

**TOWN OF WINCHENDON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, MAY 10, 2021
Town Hall, 2nd Floor Auditorium
109 Front Street, Winchendon, Mass.**

Present:

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

Stephen Delaney, Interim Town Manager
Linda Daigle, Executive Assistant
Taylor Tower, Administrative Assistant

List of Documents Presented at Meeting:

- April 22, 2021 Town Manager's Report (attached)
- Minutes to be Approved:
 - April 26, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes

Chairman Michael Barbaro called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. All rose for the Pledge of Allegiance. Barbaro asked if anyone was video or audio recording, to which there was no response. He noted that Salter was present via remote participation.

- 1. SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:** LaBrie congratulated the newly elected officials from the recent Annual Town Election and expressed gratitude that there were enough candidates to fill the vacant seats. Noting that tonight is Chairman Barbaro's last Board meeting, she thanked him for his six years as a Selectman. She explained that it was a very unusual time, and he got a lot done over the last six years and she wished him well.

Anderson reminded everyone that this coming Saturday is the Town-Wide Cleanup Day in celebration of Earth Day. There will be a dumpster placed just outside Town Hall and she encouraged all to attend and help clean the Town up. She asked everyone to continue social distancing and adherence to COVID-19 precautions and to get vaccinated if you can.

Ward thanked Barbaro for not only his six years on the Board of Selectmen but his many years of service to the School Committee.

Barbaro thanked Delaney for his guidance during his tenure as Interim Town Manager, noting that it was a transitional time during a pandemic with many projects and he dealt with it all successfully. Delaney thanked the Board for the opportunity and said he was happy he was able to help Winchendon and leave the Town in a stable position.

Addressing the Board, Barbaro said this is his last meeting as a Selectman. He served the School Committee for eleven years and the Selectboard for six. When he started on the School Committee, the Schools were facing turbulence and tough times. He applauded the hard work put in by the Committee to turn the Schools around. When he started on the Selectboard, the political climate in Town was in turmoil with no Town Manager, no Police Chief, and no Town Accountant. He expressed pride in the Town for being able to turn that all around and said that is what this Town is about. He thanked all the staff that work so hard and said that while some people don't see or appreciate it, it does not go unnoticed by him. He called for better treatment of staff, saying that they are only enforcing the policies that come from the Town Manager and the Board of Selectmen and they do not deserve to be bashed. He thanked everyone who has supported him over the past almost seventeen years, especially his wife for tolerating all the missed anniversaries, birthdays and more during his tenure on the Selectboard and the School Committee.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:** None were heard.

3. **PUBLIC HEARINGS:** None were scheduled tonight.

4. **APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS:**

4.1. List of Board of Selectmen Board and Committee Appointment Renewals for July 1, 2021 – LaBrie said that throughout the next few weeks, staff will be reaching out to the volunteers whose terms are due to expire and ask them if they wish to continue serving. She noted twenty people with expiring terms and thirty people on the vacancy list and tipped her hat to all those who work and volunteer their time.

4.2. Board of Selectmen Board and Committee Vacancies – Barbaro read aloud the list of current vacancies on Town Boards and Committees, a copy of which can be found on the website or in the Town Manager's Office. He asked all those interested to reach out to the Town Manager's Office.

5. **PERMIT/LICENSE APPLICATIONS:** None were scheduled tonight.

6. **BOARDS/COMMISSIONS/COMMITTEES/DEPARTMENTS:** None were scheduled tonight.

