

TOWN OF WINCHENDON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 2022
Town Hall, 2nd Floor Auditorium
109 Front St., Winchendon, Mass.

Present:

Audrey LaBrie, Chair (Remote Participation)
Rick Ward, Vice-Chair
Barbara Anderson
Danielle LaPointe

Justin Sultzbach, Town Manager
Linda Daigle, Executive Assistant

Absent:

Amy Salter

Documents presented at the meeting:

- Town Manager Memo dated 4.27.22 re: Community Project through the FY23 Federal Appropriations process (filed)
 - Letter of Support for Community Project Funding for FY23 (filed)
- Special and Annual Town Meeting Warrant of May 16, 2022 (filed)

Vice-Chairman Rick Ward called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. All rose for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Fag of the United States.

Ward ask the record show that Selectwoman Audrey LaBrie was participating through remote participation via telephone and votes taken would all be by roll call.

Ward asked if anyone in the audience was video or audio recording, to which there was no response.

1. SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ward reminded everyone of the Town Election to be held on this upcoming Monday from 8:00AM to 8:00PM at the Senior Center, 52 Murdock Ave. He noted the importance of coming out to vote with three people vying for one position on the School Committee. "It would be impressive to get a big turn out and will encourage others seeing the support from the town," he stated.

Ward asked for a moment of silence for Selectwoman Amy Salter for her mother who recently passed away. Their thoughts and prayers are with her.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS: There were no public comments this evening.

3. NEW BUSINESS:

3.1. Vote for Letter of Support for Community Project Funding for FY23 - The Town Manager reported he has had conversations with the office of Congresswoman Lori Trahan for potential funding through the FY23 Federal Appropriations process. Each member of Congress is allotted fifteen Community Project Funding Requests with emphasis on water/sewer infrastructure. He is proposing a \$500,000 request to replace a 900-foot stretch of 10" water line on northern Central

St. He is working with DPW Director Brian Croteau to obtain preliminary design work. If awarded, Winchendon would need to commit a 20% match in funding which would be addressed at the Special Town Meeting in the fall.

LaPointe moved to authorize the Chair, or her designee, to sign the letter of support for the Community Project FY23 on behalf of the Board of Selectmen; Anderson seconded.
Roll call vote:

LaPointe(Y) Anderson (Y) LaBrie (Y) Ward (Y) 4-0 Approved

3.2. Board Voted Recommendations of STM-ATM Warrant Articles – The Town Manager reviewed the warrant Articles with the Board and voted recommendations were as follows:

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLES:

Article 1 – Committee Report

LaPointe moved to pass over Article 1 of the Special Town Meeting; Anderson seconded.
Roll call vote:

LaPointe(Y) Anderson (Y) LaBrie (Y) Ward (Y) 4-0 Approved

Article 2 - Payment of Prior Year Bills

Anderson moved to recommend Article 2 of the Special Town Meeting; LaPointe seconded.
Roll call vote:

LaPointe(Y) Anderson (Y) LaBrie (Y) Ward (Y) 4-0 Approved

Article 3 – Funding of Sewer Enterprise Account Deficit

LaBrie moved to recommend Article 3; LaPointe seconded. Roll call vote:

LaPointe(Y) Anderson (Y) LaBrie (Y) Ward (Y) 4-0 Approved

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLES:

Article 1 - Committee Reports

LaPointe moved to recommend Article 1; Anderson seconded. Roll call vote:
LaPointe(Y) Anderson (Y) LaBrie (Y) Ward (Y) 4-0 Approved

Article 2 - Establish/Discharge Committees

LaPointe moved to recommend Article 2; Anderson seconded. Roll call vote:
LaPointe(Y) Anderson (Y) LaBrie (Y) Ward (Y) 4-0 Approved

Article 3 - Authorize Revolving Funds

Anderson moved to recommend Article 3; LaPointe seconded. Roll call vote:
LaPointe(Y) Anderson (Y) LaBrie (A) Ward (Y) 3-0-1 Approved

(Selectmen LaBrie noted she was connected to the Agricultural Commission that is included in this article and therefore will abstain.)

