

**TOWN OF WINCHENDON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2018
4th Floor Robinson-Broadhurst 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

Guest for Executive Session 1:

Burton Gould, Jr.

List of Documents Presented at Meeting:

[REDACTED]

Executive Session was called to order at 8:25 p.m.

Executive Session No. 1 – Exemption No. 7, to discuss financial information [and personal information] regarding the Converse Trust as exempt under the Public Records Law, G.L. c.4, §7(26)(g) and (c).

Mr. Burt Gould was present wanting to speak to the Board, acting as the intermediary for the heirs of the Converse Fund, to discuss policy disbursements for future grant awards. The Town Manager said he and Mr. Gould have had a couple conversations regarding the Converse Fund. Hickey said he did get a legal opinion if this would be allowed in Executive Session. Atty. Brian Riley replied that it could be in Executive Session but we would have to stick to the criteria we would want to use in determining future grant awards to other groups.

Hickey said there are a couple requests for Converse Funds that have come in. One is from the Ingleside group in the amount of \$50,000 for two or three purposes with some of the funds to be escrowed to utilize monies as needed for specific purposes. Mr. Gould has spoken to the heirs of the Converse Trust. Hickey feels there is additional information that is needed from the Ingleside group before the heirs are comfortable even though it is strictly a Board's decision.

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The other request is from the Clark YMCA. They are looking for a grant for \$20,000 for a lawn mower tractor. Hickey said we want to be good neighbors but the Converse Fund was specifically given to the Town for Town park purposes after the churches and other groups received their money. Respectively, Mr. Hickey feels the Clark is outside of that area and cautioned if you give a non-profit a sum of money, you will have others lining up. Mr. Gould and I have had discussions and will bring the two requests forward to the Board at your next meeting in March. We want to bring some guidelines forward with this opportunity and potentially more aggressive investing then what is being done to date. They are working with Representative Zlotnik to potentially change some legislation, specifically for the Converse Fund, that may allow us to broaden what the Converse Fund endowment can be invested in.

Gould said with regards to the investments, they haven't been too well received around here and haven't gotten anywhere. We have bugged the legislature and were told the only way we would be able to do anything would be in 2019. He said he has talked with every bank in Town. One bank said they might be able to pay us 1.5% in interest another offered 1.7%. Mr. Gould is seeking 3%, said Mr. Hickey. Gould pointed out \$50,000 at 3% in 100 years will gain the Town \$3,500,000.

Gould said he has come up with another idea that he would like the Board to consider. The heirs are satisfied with what has been done so far with the Trust Fund. At the end of 100 years, the amount of money the Selectmen have to give out specifically has been dissolved with this disbursement. Look carefully at the last paragraph of his bequest; we are free from the Trust. In 100 years, the Selectmen can give the library a million dollars or whatever the case may be.

Gould pointed out the Clark Memorial YMCA has the benefit of the Robinson-Broadhurst fund and also has a Clark Memorial Fund. They are seeking \$20,000 from the Converse Fund to buy a new tractor. He replied to the Clark that he believes they have enough money to buy a new tractor and the heirs felt it would not be keeping with the bequest.

Gould said he has met with the Chairman of the Ingleside Committee a couple times. The thing that bothers him about Ingleside is there is no detailed plan. The second paragraph of their request is for a \$15,000 fund for them to do whatever they want to do with it. He said no; the heirs said no and he hopes the Board will say the same. We are not washing this thing completely out. He pointed out to the Board that at this particular point, the Ingleside property has 42 acres over there, ten of them are in a swamp, the house is not worth \$1.80 and a lot of work needs to be done. He questioned whether it was a park; "it's not listed in the Town of Winchendon as a park at all, so consequently, we turned it down," said Gould.

Another matter has come up that Gould said he has briefly discussed with the Town Manager. The library has Converse Funds now, even without the \$20,000. He told the Trustees at the time that their project is quite a few weeks behind. He discovered in the Library contract when they are done, they have to completely repair what has been torn up here in the park. His suggestion to the Trustees, if they think they are going to get out from underneath the original bill, he would be sympathetic to take money from the Converse Fund to repair the park over there. This would probably lessen the need for a Special Town Meeting, not being sure how much it is going to cost over there. Essentially, the heirs didn't have an issue with this, they were pleased. He noted how torn up it is by the construction site and that there were two damaged oak trees and he would have no problem recommending to the Board a few thousand dollars.

The last thing, Gould suggested the Board give some thought to take \$20,000 to \$25,000 of the Fund, provided it is legal with counsel, and put it in a fifty year fund and invest it in something that is a little more

reasonable. He feels in fifty years, they would have several one hundred thousand dollars to give out. It doesn't say this in the bequest; Town Counsel is going to take a look at it. He is not sure if the Town could get away with it without going to legislation and that Town Counsel can provide legal counsel.

Gould mentioned he had a pretty good commitment on another One Hundred Year Fund for several thousand dollars but it has to sit in this room for awhile. It is getting worked out. He and the Town Manager and others have researched investments for municipal funds saying that's why we are getting 1.5%.

Cyganiewicz asked if he had just looked in Winchendon to invest the funds. Mr. Gould replied he has been looking at the law and everything is tied right down tight. It does protect municipal funds but when that happened, there was no stock market. We've looked at all of the local banks and they are forbidden to go to credit unions. Representative Zlotnik is working on that, Cyganiewicz noted.

Gould commented as far as Ingleside is concerned, they are not shutting the door, just for the \$15,000 for a "slush fund". Hickey said he has informed Mr. Gould a couple times that there is a Master Plan for the Ingleside property and he has a copy for him this evening. Gould said leave out the \$15,000 or they would hear back from them if that is granted. They do not feel it has anything to do with the bequest itself. It was noted that about \$125,000 is the balance of the fund at this point. He said they have created the new "One Year Fund" investing \$50,000 at 1.7% with the same investment firm from Worcester. Hickey noted that municipalities are very restrictive in the types of investment they can make with their funds. Gould added these are not appropriated funds and wants to put a bug to KP Law to get a little careless, if you will, and see if we can put it into a different fund for lessor years so the Town will have some money in fifty years instead of one hundred.

Mr. Gould asked for the Board to let him know about the library noting he is open to a request.

Mr. Gould was thanked for attending the meeting. He left at 8:46 p.m.

Executive Session No. 2 – 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 - Brandywine Farms, Inc.

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]


[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Barbaro moved to adjourn from Executive Session; Husselbee seconded. By roll call vote of all aye, Executive Session adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Barbaro moved to adjourn from Public Session; Hussellbee seconded. By a vote of all aye, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Linda Daigle
Executive Assistant