

**TOWN OF WINCHENDON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2012 7:00 P.M.
Town Hall, 2nd Floor Auditorium
109 Front Street, Winchendon, Mass.**

Present: Robert M. O'Keefe, Chairman
Elizabeth R. Hunt, Vice-Chairwoman
Keith R. Barrows
C. Jackson Blair
Guy Corbosiero

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

School Committee:

Present: Michael Barbaro, Chairman
Michael Niles
Christopher McDonald
Andrea Suchocki

Salah E. Khelfaoui, Supt. of Schools

Absent: Crystal Murphy

List of Documents Presented at Meeting:

- Special Town Meeting School Warrant Articles (attached)
- Letter of interest from Priscilla Johnson and Town Clerk's recommendation (filed)
- Permit Applications: Immaculate Heart of Mary; Old Christmas Place; Disabled American Veterans Chapter 30 (filed)
- WRA letter requesting Board to vote their Intent to accept Commercial Drive as a Town Way (attached)
- Kopelman and Paige Memorandum on Accepting Ways as a Town Way (filed)
- Town Manager's Report (attached)
 - Employment Application: Katie Fucile (filed)
- Letter of commendation (9/24/12): Officer Jim Wironen (attached)

Chairman O'Keefe called the joint meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America. The School Committee Chairman Mike Barbara called the School Committee meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. The meeting aired live on local cable access channel 8. No response came forth from the audience when the Chairman asked if anyone else would be audio or video recording the meeting besides the Board this evening.

JOINT MEETING WITH SCHOOL COMMITTEE:

Chairman O'Keefe welcomed the School Committee to the Joint Session and asked Barbaro to speak about the

Special Town Meeting warrant articles they would like to submit. Barbaro said the first article, Medicaid Reimbursement of \$37,564.00, was tabled at the Annual Town Meeting for the Fall Town Meeting and would like to get that money into the budget. The second article, he explained, was because the hot water tank at MMHS went over the summer. We have two hot water tanks independently. The problem is they only have a life time of ten years but we only get eight years with the hard water in Winchendon. The cost to replace one is \$25,000. One was replaced over the summer, the other one has been replaced but doesn't have an expected life time. We looked into combining them into a one oil fired burner which is more cost efficient in the long run with an estimated time of life being twenty-five to thirty years. The cost for this is \$45,000. If you do a comparison, we will put in over \$50,000 in water heaters that will continue to go, where we can invest in one furnace giving us three times the life of what we are currently using.

Hunt asked about the first article with money being transferred from the stabilization account. Barbaro said the verbiage can be changed and deferred to the Town Manager. Kreidler recommended the language to say "raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds," and he explained we anticipated when the state budget would be finalized, we would have an additional \$102,888.00 and the article would come under this authorization from the state and be contemplated at a fall town meeting.

Hunt thought the second article should go capital planning. Barbaro replied that they planned to. Hunt was concerned about the new boiler they already bought for \$25,000.00. Barbaro explained it was going to be replaced. They discussed the appropriate action to be looking for funding for another \$25,000.00 unit and then in eight years come up with the \$45,000.00 for the new system. Barbaro said the boiler is operational but getting to its end of life.

Hunt asked about the possibility of getting into electric boilers because of the new solar contract. Kreidler said the towns total load, education and general government, is about 2.3 megawatts. The facility approved is 2.4 megawatts. There are 100,000 kilowatt hours of power available out of that plant. Discussion was had on using it fully by either turning on more street lights, converting to electric hot water heaters or some other use that might be considered but having to wait until we know what we are generating and what we are using off National Grid before we can manage that. Kreidler expected our load to be less with retrofitting new technology and added the Green Communities Committee (Green Team), lying dormant, will have a new cause. Barbaro mentioned the power load might go up with the new police station generating more power than the current one. O'Keefe responded that this enforces not looking at a \$45,000.00 boiler today and get a second unit for \$25,000.00 within the next year and maybe this \$45,000 expense won't happen because we will have solar funds. With the STM warrant not closing until October 9th, the School Committee decided to discuss this at their next meeting. O'Keefe reminded them to change the verbiage in the first article as previously discussed.

