

Approved: 9/23/19

**TOWN OF WINCHENDON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2019 6:30 P.M.
Town Hall, 2nd Floor Auditorium
109 Front Street, Winchendon, Mass.**

Present:

Audrey LaBrie, Chair
Barbara Anderson, Vice-Chair
Michael Barbaro
Amy Salter
Rick Ward

Keith R. Hickey, Town Manager
Linda Daigle, Executive Assistant
Lindsay Kuchta, Recording Secretary

List of Documents Presented at Meeting:

- National Grid Pole Petition-Lakeview Drive (filed)
- Email of Resignation from Historic Commission/Historic District- Corey Bohan (filed)
- Email of Interest for Historic Commission/Historic District- Don O'Neil (filed)
- Constable Application- Raymond Gonzalez (filed)
- Board of Selectmen Notice of Vacancies, September 2019 (filed)
- Application for Entertainment Permit- American Legion Post 193- Car Show September 14, 2019 (filed)
- Application for Solicitor's Permit- Chet Dube LGCY Power (filed)
- Application for Entertainment Permit from Town of Winchendon-2019 Winchendon Fall Festival, October 12, 2019 (filed)
- Application for Three (3) Special One Day Liquor Licenses from The Harbour Restaurant, Inc.- Friday, October 11, Saturday, October 12th, and Sunday, October 13, 2019 (filed)
- Winchendon Council on Aging Update from Director Sheila Bettro (filed)
- Application for Abatement of Water and/or Sewer Charges- 155 Pearl Street (filed)
- MEMO dated 9/19/19 from Planning Department Re: Possible CDBG Grant Requests for FY20 (attached)
- MEMO from Keith Hickey Re: Proposed Fall Town Meeting Schedule (filed)
- Report of the Town Manager (attached)
- Minutes:
 - Monday, August 19, 2019 Regular Meeting
 - Monday, August 19, 2019 EXECUTIVE SESSION

LaBrie called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

No one announced they were audio recording the meeting this evening.

1. SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

LaBrie noted Fall Fest isn't for another few weeks; there were no other Selectmen's Comments.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

There were no public comments this evening.

3. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

*Board of Selectmen Minutes
September 9, 2019*

3.1. National Grid Pole Petition – Lakeview Drive- LaBrie read the public hearing notice.

Barbaro moved to open the Pole Petition Public Hearing, seconded by Ward with a vote of all aye.

Kim Tavallaimola came forward on behalf of National Grid for the petition. Ms. Tavallaimola noted that the owners at 276 Lakeview Drive made some upgrades to their service, and when this occurs everything must be brought up to current standards. The current line running to their house is supported by a tree, which is not up to standards. A sub pole, which is a smaller pole, will be installed right across from 31 Lakeview Drive.

Anderson asked if any trees would be cut down in the process, to which Ms. Tavallaimola replied no trees will be taken down, they are simply putting in a pole.

LaBrie asked if there were any abutters present who wished to speak to the matter; Kirk Dansky of 260 Lakeview Drive came forward. Mr. Dansky noted he lives next door to the property upgrading their electricity and obtains his electricity from the wire that is being moved. He asked if his electricity would be affected at all during this process, to which Ms. Tavallaimola replied no. Mr. Dansky thanked the Board and Ms. Tavallaimola.

Robert Ricks of Hilltop Terrace came forward and wanted to ensure that houses across the lake would not be affected. Both Ms. Tavallaimola and LaBrie explained they would not be affected. Mr. Ricks thanked the Board for their time.

LaBrie asked if there was anyone else present who wished to speak to the matter; none came forward.

Barbaro moved to close the Pole Petition Public Hearing, seconded by Ward with a vote of all aye.

Barbaro moved to approve the Pole Petition for one Single Owned pole on Lakeview Drive, Plan No. 28816259, as presented this evening, seconded by Anderson.

LaBrie asked if there was any further discussion, to which none was heard.

By a vote of all aye the motion carried.

4. APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS:

4.1. Recreation Commission Resignation – Erica Santos- LaBrie noted Ms. Santos was no longer able to serve on the Recreation Commission.

Barbaro moved the Board accept the resignation of Erica Santos from the Recreation Commission and thanked her for her service, seconded by Anderson with a vote of all aye.

4.2. Historic Commission/Historic District Resignation – Corey Bohan-LaBrie noted Mr. Bohan has resigned from his position.

Barbaro moved the Board accept the resignation of Corey Bohan from the Historic Commission/Historic District and thanked him for his service, seconded by Anderson.

