

**TOWN OF WINCHENDON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES
MONDAY, MARCH 12, 2018
Town Hall, 4TH Floor Conference Room
109 Front Street, Winchendon, Mass.**

Present:

Barbara Anderson, Chairwoman
Audrey LaBrie, Vice-Chairwoman
Michael Barbaro
Austin Cyganiewicz
Charles Husselbee

Keith R. Hickey, Town Manager
Linda Daigle, Executive Assistant
Albert Gallant, DPW Director

List of Documents Presented at Meeting:

- None
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EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Exemption No. 3 – To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the Chair so declares - Subject: American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees AFSCME, Council 93, Local 1887

Executive Session was called to order at 9:56 p.m.

Hickey reminded the Board he had spoken to them a while ago to see if the Board would allow them to do some exploring of outsourcing and privatizing the Wastewater project. He has spoken to Veolia, the company that runs the Joint Water Plant in Ashburnham, for some guidance. We've learned that we would have to go out to bid to outsource this. The company ran ball park numbers to see if we would break even or be better financially. It would be more costly to have it outsourced because a profit is involved. The major driver for this is to have more than one or two employees able to run the plant in the event of someone getting hurt. Not many people have that type of license to run a wastewater plant. With outsourcing it, they would have someone to deal with it. If some type of catastrophe were to occur, they could bring in resources to address it. The Town Manager said they would like to contract with Tighe & Bond engineers for the bidding process and see what the results are. With doing this, it becomes public and he was looking for the Board's opinion if they have an appetite to explore outsourcing the operations of the wastewater plant. We would need to tell the three employees of ours what we are doing and why we are doing it. The employees will be upset but we have been told that Veolia would be offering them employment. Hickey said this is not a personal decision but a business decision we are looking at. If something were to happen at the plant, it would cost us more money.

Husselbee asked about putting in the agreement that the Town employees would be the first to be hired. Hickey believed he would be able to do that and recognize they are the ones we trust and it would be in the company's best interest but he wouldn't be able to guarantee what the employee's rate would be.

Gallant informed the Board that in four years guys will be retiring. He has wanted to train people but the employee does not want to do training. The decision is being made taking personalities out of it; it's

a business decision. He complimented the employees currently running the plant saying they do the best they can and do the best with it. He said the benefit of outsourcing is they would have worldwide resources.

Anderson asked about sewer rates going up. The Town Manager replied he thought the budget could increase without raising rates but at the end of the day if this is not cost effective, we say thanks but no thanks; and if we have to, bring someone in to train.

Gallant said he has had meetings with DEP and part of the discussion was an interest in beginning to take sewage in from sewer pump trucks. It is another revenue source we could have. Hickey said the Board can make their final decision once we've gone out to bid. We eventually are going to go down that road having to protect the plant, said Gallant.

Husselbee moved to authorize staff to contract with Tighe & Bond to develop a Request for Proposal to outsource the operations of the Wastewater Plant; Barbaro seconded. By roll call vote of all aye, the motion carried unanimously.

Barbaro moved to adjourn out of Executive Session; Husselbee seconded. By roll call vote of all aye, Executive Session adjourned into Public Session at 10:11 p.m.

Husselbee moved to adjourn public session; Cyganiewicz seconded. By a vote of all aye, the meeting adjourned at 10:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Linda Daigle
Executive Assistant