

TOWN OF WINCHENDON  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, September 9, 2024-6:30pm  
Town Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Auditorium, 109 Front Street, Winchendon, Mass.

Present: Rick Ward, Chair  
Andrew Beauvais, Vice Chair  
Audrey LaBrie  
Melissa Blanchard  
Erika Eitland

William McKinney, Town Manager

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List of Documents Presented at Meeting:

- Public Hearing Notice-Winchendon Community Action Committee-Wine and Malt Beverage Pouring License
  - Letter of Interest-Jim Hardy-Alternate Planning Board Member
  - Letter of Interest- Leston Goodrich-Capital Committee
  - Letter of Interest-Inanna Arthen-Communication Committee
  - Entertainment Permit Application-Leo's Landing LLC dba Little Anthony's Seafood-Ribbon Cutting
  - Special One Day License -Miranda Jennings-Half Way to St. Patty's Day
  - Sewer Abatement Request-YMCA 155 Central Street
  - Interim Loan Note-Finance Agreement Letter-Water Line Project
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6:30 PM Chair Ward called the meeting to order at 6:30P.M. All rose for the Pledge of Allegiance. Chair Ward asked if anyone would be audio or video recording this meeting tonight to which there was no response heard.

- 1. SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Selectwoman Eitland gave an update of the FY26 Adhoc Budget Committee Meeting. Due to 3 increases-health insurance, pension and bond payments we are going to have an increase. Financially we need to pay these expenses and we don't have as much coming in. We will need a tax override. We need to limit cuts to services. We need to come up with a solution town wide. Chair Ward said the Winchendon Fire Department is having their annual September 11<sup>th</sup> remembrance ceremony on Wednesday September 11<sup>th</sup> starting at 9:55 am at the Fire Station.
- 2. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Chair Ward went over the rules: comments two to three minutes, comments are not a discussion with the Board of Selectmen, if you bring up something that is important we may place on a further agenda or forward it to the department it is pertaining to. Sue O'Sullivan volunteer United Sovereign Americans-discussed concerns with state voting database. Darlene Rossi, John Murphy, Pam Barns, and Michael Tyrell read the Resolution. Chair Ward said we already had scheduled at the first meeting in October our Election Warden will explain the whole election process in Winchendon and answer any questions you might have.
- 3. PUBLIC HEARINGS:** The Winchendon Community Action Committee has submitted an application for a Wine and Malt Beverages Pouring License-Selectman Beauvais read the public

hearing notice into the record. **Selectwoman LaBrie moved the Board open the Public Hearing for Winchendon Community Action Committee, 5 Summer Drive. Selectman Beauvais seconded. Vote: All aye.**

Chair Ward read the Department Heads have no concerns with this application. The public hearing notice was advertised and abutters were notified. If approved by the Board, acting as the Local Licensing Authority, the application will then be forwarded to the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission for their review and approval. The application fee has been collected and the license fees will be accepted upon approval of the licenses.

Miranda Jennings came forward. The WCAC is a non-profit in the town. We recently purchased the bowling alley. We would like to be able to sell beer and wine as we have been doing through obtaining Special One Day Liquor Licenses for events and fund raisers. It would save a lot of money and be more effective for fund raising with an annual license. Selectwoman LaBrie commented about this application is on premise only.

Adam Gardner said the WCAC is a great organization. Helping them save money is a clear win.

**Selectwoman LaBrie moved to close the Public Hearing for Winchendon Community Action Committee Selectwoman Eitland seconded. Vote: All aye.**

**Selectwoman LaBrie moved the Board, acting as the Local Licensing Authority approve the new Wine and Malt Beverages Pouring License for the Winchendon Community Action Committee located at 5 Summer Drive approving Miranda Jennings as the proposed Manager as presented this evening and to forward the application to the ABCC.**  
**Selectwoman Eitland seconded. Vote: All aye.**

#### **4. APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS:**

**4.1 Appointment of Jim Hardy-Alternate Planning Board Member** – Jim Hardy has submitted a letter of interest to serve as an Alternate Planning Board Member.  
**Selectwoman LaBrie moved to appoint Jim Hardy as an Alternate Planning Board Member with a term expiration of June 30, 2025. Selectman Beauvais seconded. Vote: All aye.**