Anderson noted that Mr. Bohan has worked with the Historic Commission for a long time, and we owe him thanks.

LaBrie stated a motion has been made and seconded.

With a vote of all aye the motion carried.

- 4.3. Historic Commission/Historic District Regular Member Appointment – Don O’Neil-LaBrie noted the appointment of Don O’Neil, who would be taking the position vacated by Mr. Bohan.

Barbaro moved the Board approve the appointment of Don O’Neil as a full member of the Historic Commission/Historic District replacing the vacant seat left by Mr. Bohan, with the term to expire June 30, 2022, seconded by Anderson with a vote of all aye.

Anderson mentioned there was another gentleman who wanted to serve as an alternate member and asked if anyone had reached out to him to let him know the position might be available?

Peg Corbosiero, Chair of the Historic Commission/Historic District, came forward and noted the last time she was here, that individual did not show up to a meeting. She asked that he please apply again if he is interested.

Hickey noted he can reach out to the applicant to ask if he would like to meet with the Commission.

- 4.4. Constable Appointment – Raymond Gonzalez-Raymond Gonzalez came forward for his appointment as Constable.

LaBrie asked what interested Mr. Gonzalez in being a constable, and how did it lead him to Winchendon? Mr. Gonzalez replied, noting he has been living in town since 2003, went to a federal academy, graduated the Police Academy in 2000, has the experience with the paper work and legal system and is ready to serve his time as a constable.

LaBrie asked if there were any questions, none were heard.

Barbaro moved to appoint Raymond Gonzalez as a Constable for a term expiring June 30, 2022, seconded by Salter with a vote of all aye.

- 4.5. Board of Selectmen Appointed Committees and Boards List of Vacancies-LaBrie read the Notice of Vacancies and noted those who are interested can send their letters of interest to the Town Manager’s Office or through the Town’s website.

Ward noted the Finance Committee still needs two members, it is important to fill those spots.

Anderson noted, speaking of the Communication Committee, it came to her attention on social media that Ruth DeAmicis will be resigning from the Winchendon Courier. We have really lost another outlet. As far as I know, we don’t have anybody to continue getting information out to the public. Thank you Ruth for all she has done for all of these years.

5. PERMIT/LICENSE APPLICATIONS:

- 5.1. Entertainment Permit – American Legion Car Show 9/14/19- Scott Gauthier came forward for the American Legion Entertainment permit for the car show to be held on September 14, 2019. The event is a fundraiser for Wreaths Across America. The event is free and open to the public, any money raised through food sales or other sales that will be happening at the event will go towards Wreaths Across America, something that has been truly dear to the town for some time.

LaBrie noted there will be music, a 50/50 raffle, burgers, dogs and some other food, and trophies. The event is Saturday the 14th from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the American legion.

Barbaro stated it is a great fundraiser.

Barbaro moved the Board approve the Entertainment Permit for the American Legion Post 193 for Sat., Sept. 14th from 11:00am to 4:00pm, seconded by Anderson with a vote of all aye.

LaBrie wished Scott the best of luck with the event.

- 5.2. Solicitation/Hawker/Peddler Permit – Chet Dube, Residential Solar Development- Chet Dube came forward on behalf of his Solicitation/Hawker/Peddler Permit application for residential solar development. Mr. Dube noted LGCY Power is a direct door to door solar team for the company Sun Run. They are the largest residential solar financier in the country, to whom National Grid recently invested \$100,000,000.00, focusing on National Grid towns with the idea when we install solar at no cost, it will significantly reduce the homeowner's bills. As a result, it does help to stabilize the power distribution in the neighborhoods. It might not be a necessity to stabilize the grid in Winchendon as the town already has existing grids.

LaBrie noted Mr. Dube's application states his hours of door to door knocking would be from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Mr. Dube added he does not go knocking when it is dark outside.

Ward expressed concern with Mr. Dube knocking at 7:00 p.m. as it can be dark out, and the elderly community could be leery of someone coming door to door. Additionally, Ward is curious about the time frame of the permit.

Daigle noted the permit will expire December 31, 2019, at which time Mr. Dube will be sent a renewal packet.

Mr. Dube stated he would not be out knocking during dark hours, and truthfully won't be spending a ton of time in Winchendon.

After further discussion, it was clarified that the door to door hours are typically permitted to go until 7:00 p.m. or until dusk; this time frame allows for flexibility with the change of the seasons and is even across the Board. LaBrie also made Mr. Dube aware that he must notify the Police of his routes when he will be in town, and of the Fall Fest where he could hold a booth to promote the business he represents.

