



**Town Council Meeting  
February 15, 2011 7:00pm  
Harvey Hearing Room**

Under the Rules and Procedures of the Winthrop Town Council, President Turco called the meeting to order at 7:12PM in the Harvey Hearing Room. Councilor Boncore, Councilor DelVento, Councilor Powers, Councilor Calla, Councilor Maggio, Vice President, Letterie and Council President Turco were present. Councilor Varone and Councilor Sanford were absent.

After the Pledge of Allegiance the President asked the Clerk to call the roll.

**A motion was made by Councilor Boncore to accept the minutes from December 6, 2010, December 14, 2011, January 18, 2011  
2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilor Maggio  
Motion approved**

**Motion to accept the minutes of February 9, 2011 by Councilor Boncore 2<sup>nd</sup> by  
Councilor Maggio  
Motion approved**

Councilor DelVento and Councilor Letterie did not vote because they were not present at the February 9, 2011 meeting.

**Public Comment**

Scott Kinsella addressed the Council regarding a safety issue. He submitted a petition with signatures from parents of students at the Gorman Fort Banks School. They are requesting that DPW vehicles not access the school road, Kennedy Drive, during student drop off and pick up times to avoid a serious accident. Snow is being dumped up by the cemetery and there are no parking spots available. Parents are forced to park illegally.

Town Manger, Jim McKenna understands the concern of the parents and believes this concern needs more attention. He assured Mr. Kinsella that everyone involved wants the same outcome, improved accessibility and a safe environment for the students. The DPW has removed the snow up by the cemetery. A letter is going out to explain where to park in the area. For a long term solution a surveyor has been hired to look at another access road to ease the burden. The amount of snow this winter has increased the challenges that area faces. Dr. Lisi talked about a successful meeting he had where they discussed the issues. He also discussed in detail the loop and procedure parents have to go through to pick up their children. The parents must follow the rules. Parking needs to

be open and available to the parents. The area needs better signage and people to adhere to the no parking signs.

Vice Chairman of the School Committee Mr. Holden brought up the citizens of Overlook Drive and hopes that this Council will get this problem solved. The President assured Mr. Holden that it is a priority with him.

Police Chief Delehanty pointed out that his department is working with limited resources and there is not always an officer available to go the area.

Christine Bernstein a parent with seven year old twins at the Gorman Fort Banks School spoke of an incident where her child was in danger of being hit by a car. Vehicles should not park in the DPW parking lot. Someone suggested moving the playground and providing that area with parking would be a good solution. Not enough parking in the area. It was also discussed that the snow removal was not adequate in the area.

Todd Sacco, a member of the school committee in attendance at the meeting, mentioned public service employees should park further away to free up more space near the school for pick up and drop off.

Council President Turco clarified the discussion into three areas.

1. idea of no trucks at certain times during the day
2. parking issue
3. places to put snow

The Council needs to work with the Town Manager on these issues. For an immediate fix to the problem the President asked how feasible it would be to implement the idea of no DPW vehicles on the road except during emergencies during drop off and pick up, specifically 7:45-8:15 in the morning and 1:30-2:15 in the afternoon starting the Monday after February school vacation. Also, looking into private bus service to ease the traffic and a long term solution being building another access road.

The Town Manager responded with the details necessary to implement this idea. Expressing caution not to cause problems with the operations of the DPW.

Council Vice President Letterie spoke from experience having had to drop children off to the school and he agrees its time to be proactive. The school was changed to accommodate small children who need parental assistance. An access road is too far into the future and feels something must be done now to remedy the situation. Would like to see the DPW vehicles prohibited during the times discussed starting the Monday after school vacation.

Councilor Maggio began a discussion relative to snow removal. The President thought this issue should be worked out with the public works committee and DPW to work thru these issues.

Councilor DelVento wanted the DPW to use February school vacation to remove snow from the area and pointed out that the area near the cemetery for parking needs to be available for funerals. Carpooling is a good way to ease traffic. Councilor Powers agreed that something needs to be done but also pointed out that parents need to cooperate also and not double and triple park.

Christing Bernstein thought the morning time of 7:50 –8:15 would suffice but that the afternoon time was too long. Kindergarten dismissal is much lighter and not a problem at 1:20 a time of 1:50 to 2:15 would be sufficient and suggested that people not use this time for compost drop off also during these times.