**4.2 Appointment of Leston Goodrich-Capital Planning Committee**-The Moderator has appointed Leston Goodrich to the Capital Planning Committee and now the Board needs to affirm the appointment of him. Chair Ward said this has been approved by the Town Moderator. A glitch in the Charter says the Board of Selectmen appoint and until this is changed we must affirm the appointment. **Selectwoman LaBrie moved to affirm the appointment of Leston Goodrich to the Capital Planning Committee with a term expiration of 6/30/25. Selectman Beauvais seconded. Vote: All aye.**

**4.3 Appointment of Inanna Arthen-Communications Committee**-Ms. Arthen has submitted a letter of interest in joining the Communications Committee Ms. Arthen came forward and she said she has checked out the Communications Committee and now she thinks it's time to join the committee. She said she has time now. Chair Ward said the Communications Committee needs to focus on how we can get the information out to the whole community. He said communication is key. **Selectwoman LaBrie moved to appoint Inanna Arthen to the Communications Committee with a term limit of 6/30/27. Selectman Beauvais seconded. Vote: All aye.**

**5. PERMIT/LICENSE APPLICATIONS:**

**5.1 Entertainment Permit-Leo's Landing LLC dba Little Anthony's Seafood**-Chair Ward said they will be having a ribbon cutting ceremony on September 14<sup>th</sup> and wish to have local area vendors, music and a barbecue. They are also requesting to have a bouncy house. The event will take place from noon to 8:30pm. Alexis Curry came forward. As a thank you and an announcement. We want to let people know the pavilion and the ice cream station is open. **Selectwoman LaBrie moved to approve the entertainment permit for Leo's Landing LLC dba Little Anthony's Seafood for September 14, 2024 from noon to 8:30pm as presented this evening.** Selectwoman Eitland seconded. Vote: All aye.

**5.2 (8) Special One Day Wine and Malt Only Liquor Licenses-Miranda Jennings-Half Way to St. Patty's Day Event on 9/21/24 and the Fall Fest on 10-12-24**-The applicant is requesting 8 Special One Day Wine and Malt Only Liquor Licenses. The dates will be 9/20, 9/21, 9/22, 10/11, 10/12, 10/13, 10/14, and 10/15. **Selectman Beauvais moved the Board, acting as the Local Licensing Authority, approve the 8 Special One Day Wine and Malt only Liquor Licenses for Miranda Jennings on the following days September 20<sup>th</sup>-September 22<sup>nd</sup>, and October 11<sup>th</sup>-October 15, 2024.** Selectwoman LaBrie seconded for discussion. Selectman LaBrie moved to amend the motion to waive the fee. Selectman Beauvais seconded. Vote: All aye.

**6. BOARDS/COMMITTEES/COMMISSIONS:** There was no boards/committees/commissions discussions this evening.

**7. NEW BUSINESS:**

**7.1 Sewer Abatement-YMCA 155 Central Street**- Chair Ward said the applicant has submitted a request for a sewer abatement in the amount of \$273.24. On 7/10 the applicant discovered a broken pipe in the crawl space. The pipe was repaired on 7/11. **Selectwoman LaBrie moved the Board acting as the Sewer Commissioners approve the Sewer Abatement request for the YMCA 155 Central Street in the amount of \$273.24.** Selectwoman Eitland seconded. Vote: All aye.

**7.2 Discussion/Acceptance of Addition of a school zone on N. Central Street**-This has been placed on the agenda at the request of the DPW Director Brian Croteau. Brian Croteau said last year we changed the traffic pattern due to high number of parents picking children up which was causing a back-up. He said he needs a letter of approval from the Board of Selectmen and then it would have to be approved by the state. Brian Croteau said this would be from Broadview to the School. Chair Ward said we need to keep the bushes maintained and cleaned up. Selectwoman LaBrie asked if we need to put sidewalks in. Mr. Croteau said no but it is a goal in the future to put sidewalks in from the rear entrance down one side. Chief Dan Wolski came forward and said he has no objections to this. Tina Santos asked for a communication to be sent out regarding this to all parents including the high school. **Selectwoman Labrie moved to authorize the Chair to sign a letter approving an addition of a school zone on North Central Street.** Selectwoman Eitland seconded. Vote: All aye.

