

# **TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

## **January 17, 2012**

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TOWN CLERK  
JENNIFER KEE

Under the Rules and Procedures of the Winthrop Town Council, President Gill called the Town Council Meeting to order at 7:00 PM in the Cummings School Cafetorium. Vice President Varone, Councilor DelVento, Councilor Letterie, President Gill, Councilor Boncore, Councilor Sanford, Councilor Powers and Councilor Mael were in attendance and a quorum was established. Councilor Calla arrived at approximately 7:30 as she was at a Precinct 6 Meeting regarding the Temple. Councilor DelVento led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **MINUTES**

**July 19, 2011 – Pending**

**Councilor Letterie made a motion to approve minutes for December 20, 2012  
2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilor Boncore**

**Motion passes**

Council President Gill and Councilor Mael abstained from voting, as they were not sworn into the Council as of that date.

**Councilor Sanford made a motion to approve minutes for January 3, 2012  
2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilor Letterie**

**Motion passes**

Councilor Powers and Councilor Sanborn abstained from voting, as they were not present at the meeting.

### **PRESENTATION BY KRT APPRAISER**

Ken Rodgers and Rob Tzier did a PowerPoint presentation on the methodology of the evaluation process for the new assessment and tax bills. They explained the different types of evaluations and answered questions as to why the assessment of your home may have changed. They also informed the public that if anyone had an issue with their valuation they could file for abatement. It was stressed that if you file abatement you need to do so before February 1, 2012. They also suggested that the property owners look at comparable sales and review their property card. KRT Appraisers also let the council and public know that they are available for appointments for individual sessions with property owners regarding specific questions they may have to their individual property.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was a lengthy public comment period regarding the presentation and the evaluation process. Mr. McNiff of Precinct 3, Ted Fiskel, Mark Rotondo of Precinct 2, John Rodgers of Precinct 3, Dave Osborne of Precinct 2, Joe Vecchio of Precinct 5, Ms. Sharon Cohen of Precinct 5, Wilson Reddy of Precinct 2, John Young of Precinct 5,

Genia Cerulli of Precinct 3, Peggie Gilbert and Cliff Gilbert of Seal Harbor One, Brenda Bertino of Precinct 3, Mike Flynn of Precinct 1, John Fife of Precinct 3 and Kevin O'Sullivan all asked questions to KRT regarding land value, building value, abatement process, concerns about KRT methodology, two families, market values, depressed areas, curb appeal and other general assessment questions.

President Gill, Assessor Alan Maruzzi, KRT Appraisers, Manager of Assessing Michele Karas and Councilors answered questions and stressed the importance of putting in for an abatement and making an individual appointment if you believe your assessment is incorrect. President Gill stressed to file for an abatement before February 1, 2012.

There was also a lengthy public comment regarding moving the polling/voting from the Winthrop Housing Authority to the Senior Center. Peg Lyons, Director of the Winthrop Housing Authority asked the council to please reconsider changing the polling/voting locations. DelBrook Binns of 8 Golden Drive, Precinct 4 provided the Council with a petition of people against the change in polling/voting locations. Jean Maggio questioned if there had been an official vote and President Gill stated that it was reflected in the minutes of June 21, 2011 Council meeting. Winthrop Housing Board Member Joseph Boncore and Senior Center Director Nancy Williams spoke of the upset seniors and asked the council to reconsider changing the voting location back to Golden Drive. Frank Ferrara Chairman of Winthrop Housing Board, Ruth Delsolio and Judy Vankooman all spoke in favor of keeping the voting as it is at Golden Drive.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

President Gill read letters from Peg Lyons, Grace Federico, Dottie Donofrio, and Lee Dzedulionis regarding the change in polling/voting locations and their concerns and reasons for keeping it in the same location. President. Gill also read a letter regarding bus service from Patrick Keyes and Mr. Gill stated that he received an application from Paolo Franzese for the Board of Assessors.

**Motion by Councilor Letterie to suspend rules and to take new business out of order  
2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilor Powers**

**Motion Passes**

**Councilor Powers made a motion for discussion purposes to move polling place for  
Precinct 4 back to Golden Drive**

**2<sup>nd</sup> by Varone**

Precinct 6 and 3 will still go to the Senior Center

*(There was no vote taken on this as it was tabled until our next meeting scheduled on February 7, 2012)*

There was discussion that the Town Clerk's Office would save money consolidating to one location. Councilor Boncore and Councilor Powers agree that the clerk sets the polling/voting locations and the council only sets the money. It was agreed that the Town Clerk Carla Vitale should attend our next council meeting and have her input

regarding the polling/voting locations. There was also discussion if there would be money in the Town Clerk's budget to cover adding Golden Drive back as a polling/voting place. Councilor DelVento stated that there were also issues of parking and safety at the Golden Drive location.

Councilor Letterie exercised his right to postpone this Agenda Item regarding voting/polling locations until the next council meeting stating he would like to review the DVD from the June 21, 2011 Council Meeting to see if there was a vote taken.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **DPW Subcommittee Report**

Chairman Paul Varone read the minutes of the January 9, 2012 meeting.

### **Motion to accept the minutes by Councilor Powers**

**2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilor Sanford**

**Motion Passes**

The topics in the DPW Subcommittee were Winthrop Street Corridor Improvement Project and discussion of Chapter 90 Projects.