Anderson moved the Board approve the Solicitation/Hawker/Peddler Permit for Chet Dube, representing "LGCY Power" with hours being Monday through Saturday 9:00AM to dusk but no later than 7:00PM and to notify the Police Dept. when he will be in Town soliciting each day, seconded by Barbaro with a vote of Salter, Barbaro, Anderson and LaBrie aye and Ward no, the motion carried 4-1.

Mr. Dube thanked the Board.

- 5.3. Entertainment Permit – Town of Winchendon Fall Festival Oct. 12, 2019- Nicole Roberts came forward on behalf of the Town of Winchendon's application for the annual Fall Festival to be held on October 12, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Ms. Roberts noted there are about 220 vendors signed up, not including the businesses that reside on Central Street. The Fire Station will be doing two demonstrations based on Kitchen Safety. Police dog Clyde and his handler will be doing a demonstration, Winchendon Winds, Random Flyer, and Deacon Express will all be performing. The Harbour Restaurant will be located at the old Mathieu Ford lot, the American Legion and Army will be present, and there will be all sorts of kids activities throughout Central Street. This year has been great as many organizations and people have reached out to see how they can help to ensure we have what is needed for the Festival. Central Street will close at 7:00 a.m. to allow vendors access to set

up, and will remain closed until 4:00 p.m. The Police Department will be present for details, and the DPW will pick up the trash. Ms. Roberts added we are still looking for volunteers to help at the pumpkin painting booth; any interested individuals can contact Lindsay Kuchta at Town Hall, volunteers for the bouncy houses are needed as well.

LaBrie gave thanks to all associated.

Anderson thanked Nicole for all of her work. It is always a great event; I hope the weather is good.

Ms. Roberts noted with everyone's help the event is coming along nicely.

Barbaro moved to approve the Entertainment Permit for the Town of Winchendon's Fall Festival on Saturday, October 12, 2019 and thanked all who are involved in the process, seconded by Ward with a vote of all aye.

- 5.4. Special One Day Malt Liquor License for October 12, 2019 – The Harbour Restaurant, Inc.- Mark Hagemeyer came forward on behalf of his three one day malt liquor licenses for the Fall Fest.

Labrie asked Mr. Hagemeyer if he was doing it the same as last year in the parking lot at the old Mathieu Ford lot, and Anderson asked if there will be a fire pit to which Mr. Hagemeyer replied yes, and noted that Powell Stone will be providing the Fire Pit.

LaBrie noted the application is for three one day malt liquor licenses to include delivery on Friday, the event on Saturday and any leftovers will be picked up Sunday. There were no issues from department heads, and the Harbour already has their food service permit and all of their servers are TIPs certified.

Barbaro moved to approve Three (3) Special One Day Malt Licenses for The Harbour Restaurant, Inc. for Friday, October 11th, Saturday, October 12th and Sunday October 13, 2019, seconded by Salter with a vote of all aye.

6. BOARDS/COMMISSIONS/COMMITTEES/DEPARTMENT

- 6.1. Update from Council on Aging Director, Sheila Bettro- Council on Aging Director, Sheila Bettro, came forward and noted all of the programs and services the Senior Center offers for the Community including Daily Congregate Meals, Caregiver Support and Resource Information, Housing Assistance, Nursing home information and placement, Fuel Assistance services, and many other classes. Ms. Bettro continued, stating the Senior Center also offers wheel chair training, trips to the pharmacy, Meals on Wheels, and opportunities to meet with insurance representatives. She added that the Senior Center is lucky to have a good team of employees.

LaBrie asked how many seniors the Center is serving, to which Ms. Bettro replied at last count it was 1,876 seniors.

Barbaro asked if the Senior Center was putting any focus on informing the elderly community about the scammers that tend to target them, to which Ms. Bettro replied yes; the Senior Center receives daily emails from Elder Affairs to alert them of what scams are out there. The staff tries to get the attention of all present during lunch to inform them of such matters. Barbaro thanked Ms. Bettro.

Ward thanked Ms. Bettro for all that she does with such a limited budget, and noted it is incredible what Ms. Bettro is able to do with such limited funds. Ward then asked Ms. Bettro if there are any donations in particular that are needed right now to which Ms. Bettro replied the center has a food pantry that is open to the public. The pantry could always use individual breakfasts, small snack

cookies or crackers, individual tuna packets with crackers, and juice and canned goods are also always needed.

