

**TOWN OF WINCHENDON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES
MONDAY, JUNE 12, 2017
4TH Floor Conference Room
109 Front Street, Winchendon, Mass.**

Present:

Barbara Anderson, Chairwoman
Audrey LaBrie, Vice-Chairwoman
Amy Salter
Austin Cyganiewicz
Michael Barbaro

Keith R. Hickey, Town Manager
Linda Daigle, Executive Assistant

List of Documents Presented at Meeting:

- Memo from the Town Manager to the Board of Selectmen dated June 7, 2017 regarding Request to Ratify Fire Union Contract (attached)
 - Draft Collective Bargaining Agreement International Association of Firefighters Local 4542 (filed)
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Executive Session was called to order at 9:56 p.m.

Exemption No. 6 - to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real estate, if the chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body; subject use of Town property

Mr. Hickey informed the Board the Robinson-Broadhurst members are here tonight to talk about a project that could be funded by the Foundation. Directors of the Foundation present this evening were Ernest "Bud" Fletcher, Glenn Hunt and Cindy Landanno, Advisory Director.

Mr. Fletcher explained the Foundation is taking a new direction now changing to Directors instead of Trustees that will oversee the Foundation. He noted that Mr. Skip Parks has resigned and Mr. Glenn Hunt has taken his place.

Mr. Fletcher said the Winchendon project hinges on what they do in New York (their other community that is supported by the Foundation). The Executive Director there wants to build a building, have an indoor pool and purchase a nice piece of land. If they go ahead with the project, it will cost \$3 to \$3.5 million. As a sister community, Winchendon would get the same amount as they. No contracts have been signed yet but Mr. Fletcher stated they want something that will be outstanding. He asked the Board if they had any ideas for them.

Anderson said when the Board first learned of this incredible, generous gift, all we could think of would be Ingleside. That is the most outstanding project that could benefit everyone in Town.

Cyganiewicz mentioned at their last meeting he had thought of a couple ideas but after thinking more on it decided Ingleside was best.

LaBrie said she thought about what a venue that she would enjoy, her grandkids would enjoy like an outdoor theater, outdoor cultural venue. She is a paraprofessional at the High School and knows there are not a lot of things for the kids to do in town. There has been talk about a petition for a skate park. She said when she pulled

out the Ingleside Master Plan, a lot of those things have been included in it. She mentioned about an area behind Playaway Lanes, an old building, and asked about creating something there that might tie into Ingleside. There was some concern about the bridge and the environment.

Barbaro mentioned how he appreciated the funds the Foundation has granted for the High School track and asked about possibly splitting the funds with the High School for the athletic field needing renovations. Mr. Fletcher thought this could be applied for with their annual grant applications possibly.

Mr. Glenn Hunt said at first blush that was their approach as well to do multiple projects that could add up to \$3,000,000 but the directive was that it has to be one project.

Salter asked about enhancing the Clark. Mr. Fletcher said they are going to build a new building shortly.

Mr. Hunt mentioned that they had talked about a cultural center, theatrical center and they did think about a hatch shell thinking what the Town might need but again their directive is for one thing.

Anderson thought the schools would benefit from Ingleside with potentially science classes and other programs. Ingleside is close enough. It would benefit both the Town and School.

Ms. Landanno pointed out to the Board one thing to be cautious of, thinking of the Town and finances if it comes to fruition, a way to make itself self-sustaining so as not to create more of a burden on the Town. The goal is to do something that will enhance the community. R&B does not plan to continue to support it so part of the planning needs to include self-sustainment.

Hickey thought of taking a portion of the \$3.5 million and setting it aside for the purpose of upkeep and maintenance of the property. Whatever we do, there will be an added burden on the Town to maintain at some point. He wondered if there was any willingness of the Foundation to set aside some of the funds for this purpose.

LaBrie mentioned Ingleside is a lot of small projects within a project and asked if that would meet their criteria. The response was possibly. Hickey noted that Robinson-Broadhurst would like to manage the project, possibly put it in the hands of the Redevelopment Authority. This is being reviewed by attorneys.

Mr. Hunt noted to the Board that this project is up in the air and dependent on New York's decision.

The Board thanked the Robinson-Broadhurst guests this evening for all they do for the Town. The Foundation members asked the Board to keep thinking about this and that they will keep them updated.

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 - Subject: Winchendon Firefighters Local 1751W IAFF

At 10:14 p.m. Chief Smith was welcomed into Executive Session. Hickey informed the Board that after reviewing the needs of the Fire Dept. staffing, on average the firefighter paramedic is being paid about \$5.00 less than others in the area. We are fortunate in the Fire Department to have some stability in the work force for a while. What he has tried to do is implement a lot of the same changes he has with the three other contracts before. He proposes to increase the hourly rate of a paramedic by \$2.50 an hour both in FY18 and FY19. We have two basic EMTs now, the Fire Chief and the Fire Captain. The Fire Captain is retiring this year, and one of the Lieutenants is also retiring this year which we will see some savings that we can apply. The total cost of the contract with wage adjustments is \$23,587.20 for FY18. When filling positions they will be more competitive in attracting paramedics. The Town Manager said the union has ratified the changes and if the Board supports it, he recommends it be effective July 1st.

Anderson asked about the uniform change in which the Town Manager explained, like the Police Department, it was added to the wage base and removed from the uniform allocation.

Hickey explained he tightened up the language, paired the language down a bit; ninety-five percent of the changes is the wage piece. He noted this was a two year contract instead of a three year contract to be on the same page as the other unions.

Salter was fine with this as long as the Town Manager had the funds for it. Barbaro mentioned he also was fine with it.

Barbaro moved to adjourn from Executive Session; LaBrie seconded. By roll call vote of all aye, the meeting adjourned into public session at 10:25 p.m.

LaBrie moved the Board ratify the Fire Union contract as presented this evening; Barbaro seconded. With a vote of all aye, the motion carried unanimously.

Barbaro moved to adjourn; LaBrie seconded. By a vote of all aye, the meeting adjourned at 10:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:


Linda Daigle
Executive Assistant