

**TOWN OF WINCHENDON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2014
Town Hall, 2nd Floor Auditorium
109 Front Street, Winchendon, MA**

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

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

Absent: Fedor Berndt

List of Documents Presented at Meeting:

- Voluntary Boot Drive Application for April 12, 2014 – American Cancer Society Relay for Life, Charlie's Angels Team (filed)
- Seasonal All Alcohol Liquor License – Change of Manager Application – The Winchendon School, Inc., d/b/a The Winchendon School Country Club, 435 Spring St. (filed)
- Seasonal Renewal Application – All Alcohol Pouring License/Common Victualler - The Winchendon School, d/b/a The Winchendon School Country Club, 435 Spring St. (filed)
- Colonial Power Municipal Aggregation – Power Point Presentation handouts (attached)
- Underground Storage Tanks Information submitted by Theresa Langdon (filed)
- Town Manager's Report (attached)
 - o Drug Task Force Information (filed)
 - o Massachusetts Opioid Abuse Prevention Coalition (filed)
 - o The Hungry Heart documentary information (filed)
 - o How This Unlikely State Transformed into America's Heroin Hotspot (Vermont) (filed)
 - o Opioid Overdose Prevention Strategies in Massachusetts – January 2012 (filed)
- Minutes for approval:
 - o Monday, February 10, 2014 Regular Meeting

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.

Disclosure of Audio/Video Recording: No one announced they would be audio recording the meeting this evening when asked by the Chairman.

SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS:

Blair said the music show recently held at the Historical Society was nice as always. It included a jazz band and singers from The Winchendon School.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS: There were none this evening.

BOARDS/COMMITTEES: N/A

APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS: N/A

PERMIT/LICENSES APPLICATIONS, HEARINGS:

*Board of Selectmen Minutes
February 24, 2014*

Voluntary Boot Drive, Sat., April 12th, 2014- American Cancer Society Relay for Life, Charlie's Angels Team, Dwayne and Cheryl Eddy, Mary and Stanley Hasselmann – The Hasselmann's came up and presented a sign to show the Board an outline of where the lines, cones, and people will be placed during the boot drive. They have been doing this since 2007 and they are requesting this permit to fundraise for the American Cancer Society. It will be held on April 12th from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Ms. Hasselmann claims this has been the most effective way of fundraising for them. Any money that's raised goes into research and programs such as Hope Lodge, Roads to Recovery, Look Good Feel Better, and Reach to Recovery. Blair moved to approve without a fee, Barrows seconded. By a vote of all aye, the motion carried unanimously.

Seasonal All Alcohol Liquor License- Change of Manager: The Winchendon School Inc., d/b/a The Winchendon School Country Club, 435 Spring St. – Blair disclosed he is associated with The Winchendon School and recused himself. Mr. Gregg Bennett came before the Board. He said he has a Business Management degree and when the Manager at The Winchendon School Golf Club left, they asked him to take over, including being the new proposed Manager. Mr. Bennett has obtained his TIPS certification card. He will be making changes to many of the policies as well as some employee changes. Hunt moved to approve the Change of Manager to Greg Bennett; Barrows seconds. By a vote of all aye, the motion carried unanimously.

Seasonal Renewal: All Alcohol Pouring License/Common Victualler: The Winchendon School, d/b/a The Winchendon School Country Club, 435 Spring St. – Hunt moved approval for both seasonal renewals; Barrows seconded. By a vote of all aye, the motion carried unanimously.

Selectman Blair returned to the table.

NEW BUSINESS:

Municipal Aggregation - Colonial Power – The Town Manager introduced Mr. Mark Cappaboma from Colonial Power who will give them the basic information about municipal aggregation and answer any questions they might have. Mr. Cappaboma passed out a Power Point presentation handout about Municipal Aggregation and thanked the Board for having him here this evening. He informed the Board that Colonial Power Group is an energy company and all that they do is municipal aggregation in Massachusetts. They handle all the phases from design, implementation, management and the day to day operations. They will take all the calls, answer any questions without using Town staff or Town funds. He listed the communities they currently manage. Municipal aggregation is separating supply from distribution. He explained National Grid is now a poles and wires company; they support all of these upcoming programs. Mr. Cappaboma explained what Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) is. It is a program allowing residents and small businesses on basic service to receive a more favorable rate through this aggregated purchasing program organized by the municipality. The CCA enters into electricity supply contracts for all customers. Everyone will be in unless they decide to opt out; but will also be able to get in and out at their choosing. If a decision is made to opt out, you will automatically go back to using National Grid or another chosen company. The first thirty days there is an opportunity to opt out with a card that will be sent to each customer. O'Keefe asked about the savings with other communities. Mr. Cappaboma said it depends; they've been seeing an average of five to eight percent savings. Giving an example, he stated Lowell will be paying .0784 cents compared to .1025 cents. It was mentioned how Natural Gas right now is expensive due to constraints in the pipeline and affects the market. Kreidler stated even if Colonial Power was ready to go, they would still have to take the time to look more into the market. O'Keefe asked if we enter into this aggregation, do they still continue to monitor pricing from other suppliers. Mr. Cappaboma said the Town would be contractually obligated with National Grid going out to buy on March 12th regardless what the price of energy is. It's a systematic thing. What's good about this program is that individuals can opt out at any time. Kreidler re-emphasized the bulk buying power with the entire Town. O'Keefe asked what the process would be once we go into the market. Once the agreement is signed, the Town will go out on a new rate, Colonial Power will send a mailing to every electrical customer with thirty days to opt out. People don't have to do anything if they want to be part of it. The bill that the residents will receive will still be from National Grid but somewhere on the bill it will say you have a supplier change. Nothing changes for the consumer that they are used to. Kreidler explained this isn't the government, the Town of Winchendon, that receives this cost savings but the residents of Winchendon. O'Keefe asked when Mr. Cappaboma thought they would be able to go to market. He estimated around four to five months, so hopefully starting around September. The average opt out rate is 3%. Mr. Cappaboma was thanked.