### **Rink Committee Report**

Councilor Letterie discussed the Rink Committee Meeting of the their January 12, 2012 Discussion included operations of the Rink to try to facilitate new revenue by concession stand, skate sharpening, technology and calendar for ice time

## **TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

### **Town Manager James McKenna spoke on:**

- **Awarded Contract to proceed with Contract Three Project** – Engineer to come and do a full presentation and address large concerns of the Town.
- **Monthly standing Dashboard of the Town** – CFO Michael Bertino and Assistant CFO Michele Karas put together seconded side operating budget. It is a good way to keep account of our budgets.
- **Report on Granicus Technology** – Mr. McKenna requested this be referred to Finance Committee. Councilor Boncore had questions regarding this just being a recommendation. Councilor Powers stated that the Subcommittee recommended Plan B and is looking for a plan of who will manage and run the software. The Town Manager sated someone has to manage the software; it has a human element that needs to be addressed. Town Manager referred Granicus Technology back to Finance Subcommittee.
- **Recipient of Massport Boat** - Mr. McKenna thanked Massport for their boat donation and stated that now we may be able to donate our older vessel to the High School Sailing Program.
- **Memo for Transfer Requests for Finance Subcommittee** - for supplemental funding.
- **MBTA Fare and Service Changes** - Mr. McKenna did not see Winthrop listed at Public Hearing regarding changes.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

None.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Memo from Town Manager Regarding Transfer Requests:**

\$38,040 to the Unemployment Account from the Unemployment Reserve.

\$33,000 for Rink Litigation from Council Reserve

\$17,200 for Assessor Contract Services from Council reserve

\$23,000 for Parking "Municipal Hearings" Department from Council Reserves

\$2,300 for Town Council Salary account from Council Reserve

### **Motion by Letterie for Transfer Requests Funds to be referred to Finance Committee**

**2<sup>nd</sup> by Powers**

**Motion Passes**

### **Motion by Councilor Sanford for Granicus to go to Finance Committee**

**2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilor Varone**

**Motion Passes**

### **Councilor DelVento requested to waive council rules to introduce a new item**

**President Gill made a motion to waive council rules to introduce a new item**

**2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilor Powers**

**Motion passes**

### **Motion by Councilor DelVento to request to refer to Finance Committee to review**

**\$35,876 unpaid School Department bills FY11**

**2<sup>nd</sup> by Powers**

**Motion Passes**

CFO Michael Bertino brought forward a Point of Information stating it was introduced in September the School Committee decided to rescind because it was on the Agenda for so long and it was just changed to include all purchase orders that weren't paid and it should have been on the list of Transfer Requests. Mr. Bertino will provide all information to the new Finance Committee.

Council President Gill in accordance with Section 3-2 made a recommendation to appoint Paolo Franzese to the Board of Assessors

### **Councilor Boncore made a motion to approve the appointment Paolo Franzese to the Board of Assessors**

**2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilor Sanford**

**Motion Passes**

**Motion by Councilor Letterie to approve Bond Authorization request for Contract Three Project to be referred to Finance Committee**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> by Powers**  
**Motion Passes**

**Motion by Councilor Sanford to bring forward Chamber of Commerce Award Recipients**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> by Varone**  
**Motions Passes**

**Councilor Sanford made a motion to present Citations from the Council to all those receiving awards from the Chamber of Commerce**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilor Varone**  
**Motions Passes**

Councilor Sanford read all recipients receiving awards from the Chamber of Commerce and the Town Council for 2012: Youth Leadership: David Tracy and Erin O'Leary, Educational Excellence: Mary McGungile, Excellence in the Arts: David Limina, Coach of the Year: David Brown, Community Service: Roseann Trionfi-Mazzuchelli, Visual Achievement: Elliot Whittier Insurance, Business of the Year: Hong Kong Dragon Restaurant, Chamber Member of the Year: Sheryl Ann Queen, Lifetime Achievement: Charles & Deborah Tewksbury, Patriot Award: Michael Hammerman, and Town Service: Mary Lou Osborne.

CFO Michael Bertino stated that since this is our second Bond Authorization he would like to have time to speak at the next Finance Committee Meeting.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Guy Brandenstein has concerns over the MBTA may cancel bus service. President Gill encourages all to attend MBTA meetings regarding bus issues.

Councilor DelVento set a date for a Finance Committee Meeting on January 31, 2012 for 6:00.

Councilor Calla asked Police Chief Delehanty to explain his departments new outreach program. Chief Delehanty stated that Sergeant Rodgers created a Facebook Like Button that will automatically give you updates of what is going on at our Police Department.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion by Councilor Boncore in regards to Section 7.3 to go into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilor Letter**

**Councilor DelVento – Yes; Councilor Letterie – Yes; Councilor Powers – Yes; councilor Boncore – Yes; Councilor Sanford – Yes; Councilor Calla – Yes; Councilor Mael- Yes; Vice President Varone – Yes; Council President Gill – Yes  
9 Yea / 0 Nay**

**Town Council went into Executive Session at approximately 10:15**

**Motion by Councilor Letterie to end Executive Session**

**2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilor Sanford**

**Councilor DelVento – Yes; Councilor Letterie – Yes; Councilor Powers – Yes; councilor Boncore – Yes; Councilor Sanford – Yes; Councilor Calla – Yes; Councilor Mael- Yes; Vice President Varone – Yes; Council President Gill – Yes  
9 Yea / 0 Nay**

**Motion to Adjourn by Councilor Boncore**

**2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilor Sanford**

**Motion Passes**

**Town Council Meeting Adjourned at approximately 11:00 pm**

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A DVD of this meeting is available from WCAT

Public Documents used in this meeting are available in the Town Manager's Office.

KRT PowerPoint Slideshow

Letters to Council President Gill regarding Polling Location

Board of Assessor Application from Paolo Franzese

DPW Subcommittee Minutes of January 9, 2012

Town Manager's Report

Monthly Budget Report - Dashboard Info

Memo from Town Manager regarding Transfer Requests to Finance Committee

Chamber of Commerce Award Recipient List

Respectfully submitted,  
Town Council Clerk  
Kathleen S. Hickey