Article 4 - Senior Tax Work-off Program

Audrey moved to recommend approval; Anderson seconded. Roll call vote:
LaPointe(Y) Anderson (Y) LaBrie (Y) Ward (Y) 4-0 Approved

Article 5 - CAC Non-Profit Support

LaPointe declared there is a slight possibility her family might have a slight family interest at the CAC as her daughter may become an employee.

Anderson moved to recommend; LaBrie seconded. Roll call vote:

LaPointe(A) Anderson (Y) LaBrie (Y) Ward (Y) 3-0-1 Approved

Article 6 - FY23 General Government Budget

LaBrie moved the Board recommend approval of Article 6; Anderson seconded. Roll call vote:

Ward stated to be transparent that his adult son is a fulltime dispatcher in Keene, NH and sometimes he is called in from Winchendon to work. He has filled out a disclosure and this is a small piece on this budget.

LaPointe(Y) Anderson (Y) LaBrie (Y) Ward (Y) 4-0 Approved

Article 7 - FY23 Water Dept. Enterprise Budget

LaBrie moved the Board recommend approval; Anderson seconded for discussion.

Anderson commented that she has a problem with the motion raising water rates two years consecutively and would like to see it for just one year and the rates revisited three to six months down the road. LaPointe noted she would be voting in favor but was uncomfortable with the ARPA funding of \$70,000.

Roll call vote:

LaPointe(Y) Anderson (N) LaBrie (Y) Ward (Y) 3-1 Approved

Article 8 - FY23 Wastewater Enterprise Budget

LaBrie moved the Board of Selectmen recommend approval of Article 8; LaPointe seconded. Anderson noted she would be voting no for the same reason as above. **Roll call vote:**

LaPointe(Y) Anderson (N) LaBrie (Y) Ward (Y) 3-1 Approved

Article 9 - FY23 Transfer Station Enterprise

LaBrie moved the Board recommend approval of Article 9; LaPointe seconded. Roll call vote:

LaPointe(Y) Anderson (Y) LaBrie (Y) Ward (Y) 4-0 Approved

Article 10 - FY23 School Budget

LaPointe moved that they recommend Article 10; Anderson seconded. Roll call vote:

LaPointe(Y) Anderson (Y) LaBrie (Y) Ward (Y) 4-0 Approved

Article 11 - FY23 Montachusett Regional Technical School Assessment

Anderson moved to recommend Article 11; LaBrie seconded. Roll call vote:

LaPointe(Y) Anderson (Y) LaBrie (Y) Ward (Y) 4-0 Approved

Article 12 - Capital Improvements – Free Cash

Anderson moved to recommend Article 12; LaPointe seconded. Roll call vote:

LaPointe(Y) Anderson (Y) LaBrie (Y) Ward (Y) 4-0 Approved

Article 13 - Capital improvements – 5 year borrowing

Anderson moved to recommend Article 13; LaPointe seconded. Roll call vote:

LaPointe(Y) Anderson (Y) LaBrie (Y) Ward (Y) 4-0 Approved

Article 14 – Capital Improvements – Transfer Station

LaPointe moved to recommend; Anderson seconded. Roll call vote:

LaPointe(Y) Anderson (Y) LaBrie (Y) Ward (Y) 4-0 Approved

Article 15 - Capital Improvements – Grants/Other Sources

LaPointe moved to recommend Article 15; Anderson seconded. Roll call vote:

LaPointe(Y) Anderson (Y) LaBrie (Y) Ward (Y) 4-0 Approved

Article 16 - Ambulance Payment

LaPointe moved to recommend Article 16; Anderson seconded. Roll call vote:

Sultzbach informed the Board of corrections in the article. The ambulance is a 2020 ambulance, not 2016 and in addition the schedule payoff is in Fiscal Year 2025. He said this article would still cover the payment out of Free Cash for the FY23 budget but it would stay in the debt schedule in the general government budget for FY24 and FY25. The Town Manager said he would put something together for Town Meeting that would highlight the changes.

