

TOWN OF WINCHENDON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES
MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 2020 6:30 P.M.
Town Hall, 4TH Floor Auditorium
109 Front Street, Winchendon, Mass.

Present:

Audrey LaBrie, Chairwoman
Barbara Anderson, Vice-Chair
Amy Salter
Rick Ward

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

Absent: Michael Barbaro

List of Documents Presented at Meeting:

- Town Manager Memo dated 1/9/2020 Re: Request to Create a Full-Time Planning/Conservation Agent
 - Position Description – Planning & Conservation Agent - FT

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Exemption #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 7:37 p.m.

The Town Manager informed the Board that he is seeking the Board of Selectmen consider eliminating the part-time position of the Planner and part-time position of the Conservation Agent and create a full-time Planning/Conservation Agent position. He explained his reasoning was having two part-time people makes it challenging for customers that want to do business on the days they are not here. He explained the part-time Planner works three days a week, Tuesday through Thursday and the part time Conservation Agent works three days a week Wednesday through Friday. His reasoning he said is twofold: First and foremost, he doesn't believe the Town is providing the best of services as can be to the public; and secondly, as hard as they have tried to get the Conservation Agent and the Planning Dept. to not work in silos but to work better together when they have a customer that has to present to both boards, at times is not working. Projects are being held up; Planning Board decisions are being held up and he feels this would be a better product. He feels the Town would get more done and it would be more effective. Hickey explained the impact financially which would be miniscule, less than \$500, and is not a cost factor.

If the Board was to support this, Hickey continued, he would go to the AFSCME Union and discuss the proposed changes. This is not being done for cost savings so there is nothing to negotiate. There are two positions being impacted and both may apply for the full-time position.

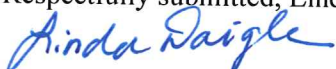
Anderson was concerned about consulting first with both the Planning Board and Conservation Commission to make them aware. Hickey had no objection to that and offered to speak with both Boards informing them he wishes to enhance their Board/Commission with a full-time staff liaison to streamline the process between both groups. The Board and Commission can provide their feedback to him and make him aware of anything before any final decision is made. The Board was supportive of the Town Manager moving forward with his request.

ADJOURNMENT:

Anderson moved to adjourn from Executive Session; Ward seconded. By roll call vote of all aye, Executive Session adjourned at 7:56 P.M.

Anderson moved to adjourn Open Session; Salter seconded. With a vote of all aye, the meeting adjourned at 7:56 P.M.

Respectfully submitted, Linda Daigle, Executive Assistant



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