**7.3. Discuss/Vote on Interim Loan-Finance Agreement-Water Line Project**- William McKinney explained this allows us to get the interim financing that has already been approved at Town Meeting. Brian Croteau said the first shovel went in today. The wetlands has been inspected. They started yesterday officially. He said the time frame when depend on the weather. The total time allowed without penalty is 367 days.

**Chair Ward moved #1 that the Town shall issue a bond or bonds in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$9,560,000 (the "Bonds") pursuant to Chapters 29C and 44 of the General Laws and a vote of the Town passed October 24, 2022 (Article 6), for planning or construction of drinking water infrastructure (the "Project"); #2 that the terms of the Financing Agreement between the Town and the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust (the "Trust") and the Project Regulatory Agreement (or Agreements) between the Town and the Department of Environmental Protection of The Commonwealth of Massachusetts ("DEP") (the "Project Regulatory Agreement"), each relating to the Notes and the Bonds are hereby approved; #3 that in anticipation of the issuance of the Bonds the Treasurer is authorized to issue an interim loan note or notes (the "Notes") from time to time in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$9,560,000; #4 that each Bond or Note shall be issued as a single registered security, and sold to the Trust at a price determined pursuant to the Financing Agreement; #5 that the Treasurer is authorized to determine the date, the form, the maximum interest rate and the principal maturities of each Bond and Note, and to execute a Financing Agreement with the Trust with respect to the sale of the Bonds and Notes, such date, form and maturities and the specific interest rate or rates of the Bonds and Notes to be approved by a majority of the Board of Selectmen and the Treasurer and evidenced by their execution of the Bonds or Notes; #6 that any certificates or documents relating to each Bond and Notes (collectively, the "Documents"), may be executed in several counter parts, each of which shall be regarded as an original and all of which shall constitute one and the same document; delivery of an executed counterparts of a signature page to a Document by electronic mail in a ".pdf" file or by other electronic transmission shall be as effective as delivery of a manually executed counterpart signature page to such Document; and electronic signatures on any of the Documents shall be deemed original signatures for the purposes of the Documents and all matters relating thereto, having the same legal effect as original signatures; #7 that all action taken to date by the Town and its officers and agents to carry out the Project and its financing, including the execution of any loan commitment or agreement by the Treasurer, are hereby ratified, approved and confirmed; and #8 that the Treasurer and the other appropriate Town officials are each hereby authorized to take any and all actions necessary or convenient to carry out the provisions of this vote, including execution and delivery of the Financing Agreement and the Project Regulatory Agreement relating to the Project. Selectwoman LaBrie seconded. Vote: All aye.**

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

**9. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:** William McKinney said the Building Inspector Rick Germano started last week. The Department of Energy Resources awarded us a Green Energy grant for just over \$200,000. He commended the Police, Fire, DPW and Dispatch for the Hazmat incident we had.

**10. MINUTES:**

10.1 June 24, 2024 Regular Meeting-This was tabled.

10.2 July 18, 2024 Joint Meeting with Finance Committee-This was tabled.

10.3 August 26, 2024 Regular Meeting

Selectwoman LaBrie moved the Board approve the meeting minutes of August 26, 2024 as presented this evening. Selectwoman Blanchard seconded. Vote: Selectwoman Eitland abstained, Selectwoman Blanchard aye, Selectman Beauvais aye, Selectwoman LaBrie aye, and Chair Ward aye.

**11. COMMUNICATIONS:** Chair Ward said the next meeting is tomorrow night. It is a joint meeting with the Finance Committee and School Committee to hear the audit report. The next regular Board of Selectmen meeting is Monday September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30pm.

**12. AGENDA ITEMS:**

**13. EXECUTIVE SESSION:** There was no scheduled executive sessions this evening.

**14. ADJOURNMENT:** Selectwoman Eitland moved to adjourn. Selectman Beauvais seconded. Vote: All aye.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:54pm

Respectfully submitted

  
Debra Dennis

Executive Assistant