

**TOWN OF WINCHENDON  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2013  
Town Hall, 109 Front Street  
4<sup>TH</sup>Floor Robinson-Broadhurst Conference Room**

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

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

Absent: Keith R. Barrows

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List of Documents Presented at Meeting:

- VinLozano Imports, Inc. Change of Manager application (filed)
- ABCC Population Estimate for 2013 Seasonal Licenses (attached)
- Winchendon Housing Authority Support Petition (attached)
- Letter dated 1/25/13 from Senator Brewer to Winchendon Housing Authority regarding House Bill 44 (attached)
- BYOB Draft Policy (filed)
- Board of Selectmen Policies and Procedures Draft, Pgs. 4 & 7 (filed)
- Board of Selectmen Administrative Policies and Procedures Draft, Pg. 3 (filed)
- Town Manager’s Report (attached)
- BOS Minutes for approval:
  - February 11, 2013 Regular Meeting (filed)
  - February 11, 2013 Executive Session (Held until Released)

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Chairman O’Keefe called the meeting to order at 7:03 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.

*Disclosure of Audio/Video Recording:* The Gardner Newspaper reporter disclosed he would be audio recording the meeting this evening.

**SELECTMEN’S COMMENTS:** None this evening.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:** None this evening.

**APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS:** N/A

**PERMITS/LICENSE APPLICATIONS/HEARINGS:**

PUBLIC LIQUOR LICENSE HEARING CONTINUATION – VinLozano Imports, Inc., d/b/a Event Wines 2, Juniper St., Change of Manager - The hearing continued at 7:05 p.m. from the February 11, 2013 meeting. The Chair read the public hearing notice. Mr. Craig Bourque was present on this application to Change Manager on the liquor license to himself. Hunt asked him to give a bit of information on the business. He stated Event Wines is located on Juniper St. behind Second Impressions Consignment Shop. They are a wine wholesaler and retailer. They do a lot with non-profit organizations, charities with special labels like the Red Sox labels. The charity sports wines originated from their company. They have raised \$1.9 million since 2007. Mr. Bourque has been running the retail operations and is TIPS certified. Corbosiero moved to approve the Change of Manager; Blair seconded. By roll call vote of all aye, the motion carried unanimously. The hearing was closed at 7:08 p.m.

ABCC Population Estimates for Seasonal Licenses in 2013 – O’Keefe stated the ABCC is asking them to provide an estimate of temporary increased seasonal resident population for this year. Hunt moved to approve the suggested estimate of 1,000. Corbosiero seconded. By vote of all aye, the motion carried unanimously.

**BOARDS/COMMISSIONS/COMMITTEES:**

Winchendon Housing Authority and Legislation Filed – David Connor, the Executive Director of the Winchendon Housing Authority (WHA) came before the Board and thanked them for the invitation to the meeting to discuss the legislation filed by Governor Patrick to consolidate local housing authorities. He introduced Housing Authority Board members who were present at the meeting: Burton Gould, Chairman, Virginia Sibley, Jackie Flynn and David Johnson. Applause was given to the members for their service. Mr. Connor passed out a letter he received from Senator Brewer to the Housing Authority in which he shares their concerns relative to the proposed legislation and also the Mass. Chapter of National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) filing in response to Governor Patrick’s legislation. The WHA is a member of NAHRO and they have been trying for years to present legislation to make changes to improve efficiencies and increase the check and balances for Housing Authorities throughout the Commonwealth. There was discussion on the importance of keeping housing authorities local. Local Housing Authorities know the pulse of the community and are involved in the community. Mr. Connor stated he’d appreciate it if the Board sign on to this petition. He stated his two developments located at Hyde Park and Ipswich Drive, are also signing the petition. The petition would be sent to both Senator Brewer and Representative Zlotnik. They are both on board with it but adding 100 letters from their constituents will put a backbone to it, concluded Mr. Connor. Corbosiero supports the letter 110%. O’Keefe stated he was outraged at what the Governor was proposing and added that Winchendon gave land to the Housing Authority and the Governor is going to seize it; he also supports the petition 100%. Blair moved to provide support to the petition; Corbosiero seconded. It was suggested to put the letter on Board of Selectmen’s letterhead.

**NEW BUSINESS:** N/A

**OLD BUSINESS:**

BYOB POLICY – 3rd Reading - Hunt stated they needed to address B-7 highlighted on the draft. The Board had a brief discussion and amended the section as follows: “In the case of establishments with a Common Victualler license, only patrons who are seated in a designated supervised area and who have ordered food for consumption on the premises shall be allowed to consume alcoholic beverages. No alcoholic beverages shall be consumed by patrons in a waiting area.” Blair moved to accept as amended; Corbosiero seconded. By vote of all aye, the motion carried unanimously.

Board of Selectmen Policies and Procedures Review – O’Keefe read the update from the last meeting noting the two changes. Hunt moved to accept; Blair seconded. By vote of all aye, the motion carried unanimously and the document was finalized.

Board of Selectmen Administrative Policies and Procedures Review – O’Keefe mentioned the change made from the last meeting. Hunt moved to approve; Blair seconded. By vote of all aye, the motion carried unanimously finalizing the document.