Draft Bylaw – Underground Storage Tanks – Kreidler informed the Board, against Selectman Barrow’s efforts to reach him, he’s been out of the office and not able to give him time to collaborate on this. He has drafts to work with and will have something for their next meeting. There is a placeholder in the Town Meeting warrant which closes on the 17th. He suggested the draft be a more draconian version as a placeholder because it could always be made less restrictive at Town Meeting but that it couldn’t be made stronger. O’Keefe liked the idea and asked for it to go to Town Counsel for review.

Ms. Theresa Langdon was asked if she had anything to say. She wished that they would consider tank removal instead of just regulating it in the draft bylaw. Kreidler said the requirement in the documents she gave them all suggested that the tanks be monitored. If they were registered for over thirty years, then they should be pulled up. There is a prohibition of underground tanks being installed and also language for a higher threshold on how it would impact existing tanks in a zone with an aquifer. This bylaw will not refer to commercial tanks used by gas stations; it’s the consumption tanks and home heating oil people use at home. Kreidler pointed out he wanted to review the references back and forth for residential tanks and non-commercial farm tanks used to fuel farm equipment not wanting to infringe on the Right-to-Farm community and their ability to conduct their business. Ms. Langdon was happy about the plan to make the regulations similar to the Town of Sandwich. The topic was asked to be put on the next meeting agenda.

OLD BUSINESS: N/A

TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT:

Kreidler apologized for them having received the report just this evening explaining the recent power loss at Town Hall and its effect on his computer.

1. Personnel Updates – None.

2. Financial Updates –

a.a. FY15 Budget- All Department operating budgets have been received and the first run at balance is underway.

a.b. Indirect Cost Agreement - Kreidler reported that he was scheduled to meet with Dr. Khelfaoui and the Department of Education and Secondary Education (DESE) representative Roger Hatch Wednesday morning to discuss Net School Spending but due to the weather and a difficult week for the Superintendent, the meeting was moved. He informed them he was prepared to present to the School Committee on Wednesday the document he had earlier emailed them of an analysis of both the Indirect Cost Agreement and Net School Spending Compliance. He asked if they had all received it. The Board replied yes. Hunt asked about the \$186,000 shortfall. Kreidler explained the analyses will show how the shortfall came to pass and documentation will show the actual shortfall is closer to \$30,000 and that it ties back exclusively to that one year, FY12, where the Charter School reimbursement was not taken into consideration as an offset to our costs. The document talks about the Indirect Cost Agreement history and transitions into what does that agreement mean in terms to our Net School Spending specifically this \$186,000 deficit. Kreidler anticipates fine tuning the document a bit before he meets with Dr. Khelfaoui and Mr. Hatch and plans on rolling out the document on Wednesday. O’Keefe asked if there should be any adjustment that the Town should give the school extra money, would it be handled at the next Town Meeting. Kreidler said the wish expressed by DESE is that if it can be handled within the next year, that would be fantastic. If it is a larger number, there have been discussions held that it would be allowed to spread out over a number of years; but he expected it to be the smaller amount. Hunt thanked the Town Manager for his good work.