Cara Huberman brought up how difficult it is to maneuver the area with more than one child and carriages. Parents walking down from cemetery would be difficult.

The President expressed how hard the DPW works and how successful they have been this winter in keeping our roads clear. At this time the Council President asked the Town Manager and Mr. Hickey if they would be comfortable with banning DPW vehicles from the road except in an emergency during drop off and pick up times until a permanent solution is put in place.

DPW Director, Dave Hickey said he understands the concerns of the parents. This has always been a topic at safety meetings. He takes these concerns very seriously and feels progress is being made. With the difficult winter he has not enforced parking violations in the DPW lot and this has escalated the problem. The traffic studies that have been done in the area show that truck traffic is less than 5%. What would be considered an emergency? He would be happy to be involved in the process of sorting out the specifics needed to get the problems solved. The President again stated the main question, can we have no DPW trucks on the road at 7:45 –8:15 in the morning and 1:50-2:15 in the afternoon? Dave Hickey said he would cooperate but was hesitant that this would be the solution. Councilor DelVento brought up the Open Meeting Law and that this subject was not on tonight's agenda and could not be voted on tonight. President Turco responded that the no trucks could be implemented without a vote but that the Open Meeting Law states that a subject that is brought up at a meeting can be voted on.

The Town Manager at this point responded yes to implement the no DPW truck times on Kennedy Drive for an immediate solution to the problem.

No other public comment

**Correspondence**  
none at this time.

## **Committee Reports**

Regarding The Health and Safety Committee Councilor Maggio spoke about an issue with the code red call system. She received some correspondence from constituents who did not get a recent call that was sent out on the system during the storms regarding parking bans. She asked the Fire Chief if he could explain the system.

Fire Chief Flanagan detailed how the system works. Messages will not be sent to a phone that takes greater than 30 seconds to answer. Must be answered within 30 seconds by a person or answering machine with a message. Unlisted phone numbers must register with the system. Cell phones can receive the code red call by registering on the town website. Also can receive a text message. Can also use caller ID to get the information by calling the number displayed and the message will be given.

Councilor Boncore gave a committee report for the Rules and Ordinance Committee regarding an easement requested at 123 Upland Road. Atty Falbo, representing the person seeking the easement made presentation recommending to the Council to grant this easement with a price of \$20,000. Motion is requested from the committee to the Council that the town manager approve this easement.

Motion to approve the easement to the owners of 123 Upland Road to the sum of \$20,000.

President Turco gave a School Committee update

1. Mr. Kevin Meagher Business Manager of the School Department resigned effective immediately at the last meeting
2. Superintendent Search Committee. Deadline for applications was last Friday. They have received 14 applications. They meet again Thursday.
3. A survey was sent out a survey to find out how many parents are interested in a service to bus children to and from schools and how much they are willing to pay for this service. The response was favorable. They are in the process of figuring out how much it would cost per student.
4. School committee had put \$50,000 aside in case of a deficit in the athletic budget and due to increased participation in sports none of that money will have to be touched.

## **Town Managers Report**

A letter of resignation was received from Aldo Amatucci from the Board of Health. The Town Manager thanked him for his valuable service. Now there is an open sit that needs to be filled. You have 30 days to submit an application with the Town Clerk. Councilor Maggio thanked Mr. Amatucci for his service he is a biologist and was a valuable resource with his knowledge of viruses and diseases.

The Board of Health has a new intern, Emily Strachan. She will be helping Eric Moore work on a comprehensive health needs report. MGH is interested in assisting us as well to develop policy. Councilor Maggio is developing a survey to help gather information it will need to be filled out and returned.

As of 4:00 p.m. today the parking ban was lifted. The Town Manager thanked the public for their understanding. Chief Flanagan said Chelsea is still experiencing parking problems due to snow. Our town is very passable. There are certain streets you still can't park on. Woodside Ave. near the restaurants. At this time any car that is obstructing traffic will be ticketed and towed.

The town manager announces that the budget process has begun. A draft request has gone out to the departments with a response due by next week. This will show a preliminary snapshot of where we stand.

The Town's Annual report is due before the budget.

A vote is needed from the Town Council on the endorsement of the scope of services for the school building project. Must review and analyze conditions of the schools and recommend a broader scope of work. The high School in particular repairs are not sufficient may need a bigger project.