## **TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT:**

### **1. Personnel Updates-**

- a. **Planning Department Assistant Liz DeCoteau-** Kreidler announced the part-time Planning Office Assistant Liz DeCoteau has resigned her position effective last week. Until he has better clarity with the budget, he is not filling the position. He has authorized two current town hall employees to work a few extra hours (non-overtime) to help reorganize the office and its systems. The work is ongoing and he offered kudos for the outstanding job they are doing. The two remaining employees in the Planning and Development office have been asked and they have agreed to step up and fill this void the best they can while we work on the budget. Kreidler clarified that Ms. DeCoteau has resigned her ten hour clerical position within town hall only. Her work with the Boards is still ongoing.
- b. **Animal Control-** Kreidler announced the re-issued advertisement for the Regional Animal Control Services was published and due today. We received one submittal from Wachusett Animal Hospital that would cover all three communities for regional Animal Control Officer. A quick analysis is being done and he will report back.

### **2. Financial Updates-**

- a. **FY 14 Budget-** Kreidler informed the Board that all budgets were submitted by February 14<sup>th</sup> and have been entered into the town’s MUNIS program. It has been exported into excel for working purposes and he is working toward balance with preliminary department head meetings coming up next week. He is working on revenue projections counting on a reduction in local receipts again estimating it to be around 8%. Over the past ten years, it’s averaged 5 to 10% in reduction. He stated he could have for them at their next meeting a copy of the entire revenue/expense spreadsheet.

### **3. Project Updates-**

- a. **Solar Farm-** Kreidler reported Sun Edison has re-engaged in the project. He was happy but cautious about it and explained why because they had spent an excess of a million dollars on it and then disengaged. Mass. Dept. of Public Utilities (DPU) rolled out a System of Assurance program. He explained these projects are predicated on being able to generate power in one location and sell it virtually and apply it to meters at other locations. This is called net metering. Net metering in the Commonwealth is limited to a certain number of kilowatt hours or credits. A credit equals a kilowatt hour. They have had a queue of those wanting those net metering credits since this started a few years ago. There was no requirement to get in the queue. There were more people looking to seek those credits than the credits that would be available. That obviously had a chilling effect on the development and the financing of these projects with the risk of the net metering being closed. What the DPU did is to require applicants to the program to upload documents showing site control, an interconnection service agreement with the utility and have all the local permits in hand. There is a fifteen day window until they turn it around and give you assurance that you have

capacity under that cap for net metering. What it means for us: our project is on the books since 2011; but, unless you get in this queue and upload all your documents, you are not getting net metering. He has kept in touch with Sun Edison regularly but he informed the Board that he took the liberty and uploaded all the documents electronically and paid the \$100 fee to reserve our cap space to make certain the cap doesn't close. He has received confirmation that we are in with everything in order and we have an allocation for our full 2.4 megawatt facility under the net metering cap. He's impressed on folks with Sun Edison that they either do it themselves or sell it to get that cap allocation. There is now a reserve fee of \$6,300 due. Sun Edison informed the Town Manager that the check was being cut this week.

O'Keefe asked what happens if they don't send in the check. Kreidler explained, for our purposes, National Grid is required to do 153 megawatts of net metering. The last update the DPU did, there were 17 megawatts connected. There were 40 applications submitted. So there is still quite a bit of room under the cap now. The worst case scenario, after the fifteen days are up, you can reapply at \$100.00 each time until you get it confirmed or the cap closes.

#### 4. Miscellaneous Updates-

- a. Municipal Electricity Aggregation Request for Proposals for Consulting Services- Kreidler reported that the final analysis is ongoing on the two proposals received for Municipal Aggregation Services. He reported that all forms and responses are intact but informed the Board that there is a marked difference in the price or the fee that will be charged on a per kilowatt basis to perform this service for us. One of them has done this multiple times and the other never has. The one that never has is charging less. We are checking references and what their experience is of related types of projects. It will be a matter of how highly does that experience or lack of experience weigh into the economics. Either way, the price of the other that has experience is within range or less than what other communities have paid. Hunt wanted to have this brought before the Board before the final conclusion and added that this attempts to offer direct assistance to the residents' checkbook and home. Kreidler explained it is putting everyone in town in a pot and getting the best rate versus the homeowner on his own. There will be a way to opt out for those who don't want to participate. Those folks in a contract already will have to check their contracts. Some may have to opt out of the program for that reason. This power contract will be for five years.
- b. Fiber Optic Cable Project- Kreidler updated the Board, per our new license agreement with Comcast, that construction and linemen teams were in town last week working on the project and we will soon have fiber optic capacity with a clearer picture and production value.

Blair asked the Town Manager about the water delivery and wastewater collection contract. Kreidler reported the RFP is on the street for services that are currently provided by United Water. The RFP was advertised in the Central Register today. The current contract expires this month, we have received extensions in the past and assured the Board we would have coverage until we receive responses to the RFP.

Hunt asked the Town Manager about the poles going up on Rte. 140. Kreidler stated the Town is not doing them nor is the Winchendon Redevelopment Authority. He said a pole petition was before them several months ago. He said it's not to service the truck refurbishment project he

spoke about at his last meeting but explained that National Grid has rules that if someone pays to have power brought out and someone else benefits from it within a certain time period, they would get a discount back to you because someone else is benefiting from the work you did.

**MINUTES:**

Monday, February 11, 2013 Regular Meeting - Hunt moved to approve; Corbosiero seconded. By vote of all aye, the motion carried unanimously.

Monday, February 11, 2013 EXECUTIVE SESSION - Hunt moved to approve, not release; Corbosiero seconded. By vote of all aye, the motion carried unanimously.

**COMMUNICATIONS:** None.

**AGENDA ITEMS:** N/A

**ADJOURNMENT:** Blair moved to adjourn; Hunt seconded. By vote of all aye, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m. Executive Session was not held this evening.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Daigle  
Executive Assistant