7. **NEW BUSINESS:**

7.1. Request to Extend Audit Contract with Roselli, Clark and Associates - The most recent contract with Roselli, Clark and Associates was for Fiscal Years 2017-2019. There are two one-year extensions that were offered by Roselli for FY'20 and FY'21. Last year, the contract was extended for FY'20. The Audit Committee is recommending the Board extend the contract for the final year for auditing services for fiscal year ending in FY'21 and hold off in going out to bid for services until next year. Barbaro, who is also on the Audit Committee, explained that with a new Town Manager, a new Tax Collector, and the budget issue in the Fire Department, the Committee recommends extending this contract. This will allow the new Town Manager good standing and some relevant history. LaBrie clarified that the FY'21 contract will begin in FY'22, after the FY'21 concludes due to the audit services being conducted on FY'21. Salter said she respects the opinion of the Audit Committee to extend the contract for one more year, but she would like to put it out to bid next year. Anderson agreed and noted that the State recommends a change of auditors every so often. Salter clarified that there are not a lot of companies that do these audits and it will take time to find a new company, so she would recommend extending for one year and then put the contract out to bid. Ward agreed, citing that there is a new Town Manager, new School Superintendent, new Treasurer and the School still doesn't have a Business Manager. The knowledge of the history of the Town that Roselli has will be helpful this year. Salter asked to see the focus on this year's audit be placed on the Water accounts. Barbaro confirmed with Delaney that he is working on a Request for Proposals for an outside evaluation of the Water and Wastewater operations. LaBrie said she did not want to decide tonight what the focus will be; to which Barbaro said it will be the pleasure of the Board moving forward.

LaBrie moved the Board of Selectmen approve a second one-year extension to the current contract with Roselli, Clark and Associates for auditing services of Fiscal Year 2021, seconded by Salter. With a vote of all aye, the motion carried unanimously.

7.2. Special and Annual Town Meeting Draft MOTIONS – Delaney explained that the draft motions for the Annual Town Meeting have been reviewed by Counsel and are now before the Board for their consideration. LaBrie asked if there were any modifications or recommendations from Counsel, to which Delaney answered that there were a couple notations on votes required, such as Articles 19 and 20, and Article 24, the Citizens' Petition. These articles will require a 2/3rds vote.

In regards to Article 2, Anderson asked if that will discharge the Charter Bylaw Committee. If the Charter and Bylaw do not pass Town Meeting or are rejected by the Attorney General, the Committee will have to be appointed again. It was decided that the Board will motion to pass over this article.

With regards to Articles 19, 20 and 24, Ward noted that the motions do say 2/3rds vote but that is not how it was printed in the warrant that was sent to the residents. He wants to make the Town aware of the 2/3rds vote required. Delaney said it will be called as it needs to be voted by the Moderator.

LaBrie moved the Board approve the Special and Annual Town Meeting draft Motions as presented this evening, seconded by Ward. With a vote of all aye, the motion carried unanimously.

8. OLD BUSINESS: There was no old business scheduled this evening.

9. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:

Transition – The transition process is moving along very well. As you know, Justin will start on Monday, May 17th. We will both be at Town Meeting that evening.

Veterans' Agent – the process of reviewing applications for the part-time position of Veterans' Agent has been completed with the selection of a person who currently works with a veteran assistance organization in Gardner. His familiarity with the State systems and regulations will be an asset as he begins his service with us. I expect to meet with him early next week to work out the details of his position responsibilities.

I also wanted to mention that all veterans' benefits that were due have been paid, and we are now up to date.

Delaney thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve as the Interim Town Manager and said it was a pleasure.

10. MINUTES:

1.1. Monday, April 12, 2021 Regular Meeting – **Ward moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of Monday, April 12, 2021, seconded by Anderson. With a vote of all aye, the motion carried unanimously.**

1.2. Monday, April 26, 2021 Regular Meeting – **Ward moved to approve the Board of Selectmen regular meeting minutes of Monday, April 26, 2021, seconded by Anderson. With a vote of all aye, the motion carried unanimously.**

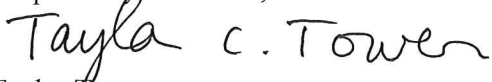
11. COMMUNICATIONS: Barbaro noted the Annual Town Meeting will be held Monday, May 17th at 7:00 p.m.

12. AGENDA ITEMS: There were none.

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION: There is no Executive Session scheduled this evening.

14. ADJOURNMENT: **LaBrie moved to adjourn, seconded by Ward. With a vote of all aye, the meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,



Taylor Tower
Administrative Assistant