O'Keefe informed the audience that the Board of Selectmen and School Committee meet four times a year and it is customary to hear warrant type articles in the fall and in the spring. He hoped later this year, they could talk about some of the results of standardized testing.

Kreidler said while committees are convened there was a report on moving forward with the Business Manager and what the selection process would be. He asked if the committee had a consensus around that issue. Supt. Khelfaoui replied, not yet that he would be presenting the School Committee with his report and then would share with everyone else. Kreidler said he'd be happy to serve on a search committee if they would have him.

Niles moved to adjourn; Suchocki seconded. By roll call vote of all aye, the School Committee adjourned their joint meeting with the Selectmen at 7:30 p.m.

Chairman O'Keefe called for a five minute recess.

The Board of Selectmen reconvened their meeting at 7:35 p.m.

SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS:

Corbosiero announced the Winchendon 250th Committee's Fall Applefest will be held on Saturday at the Clark Field from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and encouraged folks to come and have fun and support the committee. He said there is no cost to attend and includes a pie eating contest.

O'Keefe talked about Halloween and setting a date. He's against setting a date and thinks Halloween is a fine date and unless any member makes a motion otherwise, Halloween will be on Halloween, Wednesday, October 31st. Barrows suggested the times be between 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Okeefe was against even setting hours stating kids will go out when they go out and people will answer the door when they want to. Kreidler said we receive a surprisingly number of calls into this office regarding this issue. No official hours were set but folks would be advised between 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS/HEARINGS:

Deputy Election Warden – Priscilla Johnson submitted a letter to the Board with her information to serve as a Deputy Clerk of Election for the Town. The Town Clerk recommends this appointment. Blair moved to accept; Hunt seconded. By roll call vote of all aye, the motion carried unanimously. Ms. Johnson, who wasn't able to attend the meeting this evening, was thanked and welcomed by the Chairman.

PERMIT/LICENSE APPLICATIONS, HEARINGS:

Entertainment Permit – Immaculate Heart of Mary Fall Festival Nov. 10-11, 2012 – Bob Betourney came before the Board and said the Festival will run from Saturday 9:00 a.m. -9:00 p.m. and Sunday 9:00 a.m. until about 1:00 p.m. Barrows moved in favor of the applicant; Blair seconded. By roll call vote of all aye, the motion carried unanimously.

Christmas Tree Sale Permit – Old Christmas Place, 20 Baldwinville St. Rd. – Mr. Kachinsky and his son came before the Board on this application. He said he's had a permit for several areas in the town and serves the Waterville area. He sells the trees, holly he raises in his yard, and a few other items he has at the Farmer's Market including some vintage things. Barrows moved for approval; Blair seconded. By roll call vote of all aye, the motion carried unanimously.

Can Drive Sept. 28 & 29 Permit – Disabled American Veterans Chapter 30 – Commander Bob Mable came before the Board. Mr. Mable said every year he sells Forget-Me-Nots that are the same as Poppies and that all the money goes to the Disabled Vets. He has permission to hold it in front of the IGA. Blair moved to grant the permit; Barrows seconded. By roll call vote of all aye, the motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

Petition to Selectmen to Lay Out Way as a Town Way: O'Keefe explained this is commonly referred to as accepting the street and that there were two on the agenda this evening.

Commercial Drive petitioned by Winchendon Redevelopment Authority - O'Keefe stated this Drive is in our Hillview Business Park. Kreidler added the importance of accepting this as a public way is because Mass. Dept. of Transportation and MRPC have conducted a traffic study and recommend changes that can't be implemented without the acceptance of Commercial Drive as a public way and it's important we get this on the Special Town Meeting warrant. Hunt disclosed she was a member of the Winchendon Redevelopment Authority and has no personal gain except for a safer road to travel on. Blair moved to layout the town way and refer the matter to the Planning Board; Corbosiero seconded. Barrows asked about the road report the Selectmen are required to file. Kreidler referring to the Kopelman and Paige memo regarding Accepting Town Ways, said we intend to have a

plan before you at your next meeting to vote to layout the road in accordance with the plan. By roll call vote of all aye, the motion carried unanimously.

