

Approved: August 14, 2023

**TOWN OF WINCHENDON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, June 22, 2023
VIA ZOOM
5:30pm**

Present: Audrey LaBrie, Chair
Danielle LaPointe
Melissa Blanchard

Linda Daigle, Executive Assistant
Debra Dennis, Administrative Assistant

Absent: Rick Ward and Barbara Anderson

List of Documents Presented at Meeting:

- Two Resumes- Interim Town Manager Position Candidates

Chair LaBrie called the meeting to order at 5:36P.M. All rose for the Pledge of Allegiance. LaBrie asked if anyone would be audio or video recording this meeting tonight. There was no reply.

1. **SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:** There were no Selectmen comments and announcements this evening.
2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:** There were no public comments and announcements this evening.
3. **INTERVIEW INTERIM TOWN MANAGER CANDIDATE:** Chair LaBrie welcomed Mr. White, candidate for Interim Town Manager. Mr. White said at this time he is looking for an interim position due to having to care for a family member. He gave an overview of his education and professional experience. He said he would do a deeper dive in the municipal financial situation and core services.

Selectwoman LaPointe said the current projects are fine. The biggest worry is to stay on top of finances and assisting when needed. What would you do to keep us moving forward. Mr. White said he would look at the audit coming up. He would work on looking at the financials for the past twelve months. Selectwoman Blanchard asked what he saw as the priority issues with the Town of Winchendon? Mr. White said he couldn't look at all the financials, but now that covid is over the funds from the State for that will stop. He said it looks like the town gets between 14 and 15 million from the state. LaBrie said realistically Winchendon depends on state funding more than they should. She said

they are aggressively working on increasing their revenues. Chair LaBrie thanked him for coming in.

Selectwoman LaPointe moved to recess at 5:59pm until 6:12pm, Selectwoman Blanchard seconded. Vote: Blanchard aye, LaPointe aye, and LaBrie aye.

Chair LaBrie welcomed William Baldwin, candidate for Interim Town Manager. Mr. Baldwin gave an overview of his work experience which included his financial background. He said he has been a big advocate for local government, and wants to make a difference.

Selectwoman LaPointe asked about his background experience with building projects, infrastructure. Mr. Baldwin said he helped build a police station. He said he currently chairs a committee to build a police station in his town. He said he is currently looking into how to bring affordable housing to his community without ruining the character of our rural community.

Selectwoman LaPointe said we have new staff in the accounting area, she asked what his background in financial. Mr. Baldwin said I currently look at reports to make sure spending is at the right percentage used. He said they currently put money aside for training on software.

Selectwoman LaPointe commented we are a town that doesn't have a regionalized school. She said we have a strong collaborative with the Town Manager and the School. Mr. Baldwin said it is key to collaborate to maintain and or solve any problems. Chair LaBrie asked how would he would prepare for a municipal role in Massachusetts compared to New Hampshire. Mr. Baldwin said you have statutes; he would learn or ask questions if needed. Chair LaBrie thanked him.

Jane LaPointe suggested googling the applicants prior to making a decision.

4. ADJOURNMENT:

Selectwoman LaPointe moved to adjourn. Selectwoman LaBrie seconded. Vote: Blanchard aye, Anderson aye, LaPointe aye, and LaBrie aye. The meeting was adjourned at 6:47pm.

Respectfully submitted



Debra Dennis, Administrative Assistant