**Motion by Councilor Boncore that the Town Council endorse a more comprehensive analysis of project options is warranted. These project options may include but not be limited to:**

- A. An analysis of repair options for the high School, to include addressing deficiencies as previously identified in various School accreditation reports;**
- B. An analysis of building a new High School as appropriate for Winthrop's projected high school population needs going forward;**
- C. An analysis of the existing conditions and long-term viability of the Middle School and recommendations as to repair or reconstruction options;**
- D. An analysis of whether or not a combined Middle School/High School project consolidated at a single location would be feasible and/or suitable to meet the long-term needs of the School District.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> by Vice President Letterie**

Discussion:

Vice President Letterie makes it clear this is just to explore the options nothing is set in stone. Councilor DelVento endorses looking at all options just being realistic a middle school/high school combination is very expensive. Wants to explore options.

No further discussion.

**Motion passes**

Two recommendations from TSAC like to refer to the Rules and Ordinance Committee for further consideration.

1. Relocation of the taxi stand
2. make permanent the four way stop at Pauline, Hermon and Winthrop Streets.

No objection

Memo dated February 15, 2011 regarding TSAC recommendations. Referred.

There will be a preliminary meeting with Speaker DeLeo on March 3<sup>rd</sup> regarding Yirrell Beach at 2:00.

Questions for the Manager

V.P. Letterie asked about the rink. The manager responded that the procurement process is complete and they will be awarding a bid. A committee would be a great idea.

Leak detection survey MWRA Program. standard program liscense operate system conduct audit good pricing look to see where there are leaks we don't know about it's a good tool.

### **OLD Business**

Petition for designation of Overlay District stays on the table. There will be a hearing March 1, 2011 on the subject.

Hermon Street bus route stays on the table.

### **New Business**

Councilor Calla asked that CAPIC be put on tonights agenda.

CAPIC, (Community Action Programs Intercity Inc.)

Councilor Calla wanted to make a public service announcement that CAPIC has fuel assistance available and a weatherization program available in our community. Can qualify as a resident and as a homeowner. There is an application process.

Marilyn Murphy, Energy Director gave a brief overview of the program. The guidelines are better now. This is the highest income eligibility that they have ever worked with.

Money goes directly to company gas co etc. Phone # 617884-6130 brochure will be put on the web page. Website [www.CAPICinc.org](http://www.CAPICinc.org).

### **MWRA appointment Marie Turner**

**Motion by Councilor Boncore**

**2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilor Powers to approve the reappointment of Marie Turner to MWRA Board of Directors**

**Discussion: Councilor Calla and President Turco commended Marie on a great job.**

**Appointment is approved**

### **Appointment of Robert Boncore esq. to Winthrop License Commission**

**Motion by Vice President Letterie**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Councilor Maggio**

**Councilor Boncore left the room**

**Discussion hearing none**

**Approved Robert Boncore esq. to the license commission**

It was decided that the Spring Financial Forum will be March 29<sup>th</sup>

Next Town Council Meetings are

March 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>

April 5<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>  
May 3<sup>rd</sup> and May 17<sup>th</sup>

**Councilor Boncore made a Motion to suspend the rules and change the April 19<sup>th</sup> Town Council meeting to April 26<sup>th</sup>  
2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilor Maggio  
Approved**

Council Roundtable leave that on the table.

**Public comment**

None

The Town Manager has requested that the Town Council vote to go into Executive Session for the purposes of discussing a matter of public safety/security. Afterward we will adjourn.

**Motion to go into Executive Session by  
Councilor Boncore in accordance with the rules and procedures of the Town Council rule #7 B 4 to discuss the deployment of security personnel or devices.  
2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilor Powers  
Discussion: none**

**The Council Clerk was asked to call a roll call vote to go into executive session.**

<b>Councilor DelVento</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>Councilor Powers</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>Councilor Boncore</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>Councilor Calla</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>Councilor Maggio</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>Vice President Letterie</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>President Turco</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>Vote unanimous</b>	

**7 Yes votes. The Council went into Executive Session at 9:20 P.M.**

Documents used in this meeting are as follows:

Petition letters and pictures from the parents of the Gorman Fort Banks School  
Town Manager's Council meeting packet  
Appointment letters for all of the above appointments

These documents can be found in the Town Clerk's Office upon request.