Madison Ave. petitioned by Joshua Olson – Mr. Olson came forward on his request for the town to accept Madison Ave. as a public way. He said the road was built in 2007 and it has a top coat on it. He stated the Planning Board wants half the houses built in the subdivision before they would recommend it to the Selectmen. He didn't know if that decision is concrete noting the conditions of the market. He said there are sixteen lots and two houses have been built. Corbosiero said that condition on the Planning Board is not new this year. Back in Oct. 2009 it was also decided that this would not be brought forward to the voters until the majority of the houses were complete. Kreidler said, on a technicality, procedurally the memo from Kopelman and Paige reads one of the ways this can be initiated is by an inhabitant of the town. Mr. Olson said he was not an inhabitant of the town. Blair said but there are other ways he could approach this. Procedures outlined in Town Counsel's memo stated by an inhabitant of the Town or even through the Board. Corbosiero told Mr. Olsen that he still had construction happening on that road and it will or might do some damage to the road. Discussion was had on the number of homes that need to be built (seven) and once the town owns it, they will be responsible for salt, sand and plowing. Barrows moved the Board take no action on the petition submitted this evening until the conditions as outlined by the Planning Board be met: Hunt seconded. By roll call vote of all aye, the motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:

Personnel Update- Kreidler read his report announcing his appointment of Katie Fucile to the position of Assistant Treasurer/Collector. Blair moved to affirm the appointment; Corbosiero seconded. By roll call vote of all aye, the motion carried unanimously.

Kreidler said while not on his report he wanted to address the word going out and about regarding the Veterans Center on Streeter School. He informed the Board about conversations with Montachusett Veterans Outreach group about picking up where the Veterans Administration left off by utilizing the building to provide services to the veteran community. Their plan is not just to be a drop-in center but a full functioning Veteran's center with a Director and Counselor on staff full time and provide other services. He spoke about the public procurement Request For Proposal for a real estate transaction, looking for a non-profit agency that wanted to lease the building for ten years. We received one bid from MVOC which was \$1.00. They are responsible for building, heat, lights, snow removal, and all maintenance. They have been working with a group out of Bedford, Veterans Construction Services. Their function is not a for profit but they work with veterans giving them employment trade working with sole proprietors. The group has had some difficulty with paperwork to satisfy the building code. He said Senator Brewer's office called him with his concern that the Building Commissioner was being somewhat difficult and that the MVOC was becoming victim to that with the process being stalled. He convened a meeting a week ago with the Executive Director of MVOC, the Winchendon campus Director, our Building Commissioner, Paul Blanchard, and himself. The MVOC folks came to the meeting believing that a completed building application had been filed with stamped drawings for the handicapped accessibility ramp project. Paul indicated that was not the case. After a conference call with the contractor and by the end of the meeting, it was clear that they misunderstood with themselves and their contractor and communication was broken. They learned we had plans that were three iterations ago and were not reflective of the work being proposed any longer. The Executive Director left his office with the understanding that they would have the revised stamp complete and the building application completed. The confusion with the Worker's Comp. affidavit is now cleared up and has been satisfied. This morning the Executive Director carried in plans to his office. The Building Inspector told him there were a couple minor revisions but would not hold up the work and will approve the final once those minor issues have been resolved.

Thinking this was a happy ending, he learned last Thursday the Board of Directors of MVOC had their monthly meeting and he was the recipient of an email late Friday night. It was a scathing letter and said, among other things, that they had a ribbon cutting ceremony scheduled that we cancelled damaging their reputation and the Building Commissioner has been an obstacle and we'll have to consider going forward with the project if we don't get the permit by this date certain. He called the Executive Director last Saturday morning and asked what this was about and politely requested he gather his board members together today so he could address the letter against the reality. After that meeting, the Board is going to issue an apology letter stating that it is nothing that the Town of Winchendon has done to stop the project. He said he received a letter from the Executive Director forecasting that. End of story, the building permit is in hand ready and next month it should be ready and operational.