The Board thanked Ms. Bettro for all that she does.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

- 7.1. Application for Abatement of Water and/or Sewer Charges – 155 Pearl Street- Timothy Damon came forward on behalf of the applicants Mary Gates and Doris Gates, the owners of the property located at 155 Pearl Street, and stated he is the property manager for that address. Mr. Damon explained the property received a water bill for the period of November through January showing usage at twelve times the regular amount of usage. The building was looked through for cracked pipes or anything that could have caused the water bill to spike. Mr. Damon suggested the meter may have been faulty or skipped forward.

LaBrie asked if there were any comments from the Board.

Ward stated after reviewing DPW Director Al Gallant's comments that he has never seen a meter skip forward, rather, meters slow down causing the water reading to be much lower than usual that there is no proof the Town did anything wrong here, the water could have gone down the drain, or a faucet could have been left on; Ward does not believe the Town has any reason to approve this abatement.

After further discussion a motion was made.

Barbaro moved to deny the water and sewer abatement for the property located at 155 Pearl Street, seconded by Ward.

LaBrie noted Mr. Damon could set up a payment plan with the Treasurer's Office; if the Town abates a water or sewer bill, the water has to be paid for by someone. She asked if there was any further discussion, to which none was heard.

By a vote of all aye the motion carried.

The Board thanked Mr. Damon for coming forward tonight, and he thanked them for their time.

- 7.2. Presentation of Possible CDBG Grant Requests for FY21- Planning and Development Director Tracy Murphy came forward and clarified the application is actually for Fiscal Year 2020; applications are considered for the year that they are accepted. There are five different potential infrastructure projects inside the Slum and Blight designation; to qualify for the grant funds to be used on the project, an income survey must be on file or taken in that area. An income survey stays on file for three years. Discussions were had between Grant Consultant Linda Overring, DPW Director Al Gallant, Town Manager Hickey, Tracy Murphy, as well as the Toy Town Community Partnership for guidance; the areas looked at were Blair Square, a portion of Front Street, Railroad Street, Grove Street, Pleasant Street, Vaine Street and Maynard Street. Blair Square was at the top of the list, but the cost of the project at that location is well over \$100,000,000; the Town is eligible for \$800,000. It was thought that using these funds to simply band aid a project with grant funds wouldn't be the best route to go, as well as the conflict of time frame of the Central Street project. Grove Street is only partially Slum and Blight, Gallant believes he can handle Lake Street as there isn't any underground work to be done, which led us back to Railroad Street. We felt this was important as it will work in conjunction with the Central Street Project. The overall condition of the road is rough, and the underground drainage and infrastructure is over 100 years old.

LaBrie asked if there were any questions or comments from the Board.

Barbaro said keep whacking away at downtown and we will be in great shape.

Hickey noted he wanted to bring this before the Board to ensure they were in agreement with what was being recommended for work. We will take whatever is suggested and move forward with it. The grant application is due early March of 2020. LaBrie thanked Murphy for her time.

- 7.3. Consideration of Proposed Fall Town Meeting Schedule- Hickey stated he has provided the Board with the proposed Fall Town Meeting Schedule; Town Meeting is proposed to take place on October 28, 2019. LaBrie noted the warrant will be open next Monday, September 16, 2019 and will close the following Monday, September 23, 2019 at 12:00 p.m., and the warrant would be published on October 18, 2019.

LaBrie asked if the Board had any questions, none were heard.

Barbaro moved to schedule the Special Town Meeting for Monday, October 28th at 7:00 p.m. at Murdock/Middle High School and to open the Special Town Meeting Warrant on Monday, September 16th at 8:00 a.m. and to close the Special Town Meeting Warrant on Monday, September 23, 2019 at 12:00 noon, seconded by Ward with a vote of all aye.

8. **OLD BUSINESS:** There was no Old Business this evening.

9. **TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:**

9.1 Financial Updates; Personnel Updates; Project Updates; Miscellaneous Updates

1. Financial Updates-

- a. The Tax Collector will be holding an auction at the Winchendon Town Hall on October 23rd on the following properties:

PROPERTY ADDRESS	MAP/LOT	LOT SIZE - ACRE	REQUIRED DEPOSIT	ASSESSED VALUE	OUTSTANDING TAXES	TAX POSSESSION DATE	PROPERTY INFO & DESCRIPTION (example: 2 family, vacant lot, single family)
33 Morse Avenue	5B2-51	0.25		\$114,000	31,699.43	5/21/2018	property card states 2 family operated as single family
Morse Avenue	5B2-50	0.11		\$4,500	625.20	5/21/2018	vacant lot w/ house above
25 Nash Road	4-48	0.87		\$95,000	11,762.72	8/7/2019	single family
122 Hale St	8A1-24	.79		\$127,800	14,186.50	9/27/2018	single family
20 Mechanic St	5B2-77	0.21		\$172,600	31,593.09	4/2/2019	2 family

Anyone who is interested in obtaining more information on any of the properties should contact the Tax Collector's Office at (978) 297-0152.

