice Removal – Deline explained the problem of snow removal with the hindrance from private plows and also snow that’s being deposited on sidewalks. He hopes this bylaw, with enforcement rights, will persuade folks to not do this.

Kreidler wanted to take this opportunity to thank John for the work he has done and commend him for the six months probationary period that probably tolls out tonight. He congratulated him for doing an excellent job. Everyone applauded. Blair noted he has heard many good comments as well and wanted to pass it on.

Article 28 – Junk Dealers: Second Hand Articles - Lt. Walsh was present representing the changes to this bylaw. He realized that it should be more specific after reviewing it this past year with some of the business owners. Some specifics put in were guidelines for reporting, streamlining the reporting process and more descriptive information particularly regarding jewelry, gold and scrap metals. They are also excluding clothing, furniture, books and magazines because there are no an issues with theft of these items. Another change is the thirty day provision to hold items. That is being changed to ten days. It was discussed during the licensing renewals that any business selling gold would be subject to this bylaw and would need to seek a license and should do so prior to renewals.

Article 29 - Pawnbrokers – Lt Walsh said presently we do not have any Pawnbroker’s licenses. Walsh said the changes to this bylaw are just looking at more information by photographing the items and using our form.

Article 2 – Reports of Boards and Committees – Kreidler spoke about the Winchendon Community Action Team (WCAT) that is listed under this Article coming through you as the Local Licensing Authority and referenced the material provided by them. Lt. Walsh came forth to speak about the recent training the Police Dept. went through regarding underage drinking issues. Part of the training was compliance exercises. Out of five establishments that were visited, only one refused to sell to the underage youth. He said he has been working with the Executive Assistant and the Town Manager in offering training to our alcohol license holders. Daigle announced letters would go out shortly on behalf of the Board to all our liquor license holders for a certification training session to be conducted at Town Hall on June 3, 2012. O’Keefe thanked Lt. Walsh and said he looked forward to hearing the report at Town meeting.

O’Keefe mentioned we would be recognizing the recipient of the Boston Post Cane within this Article as well. Kreidler told the humorous story about our first trying to contact a two month old for this honor. He was incorrectly listed being born in 1912 versus 2012 in our census data.

Discussion was then held on the spreadsheet on Page 3 of the ATM warrant explaining the impact on the tax rate with the proposed capital and debt exclusion articles. The Board agreed they liked it.

Kreidler mentioned Article 1 was received from the Finance Committee for their meeting this evening and continued addressing and explaining each article that was not yet discussed. The public present was asked to raise their hand if they would like to ask a question about any of the articles being brought up.

Some additional discussion was had on the following Articles:

- Article 15, regarding the longtime contractual obligations for our longtime resigned/retiring employees, Kreidler stated it’s an extraordinary expense but a bill we have to pay and hoped they would continue to debate the process about where we go forward on separating these funds in the future.

- Article 20 is the recommendation of the Police Station Study Committee for \$2.75 million for a new Police Station. Discussion was had on the spreadsheet on Page 3 that doesn't note the already approved Town Meeting vote authorizing a \$2.1 million dollar expense for a new Police Station. That equals around .21 cents on the tax rate. Kreidler stated people haven't felt that because it hasn't been borrowed and thought there could be valued to shine a light on it. The Board agreed that the information on Page 3 should reflect that current authorization. Kreidler stated it is important to note that if Town Meeting votes Article 20 down, there is still the potential of a \$2.1 million dollar hit on the tax rate.
- Articles 21 and 22 are the Capital Planning Advisory Committee Articles that were discussed a lot at the last meeting with Mr. White. It was decided to separate the Capital Exclusion and the Debt Exclusion items in separate articles. It was noted that Town Meeting could amend to strike something but not to add. They discussed the possible Robinson-Broadhurst grant for the generator at Town Hall and it was decided the motion would include language to amend the article if the grant was received.
- Articles 30 through 33 are Zoning Bylaw Articles. O'Keefe noted the Planning Board members voted unanimous approval of these articles.

O'Keefe stated the Finance Committee will be meeting before the next Board of Selectmen meeting and will have their recommendations on each article for them. Kreidler mentioned he went to the last Finance Committee's meeting to go over the budget line by line and would be attending their next meeting on the warrant articles.

O'Keefe concluded the Public Hearing at 9:08 p.m.

New Business: n/a

Old Business:

Kreidler asked the Chair to be recognized under Old Business for a brief moment. He wanted to bring back up a point Selectman Blair had at the last meeting regarding a call from a constituent about the nuisance bylaw and the enforcement of it by our local agents. At the meeting he had asked if it hasn't been spoken to him, how else would he know if it is or isn't being done? Subsequent to that meeting, he had had the opportunity to read a letter to the editor of the Winchendon Courier from Mr. Cloutier from the Board of Health in which he asks whom can he speak. What he came to learn from the letter was Mr. Cloutier came to the office to speak about his concerns. When brought to his attention by Margaret, the Administrative Assistant, he was working on this spreadsheet and told her to tell Mr. Cloutier he should speak to the Police Dept. and the Building Commissioner. He was not aware that he did speak to them and didn't receive satisfaction. Kreidler stated if he had known that he would have made time for Mr. Cloutier. Blair inquired about working with him for a resolution. Kreidler said he spoke to him today and will.

Town Manager's Report: The Town Manager's Report consisted of the Annual Town Meeting Warrant and FY13 budget already discussed.

Minutes: Monday, April 9, 2012, Regular Meeting: Hunt moved to approve with one correction to Kreidler's name on page 5. Blair seconded. By roll call vote of all aye, the motion carried by unanimous vote.

Communications: n/a

Agenda Items:

Adjournment: With no Executive Session being held this evening, Blair moved to adjourn; Hunt seconded. By roll call vote of all aye, the meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Daigle, Executive Assistant

*Board of Selectmen Meeting
April 30, 2012*