Hunt asked about the Animal Control Officer. Kreidler stated Sarah Fearing has given her letter of her intended resignation. He explained the position of Animal Control is funded at a part-time level but its expected at a full-time level. Sarah has served well above and beyond what is reasonable what level of compensation she has been receiving. She is finally burnt out but I asked her what would it take for her to stay. She replied time off. If it could be guaranteed structured time off, I would consider it again. He has a rough draft schedule contemplating two Animal Control Officers. One would be the lead working a nineteen hour schedule; the other fifteen hours. It would be a stipend position with an understanding that you will most likely work more hours than the hourly rate. It would mean an additional \$15,000 for Animal Control. We do have Special Town Meeting coming up and he thinks the available funding will be used for other things and is looking for the spring to fund it. He hopes Sarah will consider it if he can't convince her to stay now. She will still commit to the Animal Inspector position. Hunt noted that she spends hours on cases and asked if there was anything they could do to help support this. Kreidler explained some of the burn out is that she has attempted to bring some changes but she has faced resistance. They talked about the cat shelter she founded and her hard work. Blair said she is a big loss to the town. Kreidler spoke about a case Sarah brought before the Board and stated the law has now changed and we can't banish a dog to some other town but our own. They had some discussion about the fines and dog hearings wanting to up the actions for those who don't abide by the law.

Kreidler talked about another option that should be pursued. He said Ashburnham and Westminster use services of a local veterinarian hospital. They kind of pseudo deputized this business as the Animal Control Officer. They have a plethora of people who would perform functions of an Animal Control Officer. Discussion was had on looking into the options. Kreidler said in the meantime an advertisement is out and an interim appointment is what he is thinking. Two people with experience have applied if Sarah doesn't stay. He thought reviewing fines and fees is a good idea and some discussion was had on the bylaws and changes when the fees are due. O'Keefe asked about regionalization. Kreidler replied that he wasn't sure that was the right route for them. In terms of regional joining options, we are limited because other towns have already regionalized.

Hunt asked about the police station Request For Proposal. O'Keefe said at his last meeting, he was empowered by the Board to draft a RFP with Town Counsel and that they are still in the process of doing that.

MINUTES:

Monday, September 10, 2012 - Regular Meeting: Corbosiero moved to approve; Hunt seconded. By roll call vote of Hunt aye, Blair aye, Corbosiero aye and O'Keefe aye, the motion carried by majority vote. Barrows abstained due to not being present at that meeting.

Monday, September 10, 2012 - EXECUTIVE SESSION: Blair moved to approve and release; Corbosiero seconded. By roll call vote of Hunt aye, Blair aye, Corbosiero aye and O'Keefe aye, the motion carried by majority vote. Barrows abstained due to not being present at that meeting.

PAST MINUTES:

Thursday, March 20, 2008 Joint Meeting with School Committee: This meeting were missed in voting tonight.

2006 EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES FOR APPROVAL AND RELEASE

Monday, August 21, 2006 - Blair moved to approve and release; Barrows was asked by the Chair since he was the only member on the Board at that time if he saw anything that needed correction. Barrows said “no,” going back into the memory banks. Blair clarified what we are doing is really just accepting the recording of the minutes; this one approving as well but the other ones already have been approved. Hunt seconded. By roll call vote of all aye, the motion carried unanimously.

2006 EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES FOR RELEASE

Blair moved to release these minutes; Barrows seconded. By roll call vote of all aye, the motion carried unanimously. Blair thanked the staff for working on getting these minutes released.

Monday, March 6, 2006
Monday, June 12, 2006
Monday, June 26, 2006
Monday, July 10, 2006
Monday, July 17, 2006
Monday, Sept. 11, 2006
Monday, Oct. 16, 2006
Monday, Nov. 13, 2006
Monday, Nov. 20, 2006
Monday, Dec. 4, 2006
Monday, Dec. 18, 2006

COMMUNICATIONS: N/A

AGENDA ITEMS: Set October meeting dates – After some discussion the Board set the meeting dates for October. They are to be held on:

- Monday, October 15, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday, October 25, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.
- Monday, October 29, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. at MMHS.

Kreidler said he received a letter today addressed to the new Police Officer Jim Wironen from Chief Livingston commending him for his actions on September 21, 2012 regarding him spotting a motorcycle accident with serious injury while on routine patrolling. His quick actions may have saved his life. The Board acknowledged the good job he did.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no need for Executive Session, Blair moved to adjourn; Hunt seconded. By roll call vote of all aye, the meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Daigle
Executive Assistant