

Winterport Town Council Meeting

MINUTES

Tuesday, May 4th, 2021

Call to Order: Chair Cooper called the Meeting to order at 7:15pm.

Roll Call: Councilor Higgins, Councilor Ginn, Councilor Ronco, Councilor English-Flanagan, and Chairperson Cooper are present.

Consent Agenda (items marked with an asterisk *)- Councilor Ronco requested a notation to the Tuesday, May 18th, 2021 meeting that the Ambulance Service Committee Meeting would be hosted before the Council Meeting at the Union Meeting House at 6pm. Councilor English-Flanagan motioned to accept the Consent Agenda as amended. Seconded by Councilor Ronco. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Adopt Agenda: Councilor Ronco motioned to adopt the Agenda for Tuesday, May 4th, 2021 as presented. Councilor English-Flanagan seconded. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Financial Reports:

May 4 th , 2021	May 18 th , 2021
Gen Fund Cash Position, Reserves, Trusts, and Investments YTD	Expenditures/revenue & budget bal. Monthly (Regular Format) Quarterly
Gen. Fund. Gen. Ledger Summary (Detail New)	Current Year Property Tax
	Liens & Foreclosures Status

Payroll and Invoice Warrants

A. Payroll through Sunday, April 18th, 2021- Councilor Ronco motioned to pay payroll through Sunday, April 18th, 2021. Motion seconded by Councilor Ginn. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

B. Invoices through Monday, April 19th, 2021- Councilor Ginn motioned to pay invoices through Monday, April 19th, 2021. Motion seconded by Councilor Ronco. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Guest Speakers & Committee Reports- None

Input from Citizens on Unscheduled Items- None

Town Manager Presentation- No presentation scheduled.

Schedule of Meetings

A. April 20th, 2021 & May 4th, 2021*

Accept Minutes

A. Town Council Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, April 20th, 2021- Councilor English-Flanagan motioned to accept the Town Council Meeting Minutes from Tuesday, April 20th, 2021. Seconded by Councilor Higgins. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Scheduled Items:

A. Old Business

- 1. Items Ready for Consideration- No Items**
- 2. Items Pending Further Action- None**

B. New Business

- 1. Non-Binding Advisory Question Mailing Results-** Town Manager shared the results of the mailing. He explained that the deadline for the return of the survey was Thursday, April 22nd, 2021. In total we received back 681 with 270 voting "Yes" and 411 "No" votes. The report broke down the "Yes" answers by each subcategory listed the comments that were provided by participating citizens for the Council's consideration. Mr. Crooker then requested direction from the Council as to how to or how not to proceed with this information. The Council agreed that the Town majority voted "No" and therefore the Council declined to take any further action on this matter.
- 2. Office Computer-** Town Manager Crooker advised the Council that when the new receipt printer was added and the computer was updated, it ultimately disabled the computer. SJ Rollins wrote up an explanation that stated at this point, replacing the computer would be less expensive than continuing to try to remedy the issue. Town Manager Crooker requested use of the contingency funds to get a new computer. Councilor Ronco motioned to allow Town Manager Crooker to utilize Contingency Funds to purchase a new office computer. Motion seconded by Councilor English-Flanagan. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**
- 3. Local Option Vote Determination as required by PL 2019, c. 672-** Last year there was a law passed that requires Municipalities to reaffirm the votes taken in regards to liquor in their Municipalities over the years. The law calls the statutes in to question and also the language used throughout those votes. There are now different statutes in place for various types of liquors, wines, beers, etc. The state is now requesting participating Municipalities to add the questions to their ballots to reaffirm the Town's want to participate in spirit sales. This must be done before July 1st, 2022. Current Law dictates that this issue be brought up at a Town Meeting for discussion and citizen input. Town Manager Crooker explained that there is also emergency legislation in progress to allow the Municipal Officers to be the ones to reaffirm the Town's participation but that is not the law as of yet. The Office is looking back in Meeting Minute records to hopefully gain the needed information for how our Municipality will have to participate to prevent licensure revocation under the new statutes. Town Manager brought this to the Council simply to bring it to their attention. There is no action needed at this moment. The Council wants to wait on taking action until further information is provided.
- 4. State Salt Bid Results & Award/Contract-** The State Salt Bid for all participating Municipalities was awarded to Morton Salt Inc. Based upon the 600 Ton estimate for Winterport the offer was for \$49.31 per ton. Town Manager Crooker contacted the state back about the location as well as the wait time for delivery after an order is placed. The rep advised that the salt was stored in Searsport and that contract stipulates a delivery within 5 days of receiving the order. Previous years salt contracts were awarded to New England Salt at the most recent cost of \$50.05 per Ton. Councilor Ginn advised that he had spoken to Steve Clisham and negotiated a 3% increase to \$51.55 per ton for the upcoming season with no stipulation on tonnage requirements or minimum and a maximum 2-day turnaround time for delivery upon order. Town Manager Crooker advised the Council that should they choose not to respond within the allotted time, the State would assume that we are not interested in participating. The Council expressed interest in staying with our current provider, New England Salt and to decline the States offer to participate in their program. Councilor English-Flanagan motioned to allow Town Manager Crooker to decline participation in the State Salt Bid. Motion seconded by Councilor Ronco. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