- b. Eric Kinsherf will be assisting the Town Accountant with the FY19 year-end close during the week of September 9th.

Additionally, Hickey stated we are in a sound position for Free Cash, it is looking to be certified in the next four to six weeks; we are expecting to close Fiscal Year 19 this week. Not to steal Ms. Lander's thunder, but the school grants have been reconciled and addressed.

2. Personnel Updates-

- a. There are no personnel updates this week.

3. Project Updates-

- a. As part of the oil cleanup at the Public Works Garage that occurred in September 2018, an environmental contractor will on site later in September to remove and replace a

portion of the existing floor to address any remaining contamination under the building floor.

4. Miscellaneous Updates –

- a. Winchendon was awarded \$189,673 in Green Community Grants during the most recent grant round.

The list of projects funded are:

- \$45,907, Murdock School-BAS expansion, phase 3(HEATING AND COOLING SYSTEM BRAINSF RO MORE EFFICIENT HEATING)
- \$26,261, Memorial School, Garage-Radiant Heat
- \$12,598, DPW Garage-Lighting LED LIGHTING
- \$35,487, Senior Center-Lighting LED LIGHTING
- \$69,420, Police Station Furnace Boiler

There is a \$15,000 local contribution that needs to be contributed for the Police Station. I may need to appropriate Free Cash at the Fall Town Meeting.

Anderson asked if the Town was aware that the Police Station needed a new boiler. Hickey replied it is for the efficiency of the building; the current furnace is almost as old as the building. They are operating fine but if we can have State Funds pay for the improvement of potential heating and fuel costs, we should take that opportunity.

Anderson continued, voicing her concern that the Police Station needs something every year and noted she understands but asked how many times we are going to ask for more money for the police station.

Hickey replied to Anderson, stating the Town applied for a Green Community Grant, met with a consultant, and looked at different opportunities. The furnace is an item that worked with the grant, and the building has a history and sensitivity. The heating system works, but not as well as it should. Having a grant pay for the upgrade makes sense to save on future heating and cooling costs, and the \$15,000 to be invested into this project will be made back in a short period of time. Financially, it is feasible and makes sense to have a new furnace installed.

- b. The next Tri-Board meeting will be hosted by the School Committee on Monday, September 16th beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Hickey noted the Finance Committee will be meeting beforehand; any topics the Board wishes to discuss or have on the agenda, please forward them to LaBrie and myself.

Additionally, Hickey stated the sidewalks have not been completed yet, there is one that needs replacement still but we have not received a date from the contractor. He apologized for any inconveniences this may cause.

- c. Robinson Broadhurst Foundation, Inc. will be hosting a workshop on Tuesday, September 17th beginning at 7:00 p.m. for all past and present organizations that the Foundation has funded. The workshop will be held at the American Legion.

Hickey added the Poland and Streeter Schools are going back on the Fall Town Meeting warrant after being voted down at the last Town Meeting. Residents expressed concern

at the time, but there wasn't a lot of information that the voters were made aware of before voting to make the transfer. Hickey asked a Montachusett Veteran's Outreach representative to attend a future Selectmen's meeting to present what they are looking to do with the two schools if they are supported by the Board and voters.

Hickey then noted that Ruth DeAmicis said the Winchendon Courier is likely to continue as she may have a new editor. She thanked everyone for their kind words and hopes to see the Courier continue in a similar format as before.

10. **MINUTES:**

10.1 Monday, August 19, 2019 Regular Meeting

Anderson moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held Monday August, 19, 2019, seconded by Barbaro with a vote of all aye.

10.2 Monday, August 19, 2019 EXECUTIVE SESSION

Anderson mentioned a concern she had, and after further discussion it was decided that the Executive Session minutes would be passed over until the next meeting.

11. **COMMUNICATIONS:** There were no communications this evening.

12. **AGENDA ITEMS:** LaBrie noted the next regular meeting for the Board is September 23, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

13. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:** There was no Executive Session held this evening.

14. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Barbaro moved to adjourn, seconded by Ward. By a vote of all aye, the meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Lindsay Kuchta
Recording Secretary