

**TOWN OF WINCHENDON
TRI-BOARD MEETING BOS/SCHOOL COMMITTEE AND FINANCE COMMITTEE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2016
Town Hall, 2nd Floor Auditorium
109 Front Street, Winchendon, Mass.**

Present Board of Selectmen:

Barbara Anderson, Chairwoman
Audrey LaBrie, Vice-Chairwoman
Amy Salter
Michael Barbaro
Austin Cyganiewicz

Keith R. Hickey, Town Manager
Bill Schlosstein, Town Accountant
Linda Daigle, Executive Assistant
Debra Dennis, Recording Secretary

Present School Committee:

Dawn Harris, Chairwoman
Danielle Hart
Janet Corbosiero
Greg Vine
Larry Murphy

Steven Haddad, Supt. of Schools
Richard Ikonen, School Business Manager
Barrie Martin, Recording Secretary

Present Finance Committee:

Thomas Kane, Chairman
Cindy Leroy
Dr. Maureen Ward
James Robichaud

Absent: Robert Guenther, Christian Orobello and Tonya Dokulil

List of Documents Presented at Meeting:

- Preliminary FY16 Year End Budget Reports Email dated Sept. 9, 2016 from Town Accountant Bill Schlosstein (attached)
 - General Fund Report June 30, 2016 (filed)
 - Tax Recap Timeline FY17 (attached)
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The meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Anderson at 6:36 p.m. with the *Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States*.

Announce audio/video recording disclosure – The School Committee Recording Secretary and the Board of Selectmen Executive Assistant were recording the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: Ron Muse, Chairman of the Library Trustees came forward and introduced the new Library Director Manuel King. Mr. King thanked the Trustees and the staff at the Library. He said he is looking forward to bringing the library into the future. Mr. Muse said everyone is very supportive of the library project.

UPDATE ON THE CLOSING OF THE BOOKS FOR FY2016: Finance Committee Chairman Tom Kane said he spoke to the Town Accountant and he has received favorable reports from him. Mr. Hickey said the budget reports are more favorable than in the past. He's excited but there are some challenges. Mr. Rich Ikonen, the School

Business Manager, said the school will be in the black when the books are closed for FY16. School Superintendent, Steven Haddad, praised how well the School Business Manager and the Town Accountant have been working well together.

Bill Schlosstein, the Town Accountant, reported the forecast is good for the end of FY16. We will have around \$700,000 extra. He said it was the whole management team that accomplished this. Every department acted very responsible and had money to turn back into the town. We are working together putting the deficit era behind us. Chairman Kane questioned some of the language of the deficit legislation concerning paying down the debt. Mr. Hickey said he spoke to the DOR representative for Winchendon, Debra Wagner, and in her opinion any amount over and above the \$370,000 payment can be set in reserve, based on language; she will be getting us information.

Selectman Barbaro commented that there is a good working relationship between the school and town now. Everyone did a tremendous job.

TIMELINE FOR THE TOWN TO CLOSE FY16 BOOKS: Chairman Kane asked about the timeline for closing the FY16 books and submitting the recap to the state. Mr. Hickey said October 25th is the recap submission goal date. The timeline meets all deadlines. The timeline addresses the deficit legislation. Chairman Kane asked about any issues for Town Meeting. Mr. Hickey said the Fall Town Meeting is scheduled for November 14th and there will be housekeeping articles, zoning articles, potential selling of town property articles, small budget transfers and an article for the Royalston Road North Bridge for accepting gifts of property around the bridge. A potential article is for changes to the Town's bylaws and or Charter. Mr. Hickey said there will be a town appropriation for the sand-salt line item overage of around \$25,000 which will be addressed at the Fall Town Meeting.

PROGRESS ON THE UPDATING OF MUNIS: Chairman Kane said he appreciates the challenges that the School Business Manager and the Town Accountant faced. Mr. Schlosstein said that the Chart of Accounts needs to be updated and they need to get good information of what needs to be fixed in Munis and what a reasonable budget would be. He said this is not a project that will be happening quickly but will have progress by springtime.

Mr. Hickey said they have had some training with Munis and Bill has fostered a good relationship with Munis and other Accountants who use the Munis system. We have one shot at this and we don't want to make a mistake. School Committee member Larry Murphy said he was confused why it is taking so long. Mr. Hickey said he understands the importance of getting it done. From December to July there was no time for it because they were cleaning up the financials. The School Business Manager and the Town Accountant will take the time they need before they move on; they don't want to make a mistake. Selectman Barbaro said the previous Town Accountant and the Treasurer were working on the bridge between the Treasurer's software and the Town Accountant's software. This made the cash reconciliations much easier now. Some work has been done in the Munis system.

Chairman Kane said he is going to skip over the transfer from the Finance Committee Reserve Fund for \$27,000 for snow and ice because it is too late for that request and it will be requested at the Fall Town Meeting.

School Committee member Greg Vine discussed opposition to question 2 which would allow 12 Charter Schools to open up on an annual basis. He said the School Committee opposes passing this because it costs the school system and teachers at the Charter Schools don't need to have the same certifications. He said he wants to go on record opposing question 2 and the School Committee would like the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee to go on record joining us opposing question 2. Finance Committee Member Dr. Maureen Ward said you need to present both sides of the argument and this isn't the place to present the argument.

Stephanie Rondeau came forward. She said Winchendon currently has a loss of \$457,000 because of Charter Schools and this is before the passing of Question 2. Local School districts don't have a say who attends Charter Schools and educators at Charter Schools don't have to be licensed. The Charter Schools on October 1st receive funding and then they send back students but they keep the money for that quarter. Chairman Kane said the state

deducts the money from the cherry sheet and it gets paid quarterly. School Committee Chairman Janet Corbosiero said we would like as a School Committee to ask voters to vote no.

A motion to adjourn was made by Selectman Barbaro; Selectwoman Salter seconded. All aye.

The Board of Selectmen meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Debra Dennis, Board of Selectmen Recording Secretary