5. **Town Manager's Contract-** Town Manager Crooker inquired to the status of the Council's decision on his contract. He offered to submit a draft with the amendments discussed previously for their consideration. His intention is to provide that draft for the Council's approval prior to the submitting the Budget. The Council will accept the draft upon its completion for review.

Legal: None

Appointments/Resignations:

- A. Resignations- Megan Hayes-Recreation Board. Councilor English-Flanagan motioned to accept the resignation of Megan Hayes from the Recreation Board. Motion seconded by Councilor Ronco **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**
- B. Appointments- None

Correspondence/Significant Items

Outgoing

1. No Outgoing

Incoming

1. DM&J Check #4033*

Minutes/Agendas:

1. Waldo County Commissioners Court Session Agenda May 5th, 2021

Communications:

A. Town Manager's Report-

1. White Paper Report on Traffic Noise on Main St- Mr. Richardson submitted a white paper report on his findings on the noise complaint on Main St. Town Manager Crooker submitted it to the Council for review and is now seeking guidance on how to proceed with the findings. The Council instructed Town Manager Crooker to thank Mr. Richardson for his efforts and information.
2. Water Sewer Warrant Article- Town Manager Crooker did receive input from the Town's Attorney about the Water and Sewer Districts request to be added to the ballot. The Attorney recommended that we look into whether the Town at any time adopted Provision 30-A MRS A-5722-10, which would set restrictions on how payment of any debt services can occur. It prohibits Municipalities from being financially burdened by debts incurred by capitol improvements and forbids it from even being brought to the voters at large and lays that debt exclusively on the rate payers. Research is still on-going and any findings will be shared with the Council at the earliest opportunity.
3. Eagle Scout Project Proposal- An individual who is trying to obtain Eagle Scout status has volunteered to paint the Victoria Grant Center. Town Manager Crooker advised the Council that should they accept this offer, there would need to be a few repairs on the boards before painting. The Council accepted the offer.
4. VGCC Usage- Town Manager Crooker has received requests to begin using the Victoria Grant Center. The Council agreed that with signed COVID-19 waivers, groups who previously used the center would be permitted to resume use.
5. Foreclosures- In regards to Foreclosures, Town Manager Crooker was seeking the Council's guidance on accepting funds from residents previously in a buy back who have defaulted, and now would like to pay the balance in full. Also, would that be acceptable to release our interest in the property. Councilor Ronco confirmed that in these cases there are not additional outstanding fees such as legal consultation fees from the account that we have incurred. Town Manager Crooker confirmed that there would be no

additional fees unaccounted for. The Council agreed that if someone pays their balance in full, that the Town will release their interest in the property.

6. Noise Complaint- Town Manager Crooker consulted the Code Enforcement Office in response to a written complaint the town received related to the drag strip as well a verbal noise complaint about a resident that lives in the village. The Code Enforcement Officer indicated that we do not have any Town ordinances in place to restrict noise so there is not much that we can do to enforce noise restriction.

B. Response to Council Questions

C. Council Comments- Councilor Ronco advised Town Manager and the Council that she had heard there was photographic evidence of who wrote graffiti on the Masonic Lodge. He understands that information to be true and that the Police are dealing with it.

Councilor Higgins mentioned that the trough on the corner of Whig St and Main St is in disrepair and in need of moving and repair. Town Manager Crooker had the Public Works Supervisor request quotes for moving and repairing the item and they came back generally just under \$1,000. Town Manager Crooker advised the Council that he had planned to address the issue in the coming year's budget.

Signatures:

Executive Sessions:

Adjourn: Councilor English-Flanagan motioned to adjourn at 8:22pm. Seconded by Councilor Higgins.
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Meetings:

Dates & Time of other meetings between May 4th, - May 17th, 2021

Recreation Board Monday, May 10, 2021 6:30 PM

Board of Assessors Wednesday, May 12th at 4:00 PM.

Training & Days Off:

Minutes prepared and respectfully submitted by Shannon Bennet.



Stephen Cooper



Corey Ginn



Ann Ronco



Maggie English-Flanagan



Tammy Higgins