

## **TOWN COUNCIL MEETING FEBRUARY 21, 2006**

Under the Rules and Procedures of the Winthrop Town Council, Vice President Sanford called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM in the Joseph Harvey Hearing Room. Councilor Boncore, Councilor Calla, Councilor DelVento, Councilor Ferrino, Councilor Letterie, Councilor Maggio and Vice President Sanford were present. President Reilly and Councilor Gill were absent.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION** by Councilor Boncore to accept the minutes of Town Council Meeting February 7, 2006.

**AMENDMENT** by Councilor Letterie to table the minutes of February 7, 2006 until the next Town Council Meeting.

**2<sup>ND</sup>** by Councilor Ferrino

### **UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE**

**VOTED:** To table the minutes of February 7, 2006 Town Council meeting until the next Town Council Meeting, Tuesday, March 7, 2006.

### **WIND TURBINE STUDY COMMITTEE**

John Vitagliano, a member of the Wind Turbine Study Committee explains the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative/Winthrop Site Screening and Development Options Analysis Draft Report by Black & Veatch dated January 2005. Also submitted by Mr. Vitagliano, a Deer Island Wind Turbine Proposal. These reports explain the estimated cost of Wind Turbines, how it would be most beneficial and cost effective to the Town of Winthrop due to the rising high cost of utilities.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

John Vitagliano discusses his concerns regarding the acceleration of Massports expansion of the Taxiway at Logan Airport without any public notice to the Town of Winthrop. John asks the Council to go on the record of strongly being opposed to this expansion due to the high risks factors involved to the Town of Winthrop.

Mr. Vitagliano urges the Council to contact Winthrop's State Representatives or anyone else to try and stop this expansion because if this project goes ahead with the expansion it will mean a real degradation to the quality of life to the Town of Winthrop.

**MOTION** by Councilor Boncore  
**2<sup>nd</sup>** by Councilor Ferrino

**UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE**

**VOTED:** To bring in the Airport Hazards Committee to the next Town Council Meeting to discuss the expansion of the taxiway at Logan Airport

**CORRESPONDENCE**

The Council has received correspondence from the Citizen's for Fair and Balanced Government regarding the Dalrymple School.

**MOTION** by Councilor Letterie  
**2<sup>ND</sup>** by Councilor Boncore

**UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE**

**VOTED:** To accept the document from Citizen's for Fair and Balanced Government to be reviewed by the Capital Assets Committee.

Councilor Ferrino reported part of the Community Grant received from Representative Bob Deleo and Senator Travelini has been appropriated to fund the skateboard park but is still in Committee at the State. As soon as this money is released to the Town it will be acted upon.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilor Ferrino, Chairman of the Finance Committee reported the transfer of funds in the amount of \$25,000 from the Sewer Department Reserve Account to the Sewer Department Operating Budget and the transfer of funds in the amount of \$25,000 from the Water Department Reserve Account to the Water Department Operating Budget has been tabled because the Committee hasn't receive sufficient documentation of bills etc... When the bills come in the Finance Committee will bring these transfers to the Council.

Councilor Ferrino reported the Finance Committee has prepared a finance folder for each Town Council member. The finance folder consists of year to date budget reports, where every budget is presently, the percentage of funds used in each line item to be used as a reference until the Council receives the Supplemental Budget. This year- to- date report will give the Council an idea of what each department is working on for their budget.

Councilor Ferrino reported at their last meeting the Winthrop Town Council Finance Committee felt it was important for the record to put together some long-term goals and some short-term goals as they go forward with the Supplemental Budget and the 2007 budget. "Without goals you can't really develop a strategy of how you want to move forward".

### **Long-Term Goals**

1. To develop a plan that will allow us to put mitigation and PILOT funds into the Stabilization Fund in the amounts of \$300,000 in FY07, \$200,000 in FY08 and \$200,000 in FY09.
2. To generate a plan that will bring down the cost of energy while not disturbing customer service to the citizen's of Winthrop.
3. Ensure adherence to sound fiscal plan for meeting the operating capital needs of town within the confines of available resources, while meeting our savings goals.
4. Evaluate alternative methods to decrease the cost of services by exploring the financial benefits through regionalization, consolidation and collective bargaining.
5. Explore and create new revenue sources for the town of Winthrop.

### **Short-Term Goals**

1. To approve a level-funded 2007 budget that will be very conservative with at least \$250,000 in a reserve fund. The appropriate department heads should use a fiscal conservative spending mentality.
2. To ensure good and sound business practices are established and implemented throughout all town departments. Practices should include current and up-to-date financial tracking of purchase orders, expenditures, budget balances and asset inventories.
3. To have an automated fuel system in place by July 1, 2006. This system must be able to generate reports, have a security layer that will track all gallons of by vehicle as well as by individuals.
4. Work aggressively with the School Committee to create a budget that is clear and understandable to all residents.
5. The budget should address the infrastructure upgrades the council has voiced concerns about.

Councilor DelVento reported the Finance Committee has standardized a budget increase request form for all departments, agencies, boards, commissions that have come before the Council and the Council Finance Committee for additional funds. The form asks for the reason of the extreme circumstances for the request of the increase. Some numbers of original appropriation money spent to date, current balances as well as required department head to state what actions they have taken to offset these potential over budget expenses and also if they don't get the money or the portion of the money what actions are they proposing to take in order to stay within their budget. Everyone has to have a standard way of requesting funds, have everybody accountable for what they have, what they've done and what they are going to or not going to do with the money they have available. It is a basic form that everyone in the town will have to use.

Councilor Boncore reported that the next Rules Committee meeting would be Tuesday, February 28, 2006.

Vice President Sanford reported that the facilities planning committee met to check space for the Council Chamber move some offices around and also see what space is available for storage

**MOTION** by Councilor Letterie

**2<sup>ND</sup>** by Councilor Calla

**UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE**

**VOTED:** To discuss on the next Town Council agenda the appropriate appropriations discussed by the Facilities Committee in relation to space needed for the Council.

Councilor Maggio reported there will be a Public Health & Safety Committee Tuesday, February 28, 2006 following the Rules Committee.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Councilor Ferrino reported he has received a letter from WCAT, the Cable Access Committee requesting to understand the status of where the contractual agreement is with Comcast. Councilor Ferrino would like have a representative or someone from the Cable Access Committee come in and let the Council know where they are contractually.

**MOTION** by Councilor Ferrino

**2<sup>ND</sup>** by Councilor Letterie

**UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE**

**VOTED:** To bring the Winthrop Telecommunications Committee to the next Town Council Meeting regarding the WCAT; Comcast contract.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**MOTION** by Councilor Ferrino

**2<sup>ND</sup>** by Councilor Calla

**UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE**

**VOTED:** To refer the Supplemental budget to the Finance Committee.

Councilor Boncore requested that the committee list provided in the packet be divided relative to Council President appointments, Council appointments and Town Managers appointments.

Councilor Maggio gives praise to Jack MacDonald and is glad that the town took the time to honor him, very well deserved.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Patricia Milano and John Vitagliano made public comments

**UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE TO ADJOURN**

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

ATTEST:

Susan J. Duplin  
Clerk

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