3. Project Updates-

a. Opiate Abuse Crisis Task Force - Kreidler stated this is not an easy topic to delve into. There is not a newspaper without obituaries that tie to opiate abuse. He said he’s watched as a spectator, terrible to say, but not until after the recent liquor license hearing has he thought about it. He’s not

suggesting he can do anything, or this Board could, but a thought was to put together some professional people and have a game plan. As a result of the significant uptick in cases involving opiate abuse in Town, he established a crisis task force to work toward identifying support options and solutions to this critical matter. The group is comprised of representatives from local and regional Health and Human Services, Law Enforcement, EMS and administration. Today the Police Chief and Lieutenant attended a forum on the subject and brought back some information which he enclosed. To date, the group has reached out to the Mass Opioid Abuse Prevention Coalition (MOAPC) to engage and interface with their ongoing efforts. Additionally, they have entered into discussion with the makers of the documentary “The Hungry Heart” to work toward hosting a regional public screening of the movie here at Town Hall. It is a powerful and an educational outreach. He also has contacted MOAPC to obtain resources to bring to Winchendon. Kreidler stated a friend recently wrote something about opiate abuse that grabbed his attention. “These aren't ‘dirty dope friends or junkies,’ they are someone's daughters, sons, brothers, sisters, husbands, and wives caught in the web of addiction. Save a life and show love and compassion.” Some believe those words and others believe addiction is a crutch, Kreidler stated. There should be as much compassion as possible. Tough love vs. compassion is a hand debate. He expects people will disagree with an approach that is keyed toward addiction versus more than enforcement. Putting this together doesn't create an excuse for the behavior, or sanction it. If we put a Narcan can in each Police Officer's tool belt, they could possibly arrive on a scene and could save that person's life. From a public safety perspective, our Police and Fire will protect to serve. Police are still involved in the law, but it's multifaceted. O'Keefe said the abuse, the pain, the ultimate price of someone dying...he talked emotionally about his cousin and how he “died suddenly at home,” that's what that means when you see that as a reason for death in the obituaries. Hunt expressed her frustration with the Federal Government needing to do more about this problem and that programs should be free. O'Keefe thanked the Town Manager for putting the Task Force together and for doing something about it. Blair said they need to do the stings and take licenses away to anyone who sells this stuff to these kids. He recognized the swim upstream not being able to stop manufacturers from making those pills. Kreidler said the government has done something, but we are dealing with huge money in the pharmaceuticals. It's cheaper today to buy heroin than buy a six pack of beer. How do we portray information and show options and repercussions that's more than we are doing presently? Kids now on Saturday nights are doing heroin that would have, in the past drank beer. Ms. Langdon raised her hand in the audience and said she worked in substance abuse for forty-two years. She mentioned it's a medical diagnosis and she believes it's about education. Kids are where you have to start to make a difference. They need a reason to do something different. Kreidler said someone like her would be great to attend the Task Force meetings if she had time. It is far too easy to become desensitized to issues in today's culture and we all have an obligation to not do so in matters of critical importance. Opiate abuse is one such matter. The Task Force will be updating them as they progressed.

- b. **Police Station Project** - Kreidler informed the Board the Owner's Project Manager (OPM), CDR Maguire, is ready to begin as contracts have been executed but per the Board's voted Designer Selection Policy, the contract cannot take effect until the Board votes to delegate him as the contracting authority for the Police Station project moving forward. After some discussion on the Town Manager already having this authority and this just keeping things clear and pursuant to the voted Designer Selection Policy, Barrows moved to delegate the contracting authority for the Police Station Project to the Town Manager pursuant to the Town Bylaw assigning the duties of Chief Procurement Officer to the position of Town Manager. Hunt seconded. By vote of all aye, the motion carried unanimously.
- c. **Request for Qualifications (RFQ): Designer-** Kreidler reported the RFQ for Designer Selection is on the street. It's a thirty day window to evaluate submittals and award to a designer. The OPM, CDR Maguire, even though not officially contracted yet, brought up during negotiations, the 911

division that gives grant money for 911 terminals annually that has a carve out for capital upgrades for dispatch centers. He commented our OPM is already saving us money.

4. Miscellaneous Updates-

- a. **Snow and Ice Budgets** - Kreidler reported after a purchase of additional sand today, DPW Supt. John Deline believes we should be sufficiently stocked with sand and salt for the remainder of the winter. As of today, the snow and ice budgets are a total of \$135,000 in deficit. Last year, it was \$155,000. O'Keefe reminded everyone that having a deficit is normal and allowed by the state and seeing it less than last year with the winter we've had is a positive. Kreidler informed them that \$101,000 is in the budget and now it is at \$236,000. While we are allowed to over spend, we are held to a very tight line.

- b. **Police Vehicle Accident** - Kreidler reported one of our officers was involved in an automobile accident yesterday. State Police investigated and cited the other operator. The good news is that no one was injured. The bad news is that the accident involved one of our brand new cruisers. While the damage appears to be minimal, it is being evaluated from top to bottom and will be out of service until fully repaired. To look at the vehicle, the push bar in front took the brunt of damage.

- c. **Municipal Electrical Aggregation** – Already addressed earlier this evening.

MINUTES:

Monday, February 10, 2014 Regular Meeting – Blair moved to approve; Hunt seconded. By vote of all aye, the motion carried unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS: N/A

AGENDA ITEMS: N/A

ADJOURNMENT: With no Executive Session being needed; Blair moved to adjourn; Barrows seconded. By vote of all aye, the meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Daigle