

**TOWN OF WINCHENDON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES
MONDAY, February 6, 2023**

Town Hall, 4th Floor 109 Front Street, Winchendon, Mass.

Present:

Audrey LaBrie, Chair

Amy Salter

Rick Ward

Mary Calandrella, Executive Assistant

Barbara Anderson

Danielle LaPointe

Justin Sultzbach, Town Manager

Linda Daigle, Executive Assistant

Documents:

Town Manger letter to Request negotiation of his current contract – On File

Chair LaBrie called Executive Session@6:55pmPM 2nd by Ward Roll Call Vote Salter Y, Ward Y, Anderson Y, LaPointe Y and LaBrie Y:

Executive Session MGL c 30A Section 21(a);

Exemption No. 2 to conduct strategy session in preparation for negotiations with non-union employees and to reconvene into public session for the sole purpose of adjournment; subject being Town Manager's contract for FY24 TM Sultzbach addressed the Board on his accomplishments and grants totaling over 1.5 million dollars of only the grants he has secured and stated his other achievements in the past 2 years being the Town Manager for Winchendon. Sultzbach gave comparison salaries of the Town's Superintendent Thad King and other Town Administrators and Town Mangers in the surrounding towns. Sultzbach is requesting a salary increase to \$170,000 per year.

Anderson questioned some of the accomplishments being the marijuana businesses as they were started under the previous Manager. Sultzbach stated that he aggressively sought out the owners and keep in close contact through the entire process to bring the business to completion. Sultzbach also stated he was doing all this during a tough financial time. Anderson stated that citizens state that he is getting grants for businesses and not the town. Sultzbach disagreed and stated that is how you attractive business and fix empty and unattractive buildings and increase tax revenue for the town.

Ward stated that he reviewed the last Exec Session minutes from their previous discussion with the Town Manager on his salary and he indicated that moving forward from the last increase to his salary that he would be looking for 3-5% increases. Sultzbach stated that he could not have predicated inflation being so high and a true example is the town's inability to hire an Accountant at the old rate and the need to increased salary. Sultzbach states that the additional funds would come from the unoccupied Planning Director's position. Sultzbach background and from his former position he has the skills set to take this on. He has already been oversee this position with the aid from Nicole Roberts in the Planning office.

Anderson stated she was concerned that we no longer have a Planner for the CDBG grants and no fuel assistance for our residents. Sultzbach stated that we do have monies for fuel assistance as we always have done.

LaBrie stated that the board would begin consideration of Sultzbach's request and continue the discussion at their February 13th meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to end Executive Session made by Anderson, seconded by Ward. Roll call vote all Aye, back into open session at 7:45. Motion to adjourn made by Anderson, seconded by LaPointe. All voted aye, adjourned 7:46.

Respectfully submitted,

Audrey LaBrie, Chair