LaPointe moved the Board recommended Article 16 with the supplemental information for the 2020 ambulance for the FY23 payment; Anderson seconded.

Anderson asked if this payment would be put back into next year's General Government budget. The Town Manager replied that the payment of \$60,000 will still have to be paid as part of the debt service schedule line. Collector/Treasurer Lynn Nystrom came forward. She explained the lease schedule for the ambulance is due to pay off in FY25 and this would be an early payment for FY24. There also was a question surrounding whether or not there were any payments left on the 2016 ambulance. The Town Manager offered to look more thoroughly into all of this and would update the Board.

LaPointe moved to rescind her motion; Anderson seconded. Roll call vote:

LaPointe(Y) Anderson (Y) LaBrie (Y) Ward (Y) 4-0 Approved

LaPointe moved to hold off on the recommendation until the evening of Town Meeting; Anderson seconded. Roll call vote:

LaPointe(Y) Anderson (Y) LaBrie (Y) Ward (Y) 4-0 Approved

Article 17 - Town Charter Amendment

LaBrie moved the Board of Selectmen recommend approval of Article 17; Anderson seconded.

Anderson questioned the Town Charter changes that were approved last year at Town Meeting but not brought to ballot yet if they would be coupled with these changes. Sultzbach replied there may be a time limit and may need to bring those changes back and would confirm with the Board.

Roll call vote:

LaPointe(Y) Anderson (N) LaBrie (Y) Ward (Y) 3-1 Approved

Article 18 - General Bylaw Amendment

LaPointe moved to recommend Article 18; Anderson seconded for discussion.

Anderson mentioned she was concerned if the Recreation Commission was contacted about the proposed Bylaw. Ward replied it was the Recreation Commission who contacted the

Charter/Bylaw Committee for the changes. Anderson's other concern would be restricting the seats from being filled by students allowing only two. **Roll call vote:**

LaPointe(Y) Anderson (N) LaBrie (Y) Ward (Y) 3-1 Approved

Article 19 - Zoning Bylaw Amendment

LaPointe moved to not recommend Article 19; Anderson seconded.

LaPointe expressed her feelings on this amendment to be far too restrictive and making it much more difficult than it needs to be. Anderson commented she was very concerned that this bylaw was too detailed and too restrictive and there was lack of clarity on political signs. Ward disagreed stating the bylaw was now easier to understand and hadn't changed much and does give clarity.

LaPointe(Y) Anderson (Y) LaBrie (Y) Ward (N) 3-1 Approved to Not Recommend

Article 20 - Authorization Drinking Water and Sewer Asset Management Project

LaBrie moved the Board recommend approval of Article 20; LaPointe seconded.

DPW Director Brian Croteau came forward and explained the Article. **Roll call vote:**

LaPointe(Y) Anderson (Y) LaBrie (Y) Ward (Y) 4-0 Approved

Article 21 - Transfer of Webster Street parcel to Winchendon Redevelopment Authority

LaBrie moved the Board of Selectmen recommend approval of Article 21; LaPointe seconded.

Roll Call vote:

LaPointe(Y) Anderson (Y) LaBrie (Y) Ward (Y) 4-0 Approved

3.3. Assignment of Town Meeting Warrant Articles to be presented by Board Members on May 16, 2022 - The Selectmen noted which Board member would be presenting each Article at Town Meeting.

Ward thanked the Town Manager, his staff, Department Heads for the work and time that has gone through for the budget process. He also thanked the members of the public who came to the hearings and watched on television and he encouraged all to go to the Special and Annual Town meeting to see it in action. "It's quite an experience and not boring," he said.

4. **OLD BUSINESS:** Not applicable this evening.

5. **ADJOURNMENT:**

LaPointe moved to adjourn; Anderson seconded. With a roll call vote of all aye, the meeting adjourned at 7:34PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Linda Daigle
Executive Assistant