

Approved: January 9, 2024

TOWN OF WINCHENDON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES
INCLUDES JOINT MEETING WITH FINANCE COMMITTEE
MONDAY November 13, 2023
Town Hall, 109 Front Street, Winchendon, Mass.

Board of Selectmen Present:

Audrey LaBrie, Chair-arrived at 6:36pm
Rick Ward, Vice-Chair
Barbara Anderson
Melissa Blanchard
Danielle LaPointe

William McKinney, Interim Town Manager
Mary Calandrella, Executive Assistant
Debra Dennis, Administrative Assistant

List of Documents Presented at Meeting:

- Entertainment Permit Application-Festival of Lights 9am-6pm Parks & Recreation Commission
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6:30 P.M. Vice Chair Ward called the meeting to order at 6:30P.M. All rose for the Pledge of Allegiance. Ward asked if anyone would be audio or video recording this meeting tonight to which there was no response heard. Ward noted that one member might be joining via zoom.

1. **SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Blanchard asked about having a meeting pertaining to Mount Grace Land Trust. She said we have a time deadline. Ward commented he had the honor to speak at the two veteran's ceremonies. Shout out to Legion Post Mark Demarias. He thanked everyone who showed up at both events.

2. **PERMIT/LICENSE APPLICATIONS:**

2.1 Entertainment Permit-Parks & Recreation-Festival of Lights-Several Events-December 2nd from 9am-6pm

Tiffany Newton explained the Festival of Lights. This has been the third year for this event.

LaPointe moved to approve. Blanchard seconded. All aye.

3. **TOWN MANAGER UPDATE**-Bill McKinney went over his update. Ward asked about the Robinson Broadhurst list and wanted to make sure the Board get a copy. Chair LaBrie asked about the town's rating follow up. Bill McKinney said it went good. He said they usually review every two years.

4. **NEW BUSINESS:**

4.1 Town Manager Interview Processes

4.1.1 6:45P.M. – Town Manager Candidate-Bill McKinney-Chair LaBrie said the Board discussed interviewing Mr. McKinney. Mr. McKinney introduced himself. He went over what he has been doing as the Interim Town Manager. The following questions were asked:

Chair LaBrie-no formal Town Manager experience, how have you tackled that. What steps have you taken. Mr. McKinney said he meets with Department Heads every couple weeks. Have met with the Town Manager's and also the Gardner City Mayor. He has attended MMA events, and also met with Anne Gobi. Have used contacts to discuss anything that has come up.

Blanchard-utilize staff talent's-Mr. McKinney said he finds out from Department Heads/Staff what are their roadblocks. LaBrie how approach staff member going above and beyond. Mr. McKinney said by public recognition. Recognize employee anniversaries. Feedback by residents.

LaPointe-educational resources improve their knowledge. Mr. McKinney said the Treasurer/Collector holds school every year, reached out to Treasurer/Collectors and Accounting for resource to ask questions to.

Anderson-ways to improve the town? Mr. McKinney said there are vacant store fronts. He said he found out there is a vacant store front program. Ward bring to position as far as financial management skills. Mr. McKinney said he has been able to help the Accounting team. I have background in all aspects. I am familiar with Munis.

Ward find any town departments overspending on their budget get them in control. Mr. McKinney said he would go and speak with them and address the issue. LaBrie areas of risk management? Mr. McKinney said after we get the books closed, I will have a better idea as to free cash and the trends.

Blanchard role of town manager town engagement? Bill like getting out and attending different events.

LaBrie-see commute as an issue? Mr. McKinney said he doesn't see as an issue; he doesn't mind the drive. The only issue is the wear and tear of the car.

LaPointe-BOS/SC TM work together? Mr. McKinney said transparency is key. They can come to me with any issues. Communication is the biggest key to success.

Ward-leaving position before contract end date. In 2013 gave resignation in Weymouth can you explain. Bill-Weymouth-did video adding humor. People took it the wrong way. I apologized, eventually we got past it.

Chair LaBrie said we have worked hard with a forward momentum. How keep progress going? Mr. McKinney said working with department heads coming up with new ideas. I talk to the residents and groups and get their ideas also.

Mr. McKinney thanked the Board for the opportunity.

Public Comment: Caroline Sellers, concerned with this offer from Mass Audubon. Concerned town got noticed in September but learned about it in November. Why did that happen and how are we going to move forward. LaBrie will be addressing that at the next BOS meeting on November 27th.

5. EXECUTIVE SESSION-Exemption #2 to conduct strategy session in preparation for negotiation with non-union employees. LaBrie moved to go into executive session and

reconvene in open session. Ward second. Roll Call Vote: Blanchard aye, Ward aye, Anderson aye, LaPointe aye, LaBrie aye. 7:07pm

6. **ADJOURNMENT EXECUTIVE SESSION TO RECONVENE OPEN MEETING**-The Board reconvened at 8:15pm.
7. **DELIBERATIONS AND DECISION OF TOWN MANAGER**-Chair LaBrie thanked the search committee for all their work they did. She said the Board looked at all the information provided. Ward moved to offer the Town Manager position to Bill McKinney. Anderson seconded. Vote: Blanchard aye, Ward aye, Anderson aye, LaPointe aye, and LaBrie aye.

Chair LaBrie said she will begin negotiations with Mr. McKinney. She thanked all the candidates. Anderson thanked the candidates. She said each had a set of strengths and values. Mr. McKinney has strengths we need now. Ward thanked David Evertson, his company and the Search Commission.

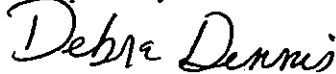
Chair LaBrie said the next meeting is November 27th. She wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

8. **ADJOURN**

Anderson moved to adjourn. Ward seconded. Vote: Blanchard aye, Ward aye, Anderson aye, LaPointe aye, and LaBrie aye.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted



Debra Dennis, Administrative Assistant